



The Dales Partnership

**Butterknowle, Frosterley and Woodland Primary Schools
Relationship and Sex Education Policy**

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Roles and Responsibilities

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Definition of RSE

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) is lifelong learning about physical, sexual, moral, and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of stable and loving relationships both on and offline, respect, love, and care, for family life. It involves acquiring information, developing skills, and forming positive beliefs, values and attitudes.

Principles and Values –

The Dales Partnership schools believe that RSE should:

- be an integral part of the lifelong learning process, beginning in early childhood and to continue into adult life.
- be an entitlement for all pupils in our care.
- encourage every pupil to contribute to the school community that aims to support each individual as they grow and learn.
- be set within this wider school context and supports family commitment and love, respect and affection, knowledge, and openness. Family is a broad concept; not just one model, e.g. children living with blended families; those living with same sex parents, children looked after, adopted children, extended family. It includes a variety of types of family structure, and acceptance of diversity.
- encourage pupils and staff to share and listen to each other's views and the right to hold/express views. We are aware of different values and opinions to sexual orientation and gender identity without promotion of any family structure. The important values are love, respect, kindness, generosity and care for each other.
- generate an atmosphere where questions and discussion on personal matters can take place without any stigma or embarrassment.
- recognise that parents and carers are the prime educators in teaching their children about sex, relationships and growing up. We aim to work in partnership with parents/carers and pupils, consulting them about the content of programmes.
- recognise that the wider community has much to offer and we aim to work in partnership with other health and education professionals.

RSE has three main elements:

Attitudes and Values

- learning the importance of values, individual conscience and moral choices.
- Learning the value and valuing family life, stable and loving relationships, marriage and civil partnerships.
- learning about the nurture of children.
- Learning the value of and demonstrating respect, love and care.
- exploring, considering and understanding moral dilemmas.
- developing skills including negotiation and decision making.
- The importance of permission seeking/consent and giving, in relationships including online with friends, peers and adults.
- challenging myths, misconceptions and false assumptions about normal behaviour.

Personal and Social Skills

- learning to manage emotions within relationships confidently and sensitively, including off and online.
- developing positive self-esteem and confidence.
- developing and demonstrating self-respect and empathy for others.
- making informed choices with an absence of prejudice.
- developing an appreciation of the consequences of choices made.
- managing conflict.
- empower pupils with the skills to be able to recognise inappropriate/ uncomfortable situations and/or behaviours with their family, peers and adults, interacting online.
- How to report concerns or abuse, and the vocabulary and confidence needed to do so.

Knowledge and Understanding

- Should know that their bodies belong to them, and the differences between appropriate and inappropriate or unsafe physical, and other, contact
- Know the key facts about puberty and the changing adolescent body, particularly from ages 9 through to age 11, including physical and emotional changes. (Health Education)
- Learn about menstrual wellbeing including the key facts about the menstrual cycle. (Health Education)
- learning about reproduction, human sexuality, gender identity, personal health, emotions and relationships.
- learning about where to go for help or advice in school and how to access a range of local and national support agencies.

Aims and Objectives

The aim of RSE is to provide balanced factual information about physical and emotional changes, together with consideration of the broader emotional, ethical, religious, and moral dimensions of sexual health. Our RSE programme aims to prepare pupils for an adult life in which they can:

- develop positive values and a moral framework that will guide their decisions, judgements and behaviour.
- have the confidence and self-esteem to value themselves and others and respect for individual conscience and the skills to judge what kind of relationship they want.
- understand the consequences of their actions and behave responsibly within personal relationships.
- avoid being pressured into uncomfortable or dangerous situations, including online sharing.
- communicate effectively by developing the appropriate language for sex and relationship issues.
- Understand seeking permission and consent
- develop awareness of their evolving sexuality, gender identity, challenge sexism and prejudice, which is inclusive to all children and young people.

- have sufficient information and skills to protect themselves in a variety of situations including from exploitation.
- be aware of sources of help and acquire the skills and confidence to access advice and support if necessary.

Organisation and Content of RSE

- The Dales Partnership schools deliver RSE primarily through its PSHE Programme, RE and Science lessons at Foundation Stage, KS1 and KS2 covering content including:
 - ***developing friendships,***
 - ***healthy relationships,***
 - ***personal hygiene,***
 - ***puberty,***
 - ***communication skills,***
 - ***assessing and taking risks,***
 - ***child sexual exploitation,***
 - ***e-safety***
- Teachers generally deliver the PSHE curriculum with support from professionals where appropriate. School staff are usually the best people to work with the pupils on many of the RSE topics as they are aware of each pupil's individual circumstances. Lessons are set within the wider context of the PSHE curriculum and focus more on the emotional aspects of development and relationships, although the physical aspects of puberty and reproduction may also be taught as part of National Curriculum Science. The PSHE Programme and Science National Curriculum are taught in every year.
- Any RSE lesson may consider questions or issues that some pupils will find sensitive. Before embarking on these lessons, a group/classroom agreement, formally known as ground rules are established which prohibit inappropriate personal information being requested or disclosed by those taking part in the lesson.
- When pupils ask questions, we aim to answer them honestly at an age appropriate level and within the group/classroom agreement established at the start of the sessions. If it is felt that answering a specific question would involve information at a level inappropriate to the age and development of the rest of the pupils, the question will be dealt with individually at another time. Children whose questions go unanswered may turn to inappropriate sources of information.
- More expert or specialist teachers and other professionals may support staff that are uncomfortable with teaching certain aspects of the RSE curriculum. Support and professional development will be provided for these staff, so that they can develop their confidence in delivering the whole of the RSE programme.
- Assessment is carried out where appropriate, for example, at the end of every module and involves teacher, pupil and peer assessment of knowledge and understanding, interpersonal skills, and attitudes.

- At The Dales Partnership schools all staff will use scientifically correct vocabulary to avoid misunderstandings and ambiguity. The words which will be used are penis, vulva, vagina, testicle, scrotum, breasts and pubic hair.

Inclusion

Ethnic, Cultural and Religious Groups

We intend our policy to be sensitive to the needs of different ethnic, cultural and religious groups. We encourage parents /carers to discuss any concerns with the Head teacher.

Pupils with Special Needs

We will ensure that all pupils receive relationships education and relationships and sex education, and we will offer provision appropriate to the needs of all our pupils, taking specialist advice where necessary.

Gender, Identity and Sexual Orientation

The RSE lead should ensure that the content is fully integrated into their programme of study. Schools are free to determine how they do this, it is expected that all pupils to be taught LGBT content, at a timely point. We aim to deal sensitively and honestly with regard of sexual orientation and gender identity, answer appropriate questions and offer support. Pupils, whatever their developing gender identity and sexuality need to feel that relationship education is relevant to them.

Working with parents/carers and the wider community

At The Dales Partnership schools we believe the role of parents in the development of their children's understanding about relationships is vital.

Parents/carers are the first educators of their children. Therefore, we will ensure that we work closely with parents/carers to ensure they are aware what is taught and when. This policy and information on what will be taught and when will be freely available on our schools' website for parent/carers to access.

Right to be excused from Sex Education

Occasionally The Dales Partnership schools will choose to cover some additional content on sex education which is tailored to the age and the physical and emotional maturity of our pupils. The Dales Partnership schools will make it clear what will be taught and consult with parents on what is to be covered before the final year of primary school. Offering parents support in talking to their children and informing them of the content can help empower parents to continue discussions at home and strengthen parental engagement.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from some or all of the sex education that goes beyond the national curriculum for science. There is no right to withdraw from Relationships Education or Health Education. Alternative arrangements and purposeful education would need to be made in such cases. Parents are encouraged to discuss their concerns and / or decisions with the Head Teacher at the earliest opportunity. The head teacher/RSE lead will document the process and outcome. Parents/carers are welcome to

review any RSE resources the school uses and encouraged to ask questions to gain clarity when needed.

Safeguarding reports of abuse and confidentiality

It will be made clear to pupils that all adults in school cannot guarantee absolute confidentiality. This is made clear when forming the class/group agreement.

A child under 13 is not legally capable of consenting to sexual activity. Any offence under The Sexual Offences Act 2003 involving a child under 13 is very serious and should be taken to indicate a risk of significant harm to the child. Cases involving under 13's should always be discussed with the nominated child protection lead.

Under the Sexual Offences Act, penetrative sex with a child under the age of 13 is classed as rape. Therefore, in all cases where the sexually active young person is under 13, a referral should be made to First Contact, naming the young person, and the sexual partner if known. Following this, a Strategy Meeting or discussion will be held. The meeting will involve a Team Manager, Social Worker, Police, Health Worker, Education and Welfare and other relevant agencies, to discuss next steps.

Where the allegation concerns penetrative sex, or other intimate sexual activity occurs, there would always be reasonable cause to suspect that a child, whether girl or boy, is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm. All cases involving under 13's should be fully documented and reported.

Health professionals in school are bound by their codes of conduct but have a duty to share information with relevant others, if they believe that a child is suffering abuse.

These procedures should be read in conjunction with the Durham Safeguarding Children's Partnership procedures - <https://durham-scp.org.uk/> - with special reference to Sections 3 'Referral and Investigation' and Section 6.13 'Sexually Active Children under 18' – 'Young People under the age of 13'

Monitoring and Evaluation of RSE

It is the responsibility of the Head Teacher/ Leadership Team to oversee and organise the monitoring and evaluation of PSHE, in the context of the overall school plans for monitoring the quality of teaching and learning. The PSHE programme will be treated as a subject and will be involved in a yearly monitoring and evaluation exercise led by the Leadership Team.

The Governing body is responsible for overseeing, reviewing, and organising the revision of the sex and relationship education policy and curriculum.

Ofsted is required to evaluate and report personal development, behaviour and welfare as well as spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (SMSC) of pupils. This may include evaluating and commenting on the school's relationship and sex education policy, curriculum, staff development, and quality of provision.