



Relationship and Sex Education Policy (RSE)

A STATUTORY DOCUMENT

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This policy is linked to and should therefore be read in conjunction with:	PSHE, Science, RE, Equality Policy and Equality Statements, Child Protection, Confidentiality, Behaviour and Discipline and Anti-Bullying
Review in:	Summer 2025

‘Learning with our head, heart and hands so that we can experience life in all its fullness’

1. Introduction

The Governing Body believes that Relationship and Sex Education is an essential and integral part of a balanced and broadly based curriculum and should be taught as an on-going theme throughout the primary school years. It is the shared responsibility of parents, teachers and governors.

Our school’s policy on Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) is based on the Department of Education’s (DfE) document Relationship and Sex Education. In the DfE document, relationship and sex education should be the **‘key building blocks of healthy, respectful relationships focusing on family and friendships in all contexts, including online.’** Relationship and Sex Education also forms part of our Science curriculum and Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) curriculum in our school, throughout all age groups. RSE will also promote self-esteem and emotional health and wellbeing and help them form and maintain worthwhile and satisfying relationships, based on respect for themselves and for others, at home, school, work and in the community.

At Matching Green CE Primary School we believe that Relationship and Sex Education is lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. The school has three commitments that underpin this policy:

- To learn with our head, heart and hands
- To be safe
- To show mutual respect

Matching Green CE Primary School is a school that holds values central to all of its work and therefore this RSE policy must be applied in line with the school’s values system. This philosophy is essential to this RSE policy and all named parties need to be guided by this principle when applying this policy.

2. Aims

The aims of 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
- Teach pupils the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies
- Help pupils develop feelings of self-respect, confidence and empathy
- Create a positive culture around issues of sexuality and relationships, including the importance of family for the care and support of children
- Help children to understand the consequences of their actions and behave responsibly within relationships
- To be able to recognise unsafe situations, protect themselves and ask for help and support

Matching Green CE Primary School considers that RSE is an integral part of the Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) Education curriculum. We aim to offer pupils a carefully planned programme on human development, relationships, sexuality and family life within a safe, comfortable atmosphere and in a relaxed relationship between teacher and pupil. The programme is set within a moral framework and matched to the pupils' level of maturity. These aims complement those of the Science curriculum in KS1 and KS2.

3. Statutory requirements

As a maintained primary school we must provide relationships education to all pupils as per section 34 of the Children and Social work act 2017. We are not required to provide sex education, however, we do need to teach the elements of sex education contained in the statutory science curriculum.

In teaching RSE, we must have regard to guidance issued by the secretary of state as outlined in section 403 of the Education Act 1996. At Matching Green CE Primary School we teach RSE as set out in this policy. Should you like to see the guidance from the government please visit:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/805781/Relationships Education Relationships and Sex Education RSE and Health Education.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/805781/Relationships_Education_Relationships_and_Sex_Education_RSE_and_Health_Education.pdf)

4. Definition

All Church of England and Methodist schools within the Diocese of Chelmsford are statutorily required to teach Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education (RSE). RSE is about the emotional, social and cultural development of pupils, and involves learning about relationships, sexual health, sexuality, consent, 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 RSE curriculum is embedded within our PSHE curriculum. We have developed the curriculum taking into account the age, needs and feelings of pupils. Whilst sex education is not currently compulsory in primary schools, it is natural for children to have questions about their changing bodies. We want to ensure our lessons will provide a safe space for our children to ask questions and gain an age-appropriate understanding. Biological aspects of RSE are taught within the science curriculum. In addition to this, year 6 pupils also receive stand-alone sex education sessions. If pupils ask questions outside the scope of this policy, teachers will respond in an age appropriate manner so they are fully informed and don't seek answers online.

Our RSE curriculum has been developed in consultation with various stakeholders, including Local Council, staff, pupils and parents/carers and takes into account the context of the school and its pupils.

- *Families and relationships*

- *Health and wellbeing*
- *Safety and the changing body*
- *Citizenship*
- *Economic Wellbeing*

6. Delivery of RSE

As part of RSE, pupils will be taught about the nature and significance of marriage for family life and bringing up children. They also need to understand that there are equally strong and mutually supportive relationships outside of marriage. Either of these can include heterosexual or same-sex relationships. We ensure that no stigma is placed on children based on their home circumstances. We aim to provide accurate information and to help to develop skills to enable them to understand differences and respect themselves and others. We hope to prevent and remove prejudice.

RSE should contribute to promoting the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at school and within society, thus preparing them for the responsibilities and experiences of adult life. We will work towards this aim in partnership with parents and carers.

We carry out the main RSE curriculum in PSHE lessons, however we also teach RSE through other subject areas e.g. Science, PE and RE, where we feel that they contribute significantly to a child's knowledge and understanding of his or her own body, and how it is changing and developing. Linked with RE, children reflect on family relationships, different family groups and friendship. They learn about rituals and traditions associated with birth, marriage and death and talk about the emotions involved. Linked with PE, children learn about healthy lifestyles and the importance of exercise.

Primary Science Curriculum

Early Years Foundation Stage children learn:

- About life cycles
- Through ongoing personal, social and emotional development, they develop the skills to form relationships and think about relationships with others.

In Key Stage 1 (yrs 1 – 2) children learn:

- To identify, name, draw and label the basic parts of the human body and say which part of the body is to do with each sense
- To notice that animals, including humans, have offspring which grow into adults
- To find out about and describe the basic needs of animals, including humans, for survival (water, food and air)
- To describe the importance for humans of exercise, eating the right amounts of different types of food, and hygiene

In Key Stage 2 (yrs 3 – 6) children learn:

- To identify that animals, including humans, need the right types and amount of nutrition, and that they cannot make their own food; they get nutrition from what they eat

- To identify that humans and some other animals have skeletons and muscles for support, protection and movement
- To describe the simple functions of the basic parts of the digestive system in humans
- To identify the different types of teeth in humans and their simple functions
- To describe the life process of reproduction in some plants and animals
- To describe the changes as humans develop to old age
- To identify and name the main parts of the human circulatory system, and describe the functions of the heart, blood vessels and blood
- To recognise the impact of diet, exercise, drugs and lifestyle on the way their bodies function
- To describe the way nutrients and water are transported within animals, including humans
- To recognise that living things produce offspring of the same kind, but normally offspring vary and are not identical to their parents

Since RSE incorporates the development of self-esteem and relationships, pupils' learning does not just take place through the taught curriculum but through all aspects of school life including the playground. It is important then that all staff understand they have a responsibility to implement this policy and promote the aims of the school at any time they are dealing with children.

Teaching and Learning of the RSE curriculum

In upper Key Stage 2 we acknowledge that many children will begin to experience puberty at this age. We teach the children about the parts of the body and how they work. We also explain what will happen to their bodies during puberty, something that we believe should be taught before children experience it. We encourage the children to ask for help if they need it and there are opportunities for single-sex question sessions. Teachers do their best to answer all questions with sensitivity and care. By the end of Key Stage 2, at Matching Green Primary School we will ensure that both boys and girls know how babies are born, how their bodies change during puberty, and what menstruation is and how it affects women. We always teach this with due regard for the emotional development of the children.

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, please see appendix 1.

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 Governing Body

The governing body has delegated the approval of this policy to the Children and Learning Committee.

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-statutory components of RSE (see section 7).

The Headteacher also:

- Ensures that members of staff are given sufficient training, so that they can teach effectively and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity
- Monitors this policy on a regular basis and reports to governors on the effectiveness of the policy

7.3 Staff

All staff are responsible for:

- Delivering RSE in a sensitive way
- Modelling positive attitudes to RSE
- Monitoring progress
- Responding appropriately to pupils whose parents wish them to be withdrawn from the non-statutory components of RSE
- Answering any questions that parents may have about the RSE of their child; this includes providing opportunities for parents to view the resources that are used in lessons

Class teachers are responsible for teaching RSE at Matching Green CE Primary School. Teachers will reply to, and answer, children's questions sensitively and openly. They will ensure that balanced information is provided which will take into account the different faiths' views and avoid any negative impressions. Teachers will need to answer questions that may arise through the direct teaching of sex education, as well as those that may be asked at other times. All questions will be handled sensitively and set within a general context.

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. Questions which teachers feel uncertain about answering should be discussed with a senior member of staff and answered at a later date. Consideration should be given to religious or cultural factors, and to parents' wishes before questions are answered.

7.4 Pupils

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

7.5 Parents

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

In promoting this objective we:

- Inform parents about the school's RSE policy and practice
- Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the non-statutory components of sex education within RSE. However, this rarely happens as, by working in partnership with parents, they recognise the importance of this aspect of their child's education

8. Parents' right to withdraw

Parents do not have the right to withdraw their children from **relationships** education. The science curriculum in all maintained schools also includes content on human development, including reproduction, which there is no right to withdraw from. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the non-statutory components of sex education within RSE.

Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing using the form found in Appendix 2 of this policy and addressed to the Headteacher. Alternative work will be given to pupils who are withdrawn from sex education and that child will go to another class for the duration of the lesson.

9. Confidentiality

Teachers conduct sex education lessons in a sensitive manner. However, if a child makes a reference to being involved, or likely to be involved in sexual activity, then the teacher will take the matter seriously and deal with it as outlined in the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policies. Teachers will respond in a similar way if a child indicates that they may have been a victim of abuse or exploitation. If the teacher has concerns, they will draw these to the attention of the designated person responsible for child protection/the headteacher as a matter of urgency. Disclosure of female genital mutilation must be reported to the police (either by the teacher to whom it is disclosed or by the DSL).

Legally, the school cannot offer or guarantee absolute confidentiality. We aim to ensure that pupils' best interests are maintained and try to encourage pupils to talk to their parents or carers to provide support. If confidentiality has to be broken, pupils are informed first and then supported by the designated teacher throughout the whole process.

10. Special Educational Needs

Pupils with Special Educational Needs will be given the opportunity to fully participate in RSE lessons, and a differentiated program will be provided where necessary, to ensure that all pupils gain a full understanding.

11. Equal Opportunities

RSE will be given to ensure quality of access for all pupils, regardless of gender, race or disability, so giving equal opportunities and avoiding discrimination.

12. Complaints Procedure

Any complaints or concerns about the Relationships and Sex Education programme should be made to the class teacher in the first instance. Parents can choose to follow the Matching Green complaints procedure if they feel things are not resolved.

13. Monitoring arrangements

The delivery of RSE is monitored by the subject leader through, for example, planning scrutinies, learning walks 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 governors biannually. At every review, the policy will be approved by the staff, governing body and the parents or carers.

14. Further policies

In conjunction with this policy, please also see:

- Behaviour policy and procedures
- Safeguarding and Child Protection policies
- Anti-bullying policy and procedures
- Mental health and wellbeing policy
- Online safety policy

Please see below a useful document produced by the government, which provides answers to frequently asked questions:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education-faqs>

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

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
<p>Families and people who care about me</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> That families are important for children growing up because they can give love, security and stability <input type="checkbox"/> 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 <input type="checkbox"/> 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 <input type="checkbox"/> 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 <input type="checkbox"/> That marriage represents a formal and legally recognised commitment of two people to each other which is intended to be lifelong <input type="checkbox"/> How to recognise if family relationships are making them feel unhappy or unsafe, and how to seek help or advice from others if needed
<p>Caring friendships</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> How important friendships are in making us feel happy and secure, and how people choose and make friends <input type="checkbox"/> The characteristics of friendships, including mutual respect, truthfulness, trustworthiness, loyalty, kindness, generosity, trust, sharing interests and experiences and support with problems and difficulties <input type="checkbox"/> That healthy friendships are positive and welcoming towards others, and do not make others feel lonely or excluded <input type="checkbox"/> 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 <input type="checkbox"/> 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
<p>Respectful relationships</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 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 <input type="checkbox"/> Practical steps they can take in a range of different contexts to improve or support respectful relationships <input type="checkbox"/> The conventions of courtesy and manners <input type="checkbox"/> The importance of self-respect and how this links to their own happiness <input type="checkbox"/> 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 <input type="checkbox"/> 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 <input type="checkbox"/> What a stereotype is, and how stereotypes can be unfair, negative or destructive <input type="checkbox"/> The importance of permission-seeking and giving in relationships with friends, peers and adults
<p>Online relationships</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> That people sometimes behave differently online, including by pretending to be someone they are not <input type="checkbox"/> 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 <input type="checkbox"/> The rules and principles for keeping safe online, how to recognise risks, harmful content and contact, and how to report them <input type="checkbox"/> How to critically consider their online friendships and sources of information including awareness of the risks associated with people they have never met <input type="checkbox"/> How information and data is shared and used online

Being safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> What sorts of boundaries are appropriate in friendships with peers and others (including in a digital context)<input type="checkbox"/> 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<input type="checkbox"/> That each person's body belongs to them, and the differences between appropriate and inappropriate or unsafe physical, and other, contact<input type="checkbox"/> How to respond safely and appropriately to adults they may encounter (in all contexts, including online) whom they do not know<input type="checkbox"/> How to recognise and report feelings of being unsafe or feeling bad about any adult<input type="checkbox"/> How to ask for advice or help for themselves or others, and to keep trying until they are heard<input type="checkbox"/> How to report concerns or abuse, and the vocabulary and confidence needed to do so<input type="checkbox"/> Where to get advice e.g. family, school and/or other sources
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Appendix 2: Parent form: withdrawal from sex education within RSE TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENTS

Name of child	Class
Name of parent	Date
Reason for withdrawing from sex education within relationships and sex education	
Any other information you would like the school to consider	
Parent signature	

