



**Relationships and Sex Education
Policy**

The Enquire Learning Trust

Approved by:	Trustees		
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Version History

Date	Author	Version	Comment
Sept 2019			
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1. Aims

The aims of relationships and sex education (RSE) in our Trust 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

At Oakdene Primary Academy, RSE and Health Education reflects the school's vision and values which demonstrate and teach the skills, knowledge and understanding pupils need to lead confident, healthy lives to become informed, active and responsible citizens.

RSE and Health Education is taught in the context of relationships and promotes self-esteem and emotional health and wellbeing to help children form healthy meaningful relationships, based on respect for themselves and for others. We believe that RSE and Health Education must include information about physical, moral and emotional development and the school will ensure that pupils are given information appropriate to their age and stage of development.

2. Statutory requirements

As a Trust 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 by our funding agreements to have regard to [guidance](#) issued by the secretary of state as outlined in section 403 of the [Education Act 1996](#).

At The Enquire Learning Trust we teach RSE as set out in this policy.

This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

3. Policy development

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

1. Review – a Director 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 attend a meeting about the policy

4. Pupil consultation – we investigated what exactly pupils want from their RSE
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 curriculum is set out as per Appendix 1 but we may need to adapt it as and when necessary.

We have developed the curriculum in consultation with parents, 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 curriculum, see our curriculum map in Appendix 1.

6. Delivery of RSE

The RSE and Health Education leader and Principal are responsible for the organisation of RSE and Health Education at Oakdene Primary Academy. RSE and Health Education is delivered through a number of areas of the curriculum and is taught explicitly through the following subjects: Science, Religious Education, Computing, Physical Education, PSHE & Citizenship, Rights Respecting Curriculum and through assemblies. Where RSE and Health Education is taught within the curriculum, it will be delivered by the class teacher and therefore usually within a mixed gender class.

Assemblies are predominantly delivered by teaching staff. Visiting speakers from the community, e.g. health promotion specialists, school/school nurses, community police and fire officers, make a valuable contribution to the RSE and Health Education curriculum. Their input is carefully planned and monitored to fit into and complement the curriculum. Teachers are always present during sessions delivered by visiting speakers and the teachers remain responsible for the delivery of the RSE and Health Education curriculum. Whilst many aspects of RSE and Health Education are taught throughout the year, some specific age-related aspects are delivered at a pre-planned point during the year, in order that parents/carers are informed and can be involved in supporting their child.

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).

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS): As outlined in Development Matters, Personal, Social and Emotional Development is a prime area of learning in Little Sycamores, Nursery and Reception classes. Through the EYFS Curriculum children are taught to play cooperatively, taking turns with others, and learn to show sensitivity to others' needs and feelings. Children are shown how to form positive relationships with adults and other children and they talk about how they and others show feelings. Whilst learning about "Understanding the World", children learn that others do not always enjoy the same things and they are taught about similarities and differences between themselves and others, and among families, communities and traditions. Children make observations of animals and plants and explain why some things occur, and talk about changes.

Key Stage 1 Through the Science curriculum children learn to identify, name, draw and label the basic parts of the human body. They find out about life cycles of some animals and notice that animals, including humans, have offspring which grow into adults. Through SMSC, the Rights Respecting Curriculum and RE syllabus, children reflect on family relationships, different family groups and celebrations and how to form healthy relationships with others. Children learn about the importance of personal hygiene to maintain good health and about personal safety.

Key Stage 2 Through the Science curriculum children build on their knowledge of life cycles and learn to describe the differences in the life cycles of a mammal, an amphibian, an insect and a bird. Children are taught to describe the life process of reproduction in some plants and animals and find out about different types of reproduction, including sexual and asexual reproduction in plants, and sexual reproduction in animals. Children learn to describe the changes as humans develop to old age and they are taught to recognise that living things produce offspring of the same kind, but normally offspring vary and are not identical to their parents.

Through the Computing curriculum, children will learn about appropriate use of social media, cyber-bullying with specific reference to secondary school and what to do if they are asked to send inappropriate content via a social media platform. This module supports the children in preparation for their secondary school transition and for the advance demands of social media.

Through SMSC, the Rights Respecting Curriculum and RE syllabus, children continue to develop an understanding of relationships within a family; between friends and the community, and that there are different patterns of friendship. They develop the skills needed to form relationships and to respect other people's emotions, feelings and differing attitudes. They consider how to make simple choices and exercise some basic techniques for resisting pressures.

Sex Education is taught as a discrete subject to children in the following year groups during the summer term: In Year 5 Children learn about puberty, personal hygiene and relationships, including emotions and feelings. Lessons focus on the key questions: What are the differences between male and female bodies? How have our bodies changed since we were born? What is puberty? How does your body change? What are the reasons for this change? What is menstruation and why does it happen? In Year 6 children will revisit the topics that were covered in year 5 regarding physical changes in the body. In addition, they will learn about healthy and loving relationships. Lessons focus on the key questions: How do our bodies work? How do we cope with changing emotions and relationships? What is a loving

relationship? What is a sexual relationship? How is a baby conceived? What influences our body image?

Pupils also receive stand-alone sex education sessions delivered by a trained health professional.

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

For more information about our RSE curriculum, see Appendices 1 and 2.

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).

7. Roles and responsibilities

7.1 The Board of Trustees

The Trustees will approve the RSE policy, and hold the Principal to account for its implementation.

7.2 The Principal

The Principal is responsible for ensuring that RSE is taught consistently across the academy, and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from [non-statutory/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-statutory/non-science] components of RSE

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 Principal. Every teacher is responsible for teaching RSE at Oakdene Primary Academy. As an academy we cover all aspects of RSE in a sensitive manner. The Principal along with the following members of staff are responsible for ensuring that RSE is delivered appropriately: SLT and the PHSE lead within the academy.

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-statutory/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

Staff are trained on the delivery of RSE as part of their induction and it is included in our continuing professional development calendar.

The Principal will also invite visitors from outside the academy, 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 Principal through: enquiries and lesson observations.

Pupils' development in RSE is monitored by class teachers as part of our internal assessment systems.

This policy will be reviewed by the Board of Trustees annually.

11. Appendix 1: Curriculum map

Relationships and sex education curriculum map is available on the 'Curriculum' Page - RSHE overview

YEAR GROUP	TERM	TOPIC/THEME DETAILS	RESOURCES

12. Appendix 2: By the end of primary school pupils should know

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Families and people who care about me	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That families are important for children growing up because they can give love, security and stability • The characteristics of healthy family life, commitment to each other, including in times of difficulty, protection and care for children and other family members, the importance of spending time together and sharing each other's lives • That others' families, either in the academy or in the wider world, sometimes look different from their family, but that they should respect those differences and know that other children's families are also characterised by love and care • That stable, caring relationships, which may be of different types, are at the heart of happy families, and are important for children's security as they grow up • That marriage represents a formal and legally recognised commitment of two people to each other which is intended to be lifelong • How to recognise if family relationships are making them feel unhappy or unsafe, and how to seek help or advice from others if needed
Caring friendships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How important friendships are in making us feel happy and secure, and how people choose and make friends • The characteristics of friendships, including mutual respect, truthfulness, trustworthiness, loyalty, kindness, generosity, trust, sharing interests and experiences and support with problems and difficulties • That healthy friendships are positive and welcoming towards others, and do not make others feel lonely or excluded • That most friendships have ups and downs, and that these can often be worked through so that the friendship is repaired or even strengthened, and that resorting to violence is never right • How to recognise who to trust and who not to trust, how to judge when a friendship is making them feel unhappy or uncomfortable, managing conflict, how to manage these situations and how to seek help or advice from others, if needed

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Respectful relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The importance of respecting others, even when they are very different from them (for example, physically, in character, personality or backgrounds), or make different choices or have different preferences or beliefs • Practical steps they can take in a range of different contexts to improve or support respectful relationships • The conventions of courtesy and manners • The importance of self-respect and how this links to their own happiness • That in the academy and in wider society they can expect to be treated with respect by others, and that in turn they should show due respect to others, including those in positions of authority • About different types of bullying (including cyberbullying), the impact of bullying, responsibilities of bystanders (primarily reporting bullying to an adult) and how to get help • What a stereotype is, and how stereotypes can be unfair, negative or destructive • The importance of permission-seeking and giving in relationships with friends, peers and adults
Online relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That people sometimes behave differently online, including by pretending to be someone they are not • That the same principles apply to online relationships as to face-to face relationships, including the importance of respect for others online including when we are anonymous • The rules and principles for keeping safe online, how to recognise risks, harmful content and contact, and how to report them • How to critically consider their online friendships and sources of information including awareness of the risks associated with people they have never met • How information and data is shared and used online

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Being safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What sorts of boundaries are appropriate in friendships with peers and others (including in a digital context) • About the concept of privacy and the implications of it for both children and adults; including that it is not always right to keep secrets if they relate to being safe • That each person's body belongs to them, and the differences between appropriate and inappropriate or unsafe physical, and other, contact • How to respond safely and appropriately to adults they may encounter (in all contexts, including online) whom they do not know • How to recognise and report feelings of being unsafe or feeling bad about any adult • How to ask for advice or help for themselves or others, and to keep trying until they are heard • How to report concerns or abuse, and the vocabulary and confidence needed to do so • Where to get advice e.g. family, academy and/or other sources

13. Appendix 3: Parent form: withdrawal from Sex Education within RSE

Parents can request a pupil is withdrawn from the sex education component up until 3 terms before the young person's 16th birthday.

TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENTS			
Name of child		Class	
Name of parent		Date	
Reason for withdrawing from the sex education component within Relationships and Sex Education			
Any other information you would like the school to consider			
Parent signature			

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE SCHOOL	
Agreed actions from discussion with parents	

14. Review of this Policy

Trustees to review this policy every 3 years. It may however review this policy earlier than this if the government produces new regulations, or if it receives recommendations on how this policy might be improved.