

# Stonehouse Park Federation

## Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) Policy



### Aims

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

- 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
- 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

### Statutory requirements

Our school's policy on sex and relationship education is based on the DfES document 'Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education' (DfES July 2019). From September 2020, Relationships Education and Health Education will be mandatory in every primary school.

Relationships Education is defined as 'teaching pupils about the characteristics of positive relationships, with a particular focus on family and friendships, in all contexts, including online'. Health Education is defined as 'teaching pupils about physical health and mental wellbeing, focusing on recognising the link between the two and being able to make healthy lifestyle choices.' It will ensure that children have knowledge of their bodies and the changes that will occur during adolescence, alongside knowledge of the human life-cycle, as set out in the national curriculum for science

Whilst sex education is not mandatory in primary schools, the DfE continues to recommend that all primary schools, 'have a sex education programme tailored to the age, and the physical and emotional maturity of pupils.' Any additional content that is designed to meet the needs of our pupils.

At Stonehouse Park Federation we teach RSE as set out in this policy.

### 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.

### Curriculum and Implementation

We follow the SCARF PSHE curriculum and scheme for RSE [SCARF: Safety, Caring, Achievement,](#)

[Resilience, Friendship \(coramlifeeducation.org.uk\)](https://coramlifeeducation.org.uk) in line the DfE guidance [Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education guidance \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

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

- Me and My Relationships
- Valuing Difference
- Keeping Safe
- Rights and Respect
- Being My Best
- Growing and Changing

Primary sex education will focus on:

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

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).

### **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 SCARF curriculum lessons on having a baby, conception and HIV of sex education within RSE.

Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing addressed to the headteacher.

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

This policy has been written in consultation with parents, staff and governors. It should be read in conjunction with the PSHE Policy and Equalities Policy.

Further information for parents on the SCARF policy can be found here: [Family SCARF \(coramlifeeducation.org.uk\)](https://coramlifeeducation.org.uk)

To be read with policies for Safeguarding, Health and Safety, Behaviour and Personal Development.

Kim Harvey-Sinton May 2023