

# Relationships and sex education policy (from 2020)

Ladysmith  Federation

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## 1. Aims

The aims of relationships and sex education (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
- 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

This is in line with key sections of our Federation ethos and values.

### **Ambition**

- To develop self-motivated, ambitious, independent, caring and happy children
- To promote an active and healthy lifestyle with good mental wellbeing and an understanding of how to stay safe

### **Adventure**

- We embrace and value diversity within our own community and beyond

### **Achievement**

- We do everything we can to ensure that every child is successful
- We provide a secure supportive environment in which children can achieve their full potential

## 2. 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](#).

However, we are not required to provide sex education but we do need to teach the elements of sex education contained in the 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 Ladysmith Federation we teach RSE as set out in this policy.

## 3. Policy development

This policy replaces the Sex and Relationship Education Policy and works in conjunction with the PSHE policy.

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 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 were sent information about the RSE curriculum via letter and invited to feedback
4. Ratification – once amendments were made, the policy was shared with governors and ratified

## 4. 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.

RSE is not about the promotion of sexual activity.

## 5. Curriculum

Our curriculum is set out as per Appendix 1 but we may need to adapt it as and when necessary.

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

For more information about our curriculum, see our curriculum map in Appendix 1.

## **6. Delivery of RSE**

RSE is taught within the personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education curriculum using the PHSE Association materials as a basis. Biological aspects of RSE are taught within the science curriculum, and other aspects are included in religious education (RE).

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 Appendices 1 and 2.

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 board**

The governing board will approve the RSE policy, and hold the headteacher to account for its implementation.

### **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/non-science components of RSE (see section 8).

### **7.3 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/non-science 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 teaching staff are responsible for teaching RSE within the Federation.

### **7.4 Pupils**

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

## **8. 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 non-statutory/non-science components of sex education within RSE.

Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing using the form found in Appendix 3 of this policy and addressed to the headteacher.

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

The Government has provided some guidance on this:

[Government Guidance on RSE and withdrawing children.](#)

## **9. 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.

## **10. Monitoring arrangements**

The delivery of RSE is monitored by Senior Leadership through:

- Discussions with the PSHE and Science subject leads
- Planning scrutinies,
- learning walks
- Staff CPD

Pupils' development in RSE is monitored by class teachers as part of our internal assessment systems.

This policy will be reviewed by the Senior Leadership Team annually. At every review, the policy will be approved by the governing body.

## **Appendix 1: Key Stage 1 Curriculum**

In Foundation and Key Stage 1 we teach children that animals, including humans, move, feed, grow and reproduce, and we also teach them about the main parts of the body. Children learn to appreciate the differences between people and how to show respect for each other. In Key Stage 2 we teach about life processes and the main stages of the human life cycle in greater depth.

### **Year 1**

Through the science curriculum children are taught to:

- identify, name, draw and label the basic parts of the human body and say which part of the body is associated with each sense

### **Year 2**

Through the science curriculum children are taught to:

- notice that animals, including humans, have offspring which grow into adults
- find out about and describe the basic needs of animals, including humans, for survival (water, food and air)
- describe the importance for humans of exercise, eating the right amounts of different types of food, and hygiene

## **Key Stage 2**

In Key Stage 2 we place a particular emphasis on health education, as many children experience puberty at this age. Teachers do their best to answer all questions with sensitivity and care. By the end of Key Stage 2, we ensure that both boys and girls know how babies are conceived and born, how their bodies change during puberty, what menstruation is, and how it affects women. We always teach this with due regard for the emotional development of the children.

Some of this content is taught through the Science curriculum.

## Appendix 1: Curriculum map

PSHE CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK – WHOLE SCHOOL OVERVIEW									
Term	Autumn			Spring			Summer		
Core Theme	Health and Wellbeing <i>Minimum of 10 lessons</i>			Relationships <i>Minimum of 10 lessons</i>			Living in the Wider World <i>Minimum of 10 lessons</i>		
Topics	Healthy Lifestyles	Growing and Changing	Keeping Safe	Feelings and emotions	Healthy Relationships	Valuing difference	Rights and Responsibilities	Environment	Money
Year 3	What makes a balanced diet; opportunities for making own choices with food; what influences their food choices; habits	Recognising what they are good at; setting goals. Describing feelings; conflicting feelings and how to manage feelings	School rules on health and safety; basic emergency aid; people who help them stay healthy and safe	Recognising feelings in others; responding to how others are feeling	Positive; healthy relationships and friendships; maintaining friendship; actions affect ourselves and others; working collaboratively	Recognising and responding to bullying	Discuss and debate health and wellbeing issues. Being a part of the community and who works in the community	Responsibilities; rights and duties	Enterprise; what it means; developing skills in enterprise <i>(CROSS YEAR-GROUP PROJECT WITH YEAR 6)</i>
Year 4	What makes a balanced lifestyle and making choices; drugs common to everyday life; hygiene and germs	Recognising what they are good at; setting goals. Changes at puberty. Changes that happen in life and feelings associated with change	How to keep safe in local area and online; people who help them stay healthy and safe	Keeping something confidential or secret; when to break a confidence; recognise and manage dares	Acceptable and unacceptable physical contact; solving disputes and conflicts amongst peers	Listen and respond effectively to people; share points of view	Discuss and debate health and wellbeing issues. Appreciating difference and diversity in the UK and around the world	Sustainability of the environment across the world	Role of money; managing money (saving and budgeting); what is meant by interest and loan
Year 5	What positively and negatively affects health and wellbeing; making informed choices; benefits of a balanced diet; different influences on food; skills to make choices	Recognising what they are good at; setting goals; aspirations. Intensity of feelings; managing complex feelings. Coping with change and transition; bereavement and grief	Strategies for managing personal safety in the local environment; online safety; including sharing images; mobile phone safety	Responding to feelings in others	Actions have consequences of actions; working collaboratively; negotiation and compromise; giving feedback	Listening to others; raise concerns and challenge	Discuss and debate health and wellbeing issues. Rules and laws; changing rules and laws; anti-social behaviour; respecting and resolving differences	Different rights; responsibilities and duties	Importance of finance in people's lives; being a critical consumer; looking after money; interest; loan; debt management of

Year 6	Images in the media and reality; how this can affect how people feel; risks and effects of drugs	Recognising what they are good at; setting goals; aspirations. Changes at puberty ( <i>recap Y4</i> ); human reproduction; roles and responsibilities of parents	Independence; increased responsibility; keeping safe; influences on behaviour; resisting pressure; rights to protect their body and speaking out (including against FGM); who is responsible for their health and safety; where to get help and advice	Confidentiality and when to break a confidence; managing dares	Different types of relationships; positive and healthy relationships; maintaining relationships; recognising when a relationship is unhealthy (including forced marriage); committed; loving relationships; marriage. Acceptable and unacceptable physical touch; personal boundaries and the right to privacy	Listening to others; raise concerns and challenge. What makes people the same or different; recognising and challenging stereotypes; discrimination and bullying	Discuss and debate health and wellbeing issues. Human rights; the rights of child; cultural practices and British law. Being part of a community; groups that support communities. Being critical of what is in the media and what they forward to others	How resources are allocated; effect of this on individuals; communities and environment	Enterprise; setting up an enterprise ( <i>CROSS YEAR-GROUP PROJECT WITH YEAR 3</i> )
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## Appendix 2: By the end of primary school pupils should know

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Families and people who care about me	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That families are important for children growing up because they can give love, security and stability</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• That marriage represents a formal and legally recognised commitment of two people to each other which is intended to be lifelong</li> <li>• How to recognise if family relationships are making them feel unhappy or unsafe, and how to seek help or advice from others if needed</li> </ul>
Caring friendships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How important friendships are in making us feel happy and secure, and how people choose and make friends</li> <li>• The characteristics of friendships, including mutual respect, truthfulness, trustworthiness, loyalty, kindness, generosity, trust, sharing interests and experiences and support with problems and difficulties</li> <li>• That healthy friendships are positive and welcoming towards others, and do not make others feel lonely or excluded</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• 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</li> </ul>

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Respectful relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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</li> <li>• Practical steps they can take in a range of different contexts to improve or support respectful relationships</li> <li>• The conventions of courtesy and manners</li> <li>• The importance of self-respect and how this links to their own happiness</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• What a stereotype is, and how stereotypes can be unfair, negative or destructive</li> <li>• The importance of permission-seeking and giving in relationships with friends, peers and adults</li> </ul>
Online relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That people sometimes behave differently online, including by pretending to be someone they are not</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• The rules and principles for keeping safe online, how to recognise risks, harmful content and contact, and how to report them</li> <li>• How to critically consider their online friendships and sources of information including awareness of the risks associated with people they have never met</li> <li>• How information and data is shared and used online</li> </ul>
Being safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What sorts of boundaries are appropriate in friendships with peers and others (including in a digital context)</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• That each person's body belongs to them, and the differences between appropriate and inappropriate or unsafe physical, and other, contact</li> <li>• How to respond safely and appropriately to adults they may encounter (in all contexts, including online) whom they do not know</li> <li>• How to recognise and report feelings of being unsafe or feeling bad about any adult</li> <li>• How to ask for advice or help for themselves or others, and to keep trying until they are heard</li> <li>• How to report concerns or abuse, and the vocabulary and confidence needed to do so</li> <li>• Where to get advice e.g. family, school and/or other sources</li> </ul>

### Appendix 3: 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			

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE SCHOOL	
Agreed actions from discussion with parents	Include notes from discussions with parents and agreed actions taken. Eg: Joe Bloggs will be taking part in all relationships lessons and during the sex education lessons, he will be working independently on a project in the Year 5 classroom