



**Shaw  
Education  
Trust**

# SEABRIDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION (RSE) and HEALTH EDUCATION POLICY

## ‘Working Together To Be The Best We Can’

ORIGINATOR: Mrs K Davies

Approved by Academy Council

Date Approved:

Review Interval: 2 years

Last Review: October 2024

Next Review: October 2026

## **Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education Policy**

### **1.The Purpose of the Policy - Why do we teach RSE?**

To embrace the challenges of creating a happy and successful adult life, pupils need knowledge that will enable them to make informed decisions about their wellbeing, health and relationships and to build their self-efficacy. Pupils can also put this knowledge into practice as they develop the capacity to make sound decisions when facing risks, challenges and complex contexts. Everyone faces difficult situations in their lives. These subjects can support young people to develop resilience, to know how and when to ask for help, and to know where to access support. (DfE Guidance SRE 2021)

### **2.Policy Statement**

Schools have a statutory duty to prepare pupils for modern-life Britain and the next stages of their education.

We follow the DfE's guidance within the September 2012 policy statement:

RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION, RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION (RSE) AND HEALTH EDUCATION in which it states

‘The depth and breadth of views is clear, and there are understandable and legitimate areas of contention. Our guiding principles have been that all of the compulsory subject content must be age appropriate and developmentally appropriate. It must be taught sensitively and inclusively, with respect to the backgrounds and beliefs of pupils and parents while always with the aim of providing pupils with the knowledge they need of the law.’

### **3.The requirements on schools**

All primary schools (maintained, academies or independent) will be required to provide relationships education (and will retain their current choice to teach age-appropriate sex education). The subjects will be carefully designed to safeguard and support pupils and are deliverable for schools. Nevertheless, the DfE are clear on the themes and issues they should cover, in an age-appropriate way, to achieve this. Relationships and RSE will be age-appropriate, building knowledge and life skills over time in a way that prepares pupils for issues they will soon face. They will focus on:

- Different types of relationships, including friendships, family relationships, dealing with strangers;
- How to recognise, understand and build healthy relationships, including self-respect and respect for others, commitment, tolerance, boundaries and consent, and how to manage conflict, and also how to recognise unhealthy relationships;
- How relationships may affect health and wellbeing, including mental

health;

- Healthy relationships and safety online;
- Healthy bodies and lifestyles, including keeping safe, puberty, drugs and alcohol education;
- Economic wellbeing and financial capability.

The DfE have committed to retain parents' right to withdraw their child from sex education within RSE (other than sex education in the National Curriculum as part of science) but not from relationships education at primary. This is because parents should have the right to teach this themselves in a way which is consistent with their values. The DfE are also committed to ensuring that the education provided to pupils in Relationships Education and RSE is appropriate to the age of pupils and their religious background.

#### **4.Aims and Objectives**

Relationships and Sex Education within our school aims to provide opportunities for pupils to develop the skills, knowledge and understanding they need to lead confident, healthy, independent lives and become active and informed citizens. Information will be delivered in an accepting and honest way, which enables young people to contribute, and as deemed age- appropriate. Parents will be fully informed of policy and practice.

**Taken from DfE guidance:**

Relationships                      Education

(Primary)

54. The focus in primary school should be on teaching the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships, with particular reference to friendships, family relationships, and relationships with other children and with adults.
55. This starts with pupils being taught about what a relationship is, what friendship is, what family means and who the people are who can support them. From the beginning of primary school, building on early education, pupils should be taught how to take turns, how to treat each other with kindness, consideration and respect, the importance of honesty and truthfulness, permission seeking and giving, and the concept of personal privacy. Establishing personal space and boundaries, showing respect and understanding the differences between appropriate and inappropriate or unsafe physical, and other, contact - these are the forerunners of teaching about consent, which takes place at secondary.
56. Respect for others should be taught in an age-appropriate way, in terms of understanding one's own and others' boundaries in play, in negotiations about space, toys, books, resources and so on.
57. From the beginning, teachers should talk explicitly about the features of healthy friendships, family relationships and other relationships which

young children are likely to encounter. Drawing attention to these in a range of contexts should enable pupils to form a strong early understanding of the features of relationships that are likely to lead to happiness and security. This will also help them to recognise any less positive relationships when they encounter them.

58. The principles of positive relationships also apply online especially as, by the end of primary school, many children will already be using the internet. When teaching relationships content, teachers should address online safety and appropriate behaviour in a way that is relevant to pupils' lives. Teachers should include content on how information and data is shared and used in all contexts, including online; for example, sharing pictures, understanding that many websites are businesses and how sites may use information provided by users in ways they might not expect.
59. Teaching about families requires sensitive and well-judged teaching based on knowledge of pupils and their circumstances. Families of many forms provide a nurturing environment for children. (Families can include for example, single parent families, LGBT parents, families headed by grandparents, adoptive parents, foster parents/carers amongst other structures.) Care needs to be taken to ensure that there is no stigmatisation of children based on their home circumstances and needs, to reflect sensitively that some children may have a different structure of support around them; e.g. looked after children or young carers.
60. A growing ability to form strong and positive relationships with others depends on the deliberate cultivation of character traits and positive personal attributes, (sometimes referred to as 'virtues') in the individual. In a school wide context which encourages the development and practice of resilience and other attributes, this includes character traits such as helping pupils to believe they can achieve, persevere with tasks, work towards long-term rewards and continue despite setbacks. Alongside understanding the importance of self-respect and self-worth, pupils should develop personal attributes including honesty, integrity, courage, humility, kindness, generosity, trustworthiness and a sense of justice. This can be achieved in a variety of ways including by providing planned opportunities for young people to undertake social action, active citizenship and voluntary service to others locally or more widely.
61. Relationships Education also creates an opportunity to enable pupils to be taught about positive emotional and mental wellbeing, including how friendships can support mental wellbeing.
62. Through Relationships Education (and RSE), schools should teach pupils the knowledge they need to recognise and to report abuse, including emotional, physical and sexual abuse. In primary schools, this can be delivered by focusing on boundaries and privacy, ensuring young people understand that they have rights over their own bodies. This should also include understanding boundaries in friendships with peers and also in families and with others, in all contexts, including online. Pupils should know how to report concerns and seek advice when they suspect or know that something is wrong. At all stages it will be important to balance teaching children about making sensible decisions to stay safe (including

online) whilst being clear it is never the fault of a child who is abused and why victim blaming is always wrong. These subjects complement Health Education and as part of a comprehensive programme and whole school approach, this knowledge can support safeguarding of children.

## **5. Definition**

RSE is about the emotional, social and cultural development of pupils, and involves learning about relationships, physical changes during puberty, healthy lifestyles, diversity and personal identity. RSE involves a combination of sharing information and exploring issues and values.

## **6. Curriculum**

Our curriculum (Jigsaw PSHE) 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. For more information about our curriculum, see our Jigsaw PSHE curriculum map in [Appendix 1](#).

## **7. 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

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).

## **8. Roles and responsibilities**

### **8.1 The Academy Council**

The Academy Council will approve the RSE policy and hold the headteacher to account for its implementation.

### **8.2 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-statutory components of RSE.

### **8.3 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 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 headteacher.

### **8.4 Pupils**

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

## **9. 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. At Seabridge Primary School this is restricted to teaching pupils how to manage menstruation hygienically using sanitary products. Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing and addressed to the headteacher. Alternative work will be given to pupils who are withdrawn from sex education.

## **10. 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 headteacher will also invite visitors from outside the school, such as school nurses or sexual health professionals, to provide support and training to staff teaching RSE.

## **11. Monitoring arrangements**

The delivery of RSE is monitored by the headteacher and the Senior Leadership Team through: planning scrutinies, learning walks, work sampling and pupil voice. Pupils' development in RSE is monitored by class teachers as part of our internal assessment

systems. This policy will be reviewed annually. At every review, the policy will be approved by the Academy Council.