



RSE Policy

Responsible Staff member: Natasha Dwyer

Governor Lead: Heather Archer

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School Values: A culture of achievement where all can succeed.

Through our RSE curriculum, we endeavour to promote our school aims which are as follows:

At Guildford Grove, we

- are responsible and respectful members of our diverse community
- are empowered to make safe, informed choices
- have high aspirations and a “can do” attitude to learning and we
- develop and foster our individual abilities and interests.

1. Aims

The aims of relationships and sex education (RSE) at our school are to:

- Provide a framework in which sensitive discussions can take place
- Prepare pupils for puberty, and give them an understanding of sexual development and the importance of health and hygiene
- Help pupils develop feelings of self-respect, confidence and empathy
- Create a positive culture around issues of sexuality and relationships
- Teach pupils the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies

2. Statutory requirements

As a primary academy school we must provide relationships education to all pupils as per section 34 of the [Children and Social work act 2017](#).

We do not have to follow the National Curriculum but we are expected to offer all pupils a curriculum that is similar to the National Curriculum including requirements to teach science which would include the elements of sex education contained in the science curriculum.

In teaching RSE, we are required to consider guidance issued by the secretary of state as outlined in section 403 of the [Education Act 1996](#).

At Guildford Grove Primary School we teach RSE as set out in this policy. Currently we are reviewing our PSHE/ RSE curriculum therefore this year we are following the scheme 'You, Me and PSHE' for interim period. We have decided that from September 2023 we will use Kapow PSHE.

3. Policy development

This policy has been developed in consultation with staff, pupils and parents/carers. The consultation and policy development process involved the following steps:

1. Review – the DSL and PSHE lead pulled together all relevant information including relevant national and local guidance
2. Staff consultation – all school staff were given the opportunity to look at the policy and make recommendations
3. Parent/stakeholder consultation – parents and any interested parties were invited to view information about the updated policy virtually and an opportunity to share any feedback
4. Pupil consultation – we investigated what exactly pupils want from their RSE via school council

5. Ratification – once amendments were made, the policy was shared with governors and ratified

4. Definition

RSE is about the emotional, social and cultural development of pupils, and involves learning about relationships, sexual health, sexuality, healthy lifestyles, diversity and personal identity.

RSE involves a combination of sharing information, and exploring issues and values.

RSE is not about the promotion of sexual activity.

5. Curriculum

Our current curriculum is set out as per Appendix 1 but we may need to adapt it as and when necessary.

Our curriculum will be developed in consultation with parents/carers, pupils and staff, taking into account the age, needs and feelings of pupils. If pupils ask questions outside the scope of this policy, teachers will respond in an appropriate manner so they are fully informed and don't seek answers online.

Primary sex education will focus on:

- Preparing boys and girls for the changes that adolescence brings
- How a baby is conceived and born

For more information about our current curriculum (2022-2023), see our curriculum map in Appendix 1.

6. Delivery of RSE

RSE is taught within the personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education curriculum. Biological aspects of RSE are taught within the science curriculum, and other aspects are included in religious education (RE).

Relationships education focuses on teaching the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships including:

- Families and people who care for me
- Caring friendships
- Respectful relationships
- Online relationships
- Being safe

Guildford Grove Primary School are currently using the guidance and materials provided by 'You, me and PSHE' alongside the PSHE Association where necessary. However, they will use Kapow PSHE from September 2023. Staff will always adapt materials to meet the needs of our pupils.

These areas of learning are taught within the context of family life taking care to ensure that there is no stigmatisation of children based on their home circumstances (families can include single parent families, LGBT parents, families headed by grandparents, adoptive parents, foster parents/carers amongst other

structures) along with reflecting sensitively that some children may have a different structure of support around them (for example: looked after children or young carers).

As a school, we follow the Twelve principles' of good quality RSE, which are supported by the PSHE Association, children's charities and education unions (published November 2017). See Appendix 2.

7. Roles and responsibilities

7.1 The governing board

The governing board will hold the Headteacher to account for the implementation of this policy.

The governing board has delegated the approval of this policy to the Chair of Governors.

7.2 The Headteacher

The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring that RSE is taught consistently across the school, and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from non-science components of RSE (see section 8).

7.3 Staff

Staff are responsible for:

- Delivering RSE in a sensitive way
- Modelling positive attitudes to RSE
- Monitoring progress
- Responding to the needs of individual pupils
- Responding appropriately to pupils whose parents wish them to be withdrawn from the non-science components of RSE
- Following the twelve key principles of teaching good quality RSE (Appendix 2)

Staff do not have the right to opt out of teaching RSE. Staff who have concerns about teaching RSE are encouraged to discuss this with the Headteacher.

The PSHE lead is Natasha Dwyer.

7.4 Pupils

Pupils are expected to engage fully in RSE and, when discussing issues related to RSE, treat others with respect and sensitivity.

8. Parents' right to withdraw

Parents do not have the right to withdraw their children from relationships education.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the non-science components of sex education within RSE.

Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing using the form found in Appendix 3 of this policy and addressed to the Headteacher.

Alternative work will be given to pupils who are withdrawn from sex education.

9. Training

All staff will be trained on the delivery of RSE as part of their induction and it is included in our continuing professional development calendar.

The Headteacher may also invite visitors from outside the school, such as school nurses or sexual health professionals, to provide support and training to staff teaching RSE.

10. Monitoring arrangements

The delivery of RSE is monitored by the PSHE leads through a range of different forms, including reviewing planning, learning walks and pupil voice etc.

Our aim is for pupils' development in RSE to be monitored by class teachers as part of our internal assessment systems.

This policy will be reviewed every 2 years by the PSHE lead. At every review, the policy will be approved by the governing board and Headteacher.

11. Coronavirus

Teaching about hygiene routines, how bacteria and viruses affect health and how to recognise ill health, is part of the Health Education aspect of PSHE education at all key stages. Pupils may ask about coronavirus (COVID-19) while discussing these topics, or in response to media coverage.

As a staff, we acknowledge that there are times when we need to respond to unforeseen events to protect pupils' wellbeing.

The topic of coronavirus might create a variety of feelings, including curiosity, anxiety or fear. Children and young people can show their distress in a variety of ways (some are less obvious than others), so it is important not to make any assumptions about pupils' feelings or reactions.

As with any PSHE education lesson, it is essential to establish or reinforce ground rules for discussion when addressing this topic.

Appendix 1: Curriculum map

Whole school curriculum overview						
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Autumn 1	Physical health and wellbeing Fun times	Physical health and wellbeing What keeps me healthy?	Drug, alcohol and tobacco education Tobacco is a drug	Identity, society and equality Democracy	Physical health and wellbeing In the media	Sex and relationship education Healthy relationships / How a baby is made
Autumn 2	Keeping safe and managing risk Feeling safe	Mental health and emotional wellbeing Friendship	Keeping safe and managing risk Bullying – see it, say it, stop it	Drug, alcohol and tobacco education Making choices	Identity, society and equality Stereotypes, discrimination and prejudice (including tackling homophobia)	Sex and relationship education Healthy relationships / How a baby is made
Spring 1	Identity, society and equality Me and others	Sex and relationship education Boys and girls, families	Mental health and emotional wellbeing Strengths and challenges	Physical health and wellbeing What is important to me?	Keeping safe and managing risk When things go wrong	Drug, alcohol and tobacco education Weighing up risk
Spring 2	Drug, alcohol and tobacco education What do we put into and on to bodies?	Sex and relationship education Boys and girls, families	Identity, society and equality Celebrating difference	Keeping safe and managing risk Playing safe	Mental health and emotional wellbeing Dealing with feelings	Identity, society and equality Human rights
Summer 1	Mental health and emotional wellbeing Feelings	Keeping safe and managing risk Indoors and outdoors	Careers, financial capability and economic wellbeing Saving, spending and budgeting	Sex and relationship education Growing up and changing	Drug, alcohol and tobacco education Different influences	Mental health and emotional wellbeing Healthy minds
Summer 2	Careers, financial capability and economic wellbeing My money	Drug, alcohol and tobacco education Medicines and me	Physical health and wellbeing What helps me choose?	Sex and relationship education Growing up and changing	Careers, financial capability and economic wellbeing Borrowing and earning money	Keeping safe and managing risk Keeping safe - out and about FGM

Appendix 2:

<https://www.sexeducationforum.org.uk/resources/advice-guidance/principles-good-rse>

We are committed to relationships and sex education, which:

1. Is an identifiable part of a personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education curriculum, which has planned, timetabled lessons across all the Key Stages
2. Is taught by staff regularly trained in RSE and PSHE (with expert visitors invited in to enhance and supplement the programme where appropriate)
3. Works in partnership with parents and carers, informing them about what their children will be learning and about how they can contribute at home
4. Delivers lessons where pupils feel safe and encourages participation by using a variety of teaching approaches with opportunities to develop critical thinking and relationship skills
5. Is based on reliable sources of information, including about the law and legal rights, and distinguishes between fact and opinion
6. Promotes safe, equal, caring and enjoyable relationships and discusses real-life issues appropriate to the age and stage of pupils, including friendships, families, consent, relationship abuse, sexual exploitation and safe relationships online
7. Gives a positive view of human sexuality, with honest and medically accurate information, so that pupils can learn about their bodies and sexual and reproductive health in ways that are appropriate to their age and maturity
8. Gives pupils opportunities to reflect on values and influences (such as from peers, media, faith and culture) that may shape their attitudes to relationships and sex, and nurtures respect for different views
9. Includes learning about how to get help and treatment from sources such as the school nurse and other health and advice services, including reliable information online
10. Fosters gender equality and LGBT+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans) equality and challenges all forms of discrimination in RSE lessons and in every-day school life
11. Meets the needs of all pupils with their diverse experiences - including those with special educational needs and disabilities
12. Seeks pupils' views about RSE so that teaching can be made relevant to their real lives and assessed and adapted as their needs change

Note: These 12 points explain what is needed for good quality RSE. This is based on research evidence and is supported by a wide range of organisations. The purpose of RSE is to help children and young people to be safe, healthy and happy as they grow up and in their future lives. RSE must always be appropriate to people's age and stage of development and is an essential part of safeguarding. The law requires that, from September 2020, relationships and sex education (RSE) is taught in all secondary schools in England, and that relationships education is taught in all primary schools in England. In addition, National Curriculum Science* (which is taught in maintained schooling) includes some elements of sex education.



Appendix 3: Parent form: withdrawal from sex education within RSE

