

Thorn Grove Primary School

Relationships and Sex Education Policy



Rationale and ethos

This policy covers our school's approach to Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) in our setting.

We believe that Relationships and Sex Education is an important part of children's preparation for adult life. It will support them through their physical, emotional and moral development and help them to understand themselves, respect others and form, and sustain, healthy relationships.

Aims of Sex and Relationship Education at Thorn Grove

Our aim at Thorn Grove Primary School is that this should be delivered with skill and sensitivity, within a clear moral framework which concurs with government guidance and recognises the diversity of beliefs and types of relationship that exist in our society.

Sex and Relationships education must aim to increase children's sense of self-worth, the belief that they have control over their own lives and relationships, and can act confidently and responsibly as individuals, family members and citizens.

In order to achieve this, sex and relationships education will begin at an early age and be reinforced through the primary years.

We aim to:

- offer a broad and planned programme of study
- dispel myths and answer questions honestly
- contribute to pupils' moral and emotional development
- contribute to personal skills
- impart knowledge and skills appropriate to their level of maturity and development needs
- ensure that RSE is inclusive and meets the needs of all our pupils

Roles and responsibilities

The RSE programme will be led by the PSHE subject leader and it will be taught throughout school by teachers and TAs (Teaching Assistants) It will be supported by all additional staff who will endeavour to model behaviours which are in keeping with the programme of study.

On occasions, the school may work in partnership with outside agencies to help support and deliver the programme and develop learning opportunities for the pupils.

Legislation (statutory regulations and guidance)

The Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education, and Health Education (England) Regulations 2019 are made under sections 34 and 35 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017, and provide that pupils receiving primary education must be

taught Relationships Education, pupils receiving secondary education must be taught RSE and that all primary and secondary pupils must be taught Health Education. The new subjects of Relationships Education and RSE must be taught in all maintained schools, academies and independent schools.

At Thorn Grove Primary School, sex and relationships education will include learning about:

- self respect and confidence building
- respect and tolerance towards others who may hold a different view, have different backgrounds,
- religions and cultures, gender, needs, abilities, disabilities or sexual orientation
- taking account of other people's feelings, providing mutual support, co-operating, maintaining truthfulness and honesty, accepting responsibility for the consequences of our own actions
- the right not to be abused by other people or taken advantage of
- responsibility to develop relationships based on mutual consent
- the right to accurate information about sex-related and health issues
- valuing loyalty and fidelity in loving and lasting relationships

Right of Withdrawal

There is no right to withdraw from Relationships Education or Health Education. However, parents have the right to request that their child be withdrawn from some or all of sex education delivered as part of statutory RSE.

Before granting any such request the Headteacher will discuss the request with parents and, as appropriate, with the child to ensure that their wishes are understood and to clarify the nature and purpose of the curriculum. The school will document this process to ensure a record is kept in keeping with GDPR regulations.

Once discussions have taken place, except in exceptional circumstances, the school will aim to respect the parents' request to withdraw the child, up to and until three terms before the child turns 16.

This process is the same for pupils with SEND. However there may be exceptional circumstances where the head teacher may want to take a pupil's specific needs arising from their SEND into account when making this decision.

Head teachers can automatically grant a request to withdraw a pupil from any sex education delivered in primary schools, other than as part of the science curriculum.

If a pupil is excused from sex education at Thorn Grove, we will ensure that the pupil receives appropriate, purposeful education during the period of withdrawal.

Curriculum Design

Our RSE programme is an integral part of our whole school PSHE education provision and will concentrate on introducing, informing and developing the children's knowledge of the following themes:

- the nature of loving relationships and friendships
- recognition of sexuality and sexual feelings
- family life and relationships
- life cycles, including ageing, loss and change
- physical, emotional and social development

- human reproduction, including contraception and abortion
- sexual and general health
- gender roles and stereotyping
- conflict management, resolution and making choices
- seeking help for self and others

The school has created progressive individual year group plans and has developed these alongside guidance from the PSHE Associations literature (Scheme of Work Planning Toolkit for Key Stage 1 and 2).

PSHE will be delivered in three main sections throughout the year, these are:

- Health and Wellbeing
- Relationships
- Living in The Wider World

and Relationships and Sex Education will be delivered in these sessions where appropriate.

In addition to this, Relationships and Sex Education will also be delivered, when appropriate, in:

- Science lessons.
- Assemblies
- Circle Sessions

Sex and Relationships Education will be delivered as a spiral, being addressed in part in every year - it will not be seen as a one off or special session

The school will endeavour to build staff confidence and expertise will be developed over time and training will be ongoing

Teaching and learning will be active and not over didactic and will include discussion, listening exercises, circle time write and draw, scenario cards, drawings and texts used as triggers, magazines, leaflets and data, drama and play and working with visitors

Teaching methods will aim to develop knowledge and understanding and develop skills and attitudes

Staff will create a climate that encourages pupils to express their views and feelings and to respect the views of others, with clearly established boundaries for both courtesy and confidentiality

Staff will assess pupils' knowledge and understanding, the development of their values and attitudes, and their personal skills

Safeguarding

Teachers are aware that effective RSE, which brings an understanding of what is and what is not appropriate in a relationship, can lead to a disclosure of a child protection issue and Teachers must read the school safeguarding policy prior to delivering the programme and always follow its guidance to ensure that the safety of pupils, staff and members of the community is maintained.

Equal Opportunities

Our Relationships and Sex education Policy is intended to promote the educational life choices of all our pupils and to be equally accessible to them all regardless of learning need, disability, gender, creed or ethnic or social background.

Engaging Stakeholders

The policy will be available to parents through the school website and notifications about events will be communicated to parents in advance

This policy should be read and considered alongside:

The Safeguarding Policy

The PSHE Policy

The Curriculum Policy

The RE Policy

Policy Review Date: September 2021