

Relationship and Sex Education Policy

The Littletons CE First School



SCHOOL VISION:

Just as God has created every individual with unique talents and skills, our school community provides a nurturing and inclusive environment, where everyone is encouraged to explore their individual creativity and to confidently use their talents in order to achieve their God given potential and to make the world a better place.

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1. Aims

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

- › Support our school vision, particularly ‘our school community provides a nurturing and inclusive environment”
- › Promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of all pupils
- › Prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life
- › Encourage pupils to value themselves and others
- › Allow pupils to acknowledge and appreciate difference and diversity
- › Teach pupils how to make informed choices
- › Prepare pupils to be positive and active members of a democratic society
- › Teach pupils to understand what constitutes a safe and healthy lifestyle
- › Provide a framework in which sensitive discussions can take place
- › Promote safety in forming and maintaining relationships
- › Provide pupils with a toolkit for understanding and managing their emotions
- › Provide pupils with the opportunities to consider issues which may affect their own lives and/or the lives of others
- › Help pupils to identify the characteristics of healthy relationships, how relationships may affect mental and physical health; and how to stay safe online
- › Prepare pupils for puberty, and give them an understanding of sexual development and the importance of health and hygiene
- › For all children to learn basic first aid
- › Provide children with beginning understanding of how to achieve economic and positive mental wellbeing
- › 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, we must provide relationships education to all pupils under section 34 of the [Children and Social Work Act 2017](#).

We don't 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. This would include the elements of sex education contained in the science curriculum.

In teaching RSE, we're 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](#).

We also have regard to legal duties set out in:

- Sections 406 and 407 of the Education Act 1996
- Part 6, chapter 1 of the [Equality Act 2010](#)
- The Public Sector Equality Duty (as set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010). This duty requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities

At The Littletons CE Academy, we teach RSE as set out in this policy.

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 member of staff or working group 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 part of lifelong learning about the emotional, social and physical aspects of growing up, relationships, sex, human sexuality and sexual health. RSE, within PSHE, aims to give children and young people essential skills for building positive, enjoyable, respectful and non-exploitive relationships and the skills to stay safe both online and offline. It enables pupils to explore their own and other's attitudes and values and builds their self-esteem and confidence to view their own sexuality positively. RSE is not about the promotion of sexual activity.

We will continue to teach the facts of human conception in our year 5 science curriculum. Further 'Sex Education' is not delivered in relationships education. However, we do provide a context for complementing the factual approach in science to enable pupils to explore and manage their feelings about their science learning. Pupils will also learn about the law related to sex, as part of safeguarding at this time, also to complement their science learning. In Reception class, the children will be taught the scientific names of body parts. The vocabulary used is listed on the Kapow! scheme of work.

5. Curriculum

We follow the scheme of work from 'Kapow!' for our RSE curriculum. An overview of the National Curriculum expectations can be seen in Appendix 1.

We have developed the curriculum in consultation with parents, pupils and staff, and taking into account the age, developmental stage, needs and feelings of our pupils. If pupils ask questions outside the scope of this policy, teachers will respond in an appropriate manner so that pupils 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

6. Delivery of RSE

RSE is taught within the personal, social and health (PSHE) education curriculum and within ICT lessons covering online safety. Some biological aspects of sex education are taught within the science curriculum.

We have developed our own PSHE and RSE scheme of work for Years R-5. These lessons are based around a theme which changes half-termly. The PSHE and RSE curriculum is also linked to our school values and Collective Worship plan. Links to PSHE and RSE teaching are highlighted on half termly collective worship plans.

We believe that pupils should be taught about the society in which they are growing up. These subjects are designed to foster respect for others and for difference, and educate pupils about healthy relationships. We believe that RSE should meet the needs of all pupils, whatever their developing sexuality or identity – this should include age-appropriate teaching about different types of relationships in the context of the law. Pupils should receive teaching on LGBT relationships, which is delivered, for example, through teaching about different types of family, including those with same sex parents.

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 Appendix 1.

These areas of learning are taught within the context of family life, taking care to make sure 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 and 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).

We will also be mindful of the law and legal requirements, taking care not to condone or encourage illegal political activity, such as violent action against people, criminal damage to property, hate crime, terrorism or the illegal use of drugs.

6.1 Inclusivity

We will teach about these topics in a manner that:

- Considers how a diverse range of pupils will relate to them
- Is sensitive to all pupils' experiences
- During lessons, makes pupils feel:
 - Safe and supported
 - Able to engage with the key messages

We will also:

- Make sure that pupils learn about these topics in an environment that's appropriate for them, for example in:
 - A whole-class setting
 - Small groups or targeted sessions
 - 1-to-1 discussions
 - Digital formats
- Consider the level of differentiation needed

As far as is appropriate, pupils with special educational needs should follow the same PSHE and RSE education programme as all other students. Careful consideration is given concerning the level of differentiation needed, and in some cases the content or delivery will have to be adapted. Teachers and/or learning support assistants work with individual pupils where required, and if appropriate. It is not the

school's policy to withdraw pupils with special educational needs from PSHE and RSE education to catch up on other national curriculum subjects: these aspects of personal and social development are as important to all pupils as their academic achievement.

6.2 Use of resources

We **will** consider whether any resources we plan to use:

- Are aligned with the teaching requirements set out in the statutory RSE guidance
- Would support pupils in applying their knowledge in different contexts and settings
- Are age-appropriate, given the age, developmental stage and background of our pupils
- Are evidence-based and contain robust facts and statistics
- Fit into our curriculum plan
- Are from credible sources
- Are compatible with effective teaching approaches
- Are sensitive to pupils' experiences and won't provoke distress

7. Use of external organisations and materials

We will make sure that an agency and any materials used are appropriate and in line with our legal duties around political impartiality.

The school remains responsible for what is said to pupils. This includes making sure that any speakers, tools and resources used don't undermine the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

We **will**:

- Make appropriate checks and engage with external agencies to make sure that their approach to teaching about RSE is balanced, and it and the resources they intend to use:
 - Are age-appropriate
 - Are in line with pupils' developmental stage
 - Comply with:
 - This policy
 - The [Teachers' Standards](#)
 - The [Equality Act 2010](#)
 - The [Human Rights Act 1998](#)
 - The [Education Act 1996](#)
- Only work with external agencies where we have full confidence in the agency, its approach and the resources it uses
- Make sure that any speakers and resources meet the intended outcome of the relevant part of the curriculum
- Review any case study materials and look for feedback from other people the agency has worked with
- Be clear on:
 - What they're going to say
 - Their position on the issues to be discussed

- Ask to see in advance any materials that the agency may use
- Know the named individuals who will be there, and follow our usual safeguarding procedures for these people
- Conduct a basic online search and address anything that may be of concern to us, or to parents and carers
- Check the agency's protocol for taking pictures or using any personal data they might get from a session
- Remind teachers that they can say "no" or, in extreme cases, stop a session
- Make sure that the teacher is in the room during any sessions with external speakers

We **won't**, under any circumstances:

- Work with external agencies that take or promote extreme political positions
- Use materials produced by such agencies, even if the material itself is not extreme

8. Roles and responsibilities

8.1 The governing board

The governing board 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 (see section 9).

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.

All teachers will teach RSE within their own class.

8.4 Pupils

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

8.4 Subject Leader

The subject leader will be responsible for:

- Driving curriculum development within the subject area
- Monitoring children's progress and attainment levels
- Offering advice and support to teachers and teaching assistants about the subject
- Delivering staff meeting sessions to develop aspects of the PSHE and RSE curriculum

- › Organising INSET sessions/training when required
- › Managing resources
- › Reviewing policy and curriculum design document

9. Parents' right to withdraw

The school is well aware that the primary role in children's relationships and sex education lies with parents and carers. We wish to build a positive and supportive relationship with the parents of children at our school through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation.

In promoting this objective we:

- › Make available online, via the school's website, this PSHE and RSE Policy;
- › Answer any questions that parents may have about the RSE/PSHE education of their child;
- › Take seriously any issue that parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy or the arrangements for RSE/PSHE in the school;
- › Inform parents about the best practice known with regard to RSE, so that the teaching in school supports the key messages that parents and carers give to children at home through annual parent consultations.

We believe that, through this mutual exchange of knowledge and information, children will benefit from being given consistent messages about their changing body and their increasing responsibilities.

Parents do have the right to withdraw their child from teaching about 'sex' although at The Littletons we feel it is appropriate to only cover the content of 'sex' education from the science curriculum and so parents are unable to withdraw their children from this.

There is no right to withdraw from Relationships Education. We believe the contents of these subjects – such as family, friendship, safety (including online safety) – are important for all children to be taught. If a parent has concerns they should discuss this with the head teacher. Parents should be aware that schools are legally required to provide a broad, balanced curriculum. Sex education topics can arise incidentally and overlap with relationships education lessons and it is not possible to withdraw pupils from these relatively limited and often unplanned discussions.

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 policy and practice will be evaluated by the PSHE and RSE subject leader and the head teacher. Teachers are observed as part of this monitoring to help achieve the high standards expected in the teaching and learning of this subject. Oral and written feedback is given to teachers.

Regular moderation of children's work is undertaken internally through staff meeting time.

This policy will be reviewed by The Headteacher/RSE Lead. At every review, the policy will be approved by the governing board.

Appendix 1 - By the end of primary school pupils should know

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Families and people who care about me	• 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 school 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	• 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
Respectful relationships	• 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 school 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

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Online relationships	• 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
Being safe	• 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, school and/or other sources