



Dorney School
Relationship and Sex
Education Policy
2025-26

Respect Collaborate Grow

Signed:

Headteacher: Mrs S Lee

Date adopted: July 2025

Review Date: Annual

Dorney School

SEX AND RELATIONSHIP POLICY

Members of staff responsible:

Headteacher

PHSE Lead

Science Lead

Description of policy formation and consultation process:

We believe that policies should reflect the values, ethos and beliefs held by the whole school community, therefore a wide range of representatives were actively involved in the compilation of this policy. The people involved in this process are:

- Headteacher
- Teaching staff
- Governors
- Parents (through Parent Forum)

Context

As part of our Personal Social Health and Economic Education (PSHE) provision at Dorney School, we teach statutory Relationship and Health Education and non-statutory Sex Education.

As a non-statutory element of PSHE, parents and carers have the right to withdraw from designated Sex Education lessons. As statutory elements, children cannot be withdrawn from Relationships and Health Education. It involves teaching children about reproduction, sexuality and sexual health.

We encourage parents to discuss any concerns they have with us to help them make an informed choice about whether to exercise the right to withdraw their child where applicable. Teachers' beliefs and attitudes will not influence the teaching of sex education and all those contributing to sex education will work within the agreed values framework as described in the following policy.

Dorney School recognises that a planned, age appropriate and sensitive approach to the provision of sex education is a:

- fundamental entitlement of all our pupils. This policy statement will be continually developed in consultation with parents, pupils and governors.
- part of a supportive complementary role to that of parents in preparing pupils to meet maturely, the challenges of adult life.

Aims of RSE programme

The over-riding aim of our RSE programme is to provide pupils with strong values, promote their mental well-being, ensure they are able to stay physically safe and have the resilience to help them cope with the challenges of daily life and life beyond primary school. We aim through implicit and explicit learning experiences to:

- Ensure that RSE is fully integrated into the PSHE and Science curriculum and not isolated, taken out of context or over-emphasised in any way.
- Foster self-esteem and respect for others as the cornerstone of good health education therefore, good sex and relationship education.

Relevant legislation

Education Reform Act 1988

Equality Act 2010

Sex and Relationship Education Guidance (DfE 2000)

Linked policies

Confidentiality Policy

Child Protection Policy

Staffing Policies including capability and discipline

Teaching and Learning Policy

E-Safety Policy

Intent

Our RSE programme is tailored to the age and the physical and emotional maturity of the children. Our intent is to:

- Nurture a partnership between caring adults – governors, teachers, other staff and parents – to ensure sensitive support for children and young people as they grow and mature.
- Ensure children have the ability to accept their own and others' sexuality.
- Encourage children to enjoy relationships based upon mutual trust and respect, free from any abuse.
- Generate an atmosphere where questions and discussion on sexual matters can take place without embarrassment.
- Avoid sexual stereotyping and sexual discrimination.
- Adopt a whole school approach to RSE.

Benefits of RSE

Effective teaching of sex education will increase pupils' knowledge of;

- Body language
- Human growth and development
- Families, parenting and life cycles
- Safety and child protection
- Helping agencies

It will help children to:

- Make informed choices and decisions
- Develop personal initiative and be able to take responsibility
- Recognise personal skills and qualities in themselves and others
- Maintain and develop relationships
- Develop self-confidence
- Develop assertiveness in appropriate situations
- Develop the motivation to succeed

The role of parents

Dorney School is well aware 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, consequently we:

- Inform parents about the school's sex education policy and practice.
- Answer any questions that parents may have about the sex education programme for their child.
- Take seriously any issue that parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy or the arrangements for RSE in the school.

Science, Health Education and RSE

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of any RSE at Dorney School, but not from teaching the biological and emotional aspects of human growth and reproduction necessary under the Science National Curriculum. As of Sept 2020, parents cannot remove their child from elements about menstrual well-being (including facts about the menstrual cycle). If a parent wishes their child to be withdrawn from aspects of RSE lessons that are non-statutory, they should discuss this with the Headteacher, and make it clear which aspects of the programme they do not wish their child to participate in. The school always complies with the wishes of parents in this regard.

National Curriculum Science Programme of Study

KS1

- Identify name, draw and label the basic parts of the human body and say which part of the body is associated with each sense
- Notice that animals, including humans, have offspring which grow into adults

KS2

- Describe the differences in the life cycles of a mammal, amphibian, an insect and a bird
- Describe the life process of reproduction in some plants and animals
- Describe the changes as humans develop from infant to old age
- Draw a timeline to indicate the stages in growth and development in humans. They should learn about the changes experienced in puberty
- Work scientifically by researching gestation periods of other animals and comparing them with humans; by finding out and the recording the length and mass of a baby as it grows
- Recognise that living things produce offspring through sexual and asexual reproduction

RSE Year Group Specific

Year 4

- Changes as we grow
- Differences between genders

Year 5

- Puberty (including menstrual well-being)
- The biology of reproduction, gestation and growth
- Birth

Year 6

- Puberty (revisit)
- Personal safety
- Moral values and how they may differ from group to group
- Changes in relationships with teenagers
- Peer pressure and consent

Delivery

RSE may be carried out in a variety of different ways and by different specialists as well as teachers including:

- Trained staff within the PHSE and Science programmes
- School Nurse Team
- Police Schools Liaison Officer
- By reference to sexuality in curriculum areas other than PHSE.
- Youth and Community workers
- Clergy or faith leaders

Confidentiality and Child Protection

Staff and visitors are required to adhere to Dorney School's statement on child protection and confidentiality. All staff involved in delivering and supporting RSE should be alert to the signs of abuse, neglect and exploitation.

Pupil's best interests will be maintained. However, teachers cannot offer or guarantee absolute confidentiality. If confidentiality has to be broken, the pupil should be informed first and then supported, as appropriate.

Staff will always consult with individual parents if there are any concerns that need to be addressed. It is only in the most exceptional circumstances that the school should be in the position of having to handle information without parental knowledge. Where younger children are involved this will be grounds for serious concern and child protection issues will need to be addressed.