

# Relationships and Sex Education Policy

Acton CEVC Primary School



**Strive - Support - Succeed**

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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

### 2. Statutory requirements

As a maintained primary school, we must provide relationships education to all pupils under section 34 of the [Children and Social Work Act 2017](#).

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](#).

We must also have regard to our legal duties set out in:

- Sections 406 and 407 of the Education Act 1996
- Part 6, chapter 1 of the [Equality Act 2010](#)
- The Public Sector Equality Duty (as set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010). This duty requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities

At Acton CEVC Primary School, we teach RSE as set out in this policy.

### 3. Policy development

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 or working group 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 and any interested parties were invited to attend a meeting about the policy
4. Pupil consultation – we investigated what exactly pupils want from their RSE
5. 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. As part of our RSE curriculum in Year 6, children are taught non-statutory sex education.

### 5. Curriculum

Our RSE 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, and taking into account the age, developmental stage, needs and feelings of our pupils. If pupils ask questions outside the scope of this policy, teachers will respond in an appropriate manner so that pupils are fully informed and don't seek answers online.

The following non-statutory sex education objectives are taught in Year 6:

- Identify the changes that happen through puberty to allow sexual reproduction to occur;
- Know a variety of ways in which the sperm can fertilise the egg to create a baby;

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. 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 make sure 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 and 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).

We will also be mindful of the law and legal requirements, taking care not to condone or encourage illegal political activity, such as violent action against people, criminal damage to property, hate crime, terrorism or the illegal use of drugs.

## 6.1 Inclusivity

We will teach about these topics in a manner that:

- Considers how a diverse range of pupils, including children with SEND, will relate to them
- Is sensitive to all pupils' experiences
- During lessons, makes pupils feel:
  - Safe and supported
  - Able to engage with the key messages

We will also:

- Make sure that pupils learn about these topics in an environment that's appropriate for them, for example in:
  - A whole-class setting
  - Small groups or targeted sessions
  - 1-to-1 discussions
  - Digital formats
  - Give careful consideration to the level of differentiation needed

## 6.2 Use of resources

We **will** consider whether any resources we plan to use:

- Are aligned with the teaching requirements set out in the statutory RSE guidance
- Would support pupils in applying their knowledge in different contexts and settings
- Are age-appropriate, given the age, developmental stage and background of our pupils
- Are evidence-based and contain robust facts and statistics
- Fit into our curriculum plan
- Are from credible sources
- Are compatible with effective teaching approaches
- Are sensitive to pupils' experiences and won't provoke distress

## 7. Use of external organisations and materials

We will make sure that an agency and any materials used are appropriate and in line with our legal duties around political impartiality.

The school remains responsible for what is said to pupils. This includes making sure that any speakers, tools and resources used don't undermine the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

We **will**:

- Make appropriate checks and engage with external agencies to make sure that their approach to teaching about RSE is balanced, and it and the resources they intend to use:
  - Are age-appropriate
  - Are in line with pupils' developmental stage

- Comply with:
  - This policy
  - The [Teachers' Standards](#)
  - The [Equality Act 2010](#)
  - The [Human Rights Act 1998](#)
  - The [Education Act 1996](#)
- Only work with external agencies where we have full confidence in the agency, its approach and the resources it uses
- Make sure that any speakers and resources meet the intended outcome of the relevant part of the curriculum
- Review any case study materials and look for feedback from other people the agency has worked with
- Be clear on:
  - What they're going to say
  - Their position on the issues to be discussed
- Ask to see in advance any materials that the agency may use
- Know the named individuals who will be there, and follow our usual safeguarding procedures for these people
- Conduct a basic online search and address anything that may be of concern to us, or to parents and carers
- Check the agency's protocol for taking pictures or using any personal data they might get from a session
- Remind teachers that they can say "no" or, in extreme cases, stop a session
- Make sure that the teacher is in the room during any sessions with external speakers

We **won't**, under any circumstances:

- Work with external agencies that take or promote extreme political positions
- Use materials produced by such agencies, even if the material itself is not extreme

## 8. Roles and responsibilities

### 8.1 The governing board

The governing board has delegated the approval of this policy to the Standards Committee. The Committee will hold the headteacher to account for its implementation.

### 8.2 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 9).

### 8.3 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 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.

Class teachers are responsible for teaching RSE in our school.

## **8.4 Pupils**

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

## **9. 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 components of sex education within RSE (see Section 5).

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

The headteacher will speak with the parents to discuss the withdrawal.

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

## **10. 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.

## **11. Monitoring arrangements**

The delivery of RSE is monitored by Hannah Tulkens (PSHE Subject Leader) through planning and scrutinies, learning walks and pupil perceptions

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

This policy will be reviewed by Jonathan Gray (Headteacher) annually. At every review, the policy will be approved by the Standards Committee of the Governing Body.

## Appendix 1: Curriculum map

### Relationships and Sex Education Curriculum Map

| YEAR GROUP | TERM     | TOPIC/THEME DETAILS   | RESOURCES                         |
|------------|----------|---|-----------------------------------|
| Year 1     | Summer 2 | <p>Children will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Name major internal body parts (heart, lungs, blood, stomach, intestines, brain);</li> <li>• Understand and explain the simple bodily processes associated with them.</li> <li>• Understand some of the tasks required to look after a baby;</li> <li>• Explain how to meet the basic needs of a baby, for example, eye contact, cuddling, washing, changing, feeding.</li> <li>• Identify things they could do as a baby, a toddler and can do now;</li> <li>• Identify the people who help/helped them at those different stages.</li> <li>• Explain the difference between teasing and bullying;</li> <li>• Give examples of what they can do if they experience or witness bullying;</li> <li>• Say who they could get help from in a bullying situation.</li> <li>• Explain the difference between a secret and a nice surprise;</li> <li>• Identify situations as being secrets or surprises;</li> <li>• Identify who they can talk to if they feel uncomfortable about any secret they are told, or told to keep.</li> <li>• Identify parts of the body that are private;</li> <li>• Describe ways in which private parts can be kept private;</li> <li>• Identify people they can talk to about their private parts.</li> </ul> | SCARF Growing and Changing Year 1 |

| YEAR GROUP | TERM     | TOPIC/THEME DETAILS   | RESOURCES                         |
|------------|----------|---|-----------------------------------|
| Year 2     | Summer 2 | <p>Children will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate simple ways of giving positive feedback to others.</li> <li>• Recognise the range of feelings that are associated with losing (and being reunited) with a person they are close to.</li> <li>• Identify different stages of growth (e.g. baby, toddler, child, teenager, adult);</li> <li>• Understand and describe some of the things that people are capable of at these different stages.</li> <li>• Identify which parts of the human body are private;</li> <li>• Explain that a person's genitals help them to make babies when they are grown up;</li> <li>• Understand that humans mostly have the same body parts but that they can look different from person to person.</li> <li>• Explain what privacy means;</li> <li>• Know that you are not allowed to touch someone's private belongings without their permission;</li> <li>• Give examples of different types of private information.</li> </ul> | SCARF Growing and Changing Year 2 |

| YEAR GROUP | TERM     | TOPIC/THEME DETAILS   | RESOURCES                         |
|------------|----------|---|-----------------------------------|
| Year 3     | Summer 2 | <p>Children will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify different types of relationships;</li> <li>• Recognise who they have positive healthy relationships with.</li> <li>• Understand what is meant by the term body space (or personal space);</li> <li>• Identify when it is appropriate or inappropriate to allow someone into their body space;</li> <li>• Rehearse strategies for when someone is inappropriately in their body space.</li> <li>• Define the terms 'secret' and 'surprise' and know the difference between a safe and an unsafe secret;</li> <li>• Recognise how different surprises and secrets might make them feel;</li> <li>• Know who they could ask for help if a secret made them feel uncomfortable or unsafe.</li> <li>• Recognise that babies come from the joining of an egg and sperm;</li> <li>• Explain what happens when an egg doesn't meet a sperm;</li> <li>• Understand that for girls, periods are a normal part of puberty.</li> </ul> | SCARF Growing and Changing Year 3 |

| YEAR GROUP | TERM     | TOPIC/THEME DETAILS  | RESOURCES                         |
|------------|----------|--|-----------------------------------|
| Year 4     | Summer 2 | <p>Children will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe some of the changes that happen to people during their lives;</li> <li>• Explain how the Learning Line can be used as a tool to help them manage change more easily;</li> <li>• Suggest people who may be able to help them deal with change.</li> <li>• Name some positive and negative feelings;</li> <li>• Understand how the onset of puberty can have emotional as well as physical impact</li> <li>• Suggest reasons why young people sometimes fall out with their parents;</li> <li>• Take part in a role play practising how to compromise.</li> <li>• Identify parts of the body that males and females have in common and those that are different;</li> <li>• Know the correct terminology for their genitalia;</li> <li>• Understand and explain why puberty happens.</li> <li>• Know the key facts of the menstrual cycle;</li> <li>• Understand that periods are a normal part of puberty for girls;</li> <li>• Identify some of the ways to cope better with periods.</li> <li>• Define the terms 'secret' and 'surprise' and know the difference between a safe and an unsafe secret;</li> <li>• Recognise how different surprises and secrets might make them feel;</li> <li>• Know who they could ask for help if a secret made them feel uncomfortable or unsafe.</li> <li>• Understand that marriage is a commitment to be entered into freely and not against someone's will;</li> <li>• Recognise that marriage includes same sex and opposite sex partners;</li> <li>• Know the legal age for marriage in England or Scotland;</li> <li>• Discuss the reasons why a person would want to be married, or live together, or have a civil ceremony.</li> </ul> | SCARF Growing and Changing Year 4 |

| YEAR GROUP | TERM     | TOPIC/THEME DETAILS   | RESOURCES                         |
|------------|----------|---|-----------------------------------|
| Year 5     | Summer 2 | <p>Children will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use a range of words and phrases to describe the intensity of different feelings</li> <li>• Distinguish between good and not so good feelings, using appropriate vocabulary to describe these;</li> <li>• Explain strategies they can use to build resilience.</li> <li>• Identify people who can be trusted;</li> <li>• Understand what kinds of touch are acceptable or unacceptable;</li> <li>• Describe strategies for dealing with situations in which they would feel uncomfortable, particularly in relation to inappropriate touch.</li> <li>• Explain how someone might feel when they are separated from someone or something they like;</li> <li>• Suggest ways to help someone who is separated from someone or something they like.</li> <li>• Know the correct words for the external sexual organs;</li> <li>• Discuss some of the myths associated with puberty.</li> <li>• Identify some products that they may need during puberty and why;</li> <li>• Know what menstruation is and why it happens.</li> <li>• Identify the consequences of positive and negative behaviour on themselves and others;</li> <li>• Give examples of how individual/group actions can impact on others in a positive or negative way.</li> <li>• Recognise how our body feels when we're relaxed;</li> <li>• List some of the ways our body feels when it is nervous or sad;</li> <li>• Describe and/or demonstrate how to be resilient in order to find someone who will listen to you.</li> <li>• Recognise that some people can get bullied because of the way they express their gender;</li> <li>• Give examples of how bullying behaviours can be stopped.</li> <li>• Explain the difference between a safe and an unsafe secret;</li> <li>• Identify situations where someone might need to break a confidence in order to keep someone safe.</li> </ul> | SCARF Growing and Changing Year 5 |

| YEAR GROUP                            | TERM     | TOPIC/THEME DETAILS   | RESOURCES                       |
|---------------------------------------|----------|---|---------------------------------|
| Year 6<br>Non-statutory Sex Education | Summer 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children will be able to:</li> <li>• Recognise some of the changes they have experienced and their emotional responses to those changes;</li> <li>• Suggest positive strategies for dealing with change;</li> <li>• Identify people who can support someone who is dealing with a challenging time of change.</li> <li>• Understand that fame can be short-lived;</li> <li>• Recognise that photos can be changed to match society's view of perfect;</li> <li>• Identify qualities that people have, as well as their looks.</li> <li>• Define what is meant by the term stereotype;</li> <li>• Recognise how the media can sometimes reinforce gender stereotypes;</li> <li>• Recognise that people fall into a wide range of what is seen as normal;</li> <li>• Challenge stereotypical gender portrayals of people.</li> <li>• Understand the risks of sharing images online and how these are hard to control, once shared;</li> <li>• Understand that people can feel pressured to behave in a certain way because of the influence of the peer group;</li> <li>• Understand the norms of risk-taking behaviour and that these are usually lower than people believe them to be.</li> <li>• Define the word 'puberty' giving examples of some of the physical and emotional changes associated with it;</li> <li>• Suggest strategies that would help someone who felt challenged by the changes in puberty;</li> <li>• Know where someone could get support if they were concerned about their own or another person's safety.</li> <li>• Explain the difference between a safe and an unsafe secret;</li> <li>• Identify situations where someone might need to break a confidence in order to keep someone safe.</li> <li>• Identify the changes that happen through puberty to allow sexual reproduction to occur;</li> <li>• Know a variety of ways in which the sperm can fertilise the egg to create a baby;</li> <li>• Know the legal age of consent and what it means.</li> </ul> | SCARF Growth and Changes Year 6 |

## 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                                      |  |       |  |