

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) Policy



Contents

- Statement
- Aims of the policy
- Responsibilities
- Class Teachers of Years 5 and 6
- Concluding statement

Approved	Staff and Governors
Policy Date	Autumn 2024
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Statement

At Grand Avenue we believe that relationships and sex education is vital as it allows children to understand their own lives and helps to prepare them for adult life. We acknowledge that relationships and sex education is a wider topic than just learning about human reproduction. Relationships and sex education is about relating to others, respecting the rights and feelings of others and developing loving caring relationships.

Aims of Policy

- To promote the development of attitudes and values leading to responsible decision making.
- To generate an atmosphere where questions about sexuality and reproduction can be asked and answered without embarrassment.
- To share the responsibility for relationships and sex education with parents fostering the partnership between home and school.
- To inform parents of the content of the scheme of work allowing them the right to withdraw their child should they so wish.
- To support parents in their role as educators in this area of the curriculum.
- To provide the correct vocabulary for all parts of the body.
- To stress the importance and value of 'family' life.
- To counteract and discuss myths and folklore surrounding this area of education.
- To provide constant reassurance that bodily changes (both physical and emotional) are normal and acceptable.
- To promote the concept that we are all different and develop (both physically and emotionally) at different rates.
- To inform children about forthcoming pubertal changes.
- To teach the nature of human reproduction in increasing detail according to age group.
- To help children develop communication skills in personal relationships including how to express their rights over who touches their bodies.
- To help children accept their sexuality as part of who they are.
- To raise awareness of potential sexism and challenge any stereotypical behaviour or comments.

Responsibilities

The Relationships and sex education Co-ordinator will

- Create, review and monitor the Relationships and Sex Education Policy, especially with regard to national and local agendas.
- Raise staff awareness on a regular basis.
- Ensure that staff receive training on relationships and sex education.
- Keep up to date with current developments and initiatives.
- Purchase, organise and audit resources.

The Governors will

- Agree the policy, revisions and amendments.
- Evaluate the success of the policy through visits to school.
- Support the implementation of the policy.

- Ensure funding to support this policy is considered during the budget setting process.
- Meet with the Health and Relationships and Sex Education Co-ordinator.
- Attend relevant training.

The class teacher will

- Show in planning and teaching that the policy is put into practice.
- Attend relevant training.
- Follow the school '3D PSHE' scheme of work, including the additional theme of r and sex education in Years 5 and 6.
- Use the correct terminology for the external parts of the body e.g. penis, vulva, testicles, breasts and nipples.
- Alert the relationships and sex education co-ordinator of any concerns regarding the teaching of this subject.
- Answer any questions posed by children honestly and in the appropriate environment (support from school nurse is available).
- Ensure that the teaching of relationships and sex education will initially occur in mixed gender groups.
- Organise single gender groupings to allow for questions and further information reducing embarrassment.
- Ensure pupils are aware of where pupils can go for additional help, support and advice
- Respond to children's questions naturally and factually as they arise.
- Show sensitivity to cultural or religious factors surrounding this area.
- Undertake relationships and sex education in the context of family life, loving relationships and of respect for others.
- Value diversity between people, explore stereotypes and help pupils understand the world around them e.g. challenge sexist /homophobic behaviour and comments.
- Closely monitor pupil's attitudes, development and understanding of SRE.

Class teachers of year 5 and 6

In addition to the above the school will inform parents of the materials used to deliver relationships and sex education lessons. Parents have the right to view all of these teaching resources. The school nurse will be invited to lead the Relationships and sex education lessons during the Summer Term.

The Deputy Head will ensure that parents understand the content of the relationships and sex education lessons and that they are aware of the right to withdraw their child from these lessons. Records will be held regarding the children who are withdrawn from relationships and sex education lessons. Content is factual and age appropriate so that children have the capacity to fully understand everything they are being taught.

At present, the broader concept of gender identity is not to be taught, though acknowledging that some people may change their biological sex and deserve to be treated with respect may be included in discussion.

Concluding Statement

Relationships and sex education will be integrated as part of the school Relationships and Health Education programme, with other aspects taught

through the Science and PE curriculum. It is not seen as an isolated subject, the starting point being the child's own experience. It is acknowledged that parents have the right to withdraw their child sex education lessons, but not from relationships education.

