

Roe Green Infant/Strathcona
School

Parent Consultation on
Relationships and Sex
Education

Common Principles

- ▶ We all want what is best for our children.
- ▶ We want to protect our children and to keep them safe.
- ▶ We want children to be healthy and happy.
- ▶ **High quality RSE is part of this.**

Parent Consultation Session Content

- ▶ Why the Curriculum is Changing
- ▶ Why is RSE in Schools Important
- ▶ Statutory Guidelines
 - Relationships Education in Primary*
 - Physical health and Mental Wellbeing in Primary*
 - Overview of Teaching Expectations: Primary*
- ▶ Whole School Approach
- ▶ Draft RSE Policy
- ▶ Support for Parents and Carers : RSE Guides
- ▶ What happens next?
- ▶ Questionnaire

Why is Relationships and Sex (RSE) Education in Schools Important?

- ▶ High quality RSE helps create safe school communities in which students can grow, learn, and develop positive, healthy behaviour for life, and for the following reasons:
- ▶ RSE plays a vital part in schools fulfilling their statutory duties to protect and safeguard their students. Ofsted is clear that schools must have a preventative programme that enables students to learn about safety and risks in relationships.
- ▶ Schools maintain a statutory obligation under the Children Act (2004) to promote their students' wellbeing and under the Education Act (2002) to prepare children and young people for the challenges, opportunities and responsibilities of adult life. A comprehensive RSE programme can have a positive impact on students' health and wellbeing and their ability to achieve, and can play a crucial part in meeting these obligations.
- ▶ Technology is evolving at a tremendous pace. The need to protect children and young people from inappropriate online content, cyber-bullying and exploitation is a growing concern. A comprehensive RSE programme can support in addressing these issues.

Relationships and Sex Education: Introduction

- ▶ Relationships education is compulsory for all primary age pupils from September 2021.
- ▶ Health education will be compulsory for all pupils in all state funded schools.
- ▶ Teaching at school will complement (NOT REPLACE) and reinforce the lessons families teach their children as they grow up.
- ▶ At Roe Green Infant/Strathcona, we aim to be flexible and inclusive to deliver any content in a way that is age and developmentally appropriate.
- ▶ This is 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.

Relationships Education in Primary Schools.

- ▶ Relationships Education is introduced at Primary and students explore the following areas:
- ▶ •Families and people who care for me
- ▶ •Caring Friendships
- ▶ •Respectful Relationships
- ▶ •Online Relationships
- ▶ •Being Safe
- ▶ Sex education is not compulsory in primary schools.

Physical Health and Mental Well Being in Primary Schools.

- ▶ The aim of teaching pupils about physical health and mental wellbeing is to give them information they need to make good decisions about their own health and wellbeing with a clear focus on reducing stigma attached to health issues.
- ▶ In primary school the focus should be on teaching the characteristics of good physical health and mental wellbeing and the benefits of hobbies, interests and participation in their own communities. By embedding these principles, teachers should be able to address issues such as isolation, loneliness, unhappiness, bullying and the negative impacts of poor health and wellbeing.
- ▶ Physical Health and Mental Well Being Teaching in Primary include learning units around **Mental Wellbeing, Internet Safety and Harms, Physical Health and Fitness** and things that harm our bodies.

Overview of Teaching Expectations: Primary

Relationships Education (Primary)	Physical Health and Mental Well Being (Primary)
Families and People who care for me	Mental Wellbeing
Caring Friendships	Internet Safety and Harms
Respectful Relationships	Physical Health and Fitness
Online Relationships	Healthy Eating
Being Safe	Drugs, alcohol and tobacco
	Health and Prevention
	Basic First Aid
	Changing Adolescent Body

Whole School Approach

- ▶ All of these subjects should be and are set in the context of a wider **whole-school approach** to supporting pupils to be safe, happy and prepared for life beyond school.
- ▶ For example, the curriculum on **relationships and sex** should complement, and be supported by the school's wider policies on behaviour, inclusion, respect for equality and diversity, bullying and safeguarding.
- ▶ At the heart of Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education, there is a focus on keeping children safe and the role that schools can play in preventative education.
- ▶ Clear reference of this link is included in our Draft RSE Policy.
- ▶ All lessons will be delivered at age appropriate and child friendly level.
- ▶ A copy of the new PSHE/RSE Skills and progression can also be found on the web page.

Draft RSE Policy

- ▶ A draft RSE Policy has been drawn to reflect current statutory guidance including RSE curriculum offer and it can be found on our school website.
- ▶ Our Draft RSE policy in line with RSE Guidance 2020 includes information on:
- ▶ **What is Relationships and Sex Education,**
- ▶ **Aims and Objectives,**
- ▶ **Links with other policies,**
- ▶ **RSE Curriculum content and planning,**
- ▶ **Answering difficult questions,**
- ▶ **Areas of responsibility,**
- ▶ **Sensitive issues,**
- ▶ **CP and Confidentiality,**
- ▶ **Parental right to withdraw,**
- ▶ **Working with external agencies, etc.**

Support for parents and carers.

- ▶ DfE has produced guides for parents of primary and secondary aged children which can be used by schools to communicate how relationships and health education will be taught. The guides provide details of topics that will be covered and information of parent's rights to withdraw. (DfE, 2019c).
- ▶ You may access relevant guides following the link below.
- ▶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-sex-and-health-education-guides-for-schools>
- ▶ These will also be accessible on the School Website.

Do I have a right to withdraw my child from Relationships and Sex Education?

- ▶ From September 2021 in Primary Education parents will be able to withdraw their children from any aspects of Sex Education other than those which are part of the Science Curriculum (Note that Sex Education is not compulsory in Primary Schools).
- ▶ There is no right to withdraw from Relationships Education or Health Education at Primary or Secondary as we believe that the contents of these subjects-such as family, friendships, safety (including online safety) -are important for all children to be taught.

Does the new Relationships Education and RSE curriculum take account of my faith?

- ▶ The DfE states that Relationships Education has been designed to help children from all backgrounds build positive and safe relationships, and to thrive in modern Britain -this means taking into account the religious background of pupils when planning teaching, so that topics are appropriately handled.
- ▶ •In developing these subjects, the government has worked with a number of representative bodies and faith organisations, representing all the major faith groups in England. Several faith organisations produce teaching materials that schools can choose to use.
- ▶ •The subjects are designed to help children from all backgrounds build positive and safe relationships, and to thrive in modern Britain.

Will my child be taught about healthy relationships?

- ▶ We believe that all pupils should be taught about the society in which they are growing up. Relationships Education is designed to foster respect for others and for difference and educate pupils about healthy relationships. We also believe that children should receive teaching on LGBT (Lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and trans-gender) age appropriate content during their school years. Teaching children about the society that we live in and the different types of loving, healthy relationships that exist is very important.
- ▶ The DfE states that Primary schools are strongly encouraged and enabled to cover LGBT content when teaching about different types of families.
- ▶ All children will be taught at an age appropriate and child friendly level

What happens next?

- ▶ Over the next 2 weeks we will be concluding all consultations with Staff, Parents/Carers, Children (where appropriate) and Wider School Community Members (i.e. School nurses) in order to inform our draft Relationships and Sex Education Policy.
- ▶ Teaching staff are in the process of designing creative lesson plans as part of the new PSHE jigsaw scheme which we are carefully considering resources that will safely and subtly address all topics and areas.

Questionnaire

- ▶ *Please complete the Parent Consultation Questionnaire to add any feedback and share RSE curriculum queries by **Wednesday, 24th March**. You may also share curriculum queries by emailing us at :admin@rgreeninf.brent.sch.uk*
- ▶ *We hope, as parents/carers you have the confidence that we are providing the highest quality education for your children. As a school community we are committed to working in partnership with parents so your views will be greatly appreciated to further inform our RSE policy and curriculum. Thank you.*