



Sir Alexander Fleming Primary School and Nursery Relationships Education (RSE) Policy

Reviewed September 2019
Next Review September 2020

Relationship Education

Relationship Education should contribute to promoting the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils and is concerned with helping children make responsible decisions about the relationships they form with others and helping them understand the changes and challenges which sexual maturity brings. Sex Education will be taught as part of the SMSC/Citizenship programme and also fulfils the requirements of the Science curriculum, concerning the main stages of the human life cycle and the life processes common to humans and other animals including nutrition, growth and reproduction.

Aims of Relationship Education

- To provide accurate information and challenge misconceptions
- To clarify values and attitudes
- To understand the cycle of life process
- To promote informed decision making and responsible behaviour
- To foster understanding and positive acceptance of their own physical and emotional development
- To foster and develop respect for self and others not matter what their differences (LGBTQ).

Elements of Relationship Education

Attitudes and Values

- Learning the importance of values and individual and moral considerations
- Learning the value of family life, marriage and stable and loving relationships (different family make-ups)
- Learning the value of respect, love and care
- Developing critical thinking as part of decision making

Personal and Social skills

- Learning to manage emotions and relationships confidently and sensitively
- Developing self-respect and empathy for others
- Learning to make choices based on understanding differences, without prejudice
- Developing an appreciation of the consequences of choice made
- Learning how to recognise and avoid exploitation and abuse

Knowledge and Understanding

- Learning to understand physical development at appropriate stages
- Understanding emotions and relationships
- Learning about reproduction

We recognise that parents / carers are the key figures in helping their children cope with the physical and emotional aspects of growing up and in preparing them for the challenges and responsibilities which sexual maturity brings. Our approach to Sex and Relationships Education in school will be complimentary to and supportive of the role of parents. Every other year, parents will be invited to contribute to reviews of the Scheme of Work for Relationship Education (RSE) and to familiarise themselves with the materials and resources used in the school.

ICT

Information Communication Technology (ICT) will be used as appropriate, including multimedia for relationship work, interactive technology for class and group work.

Guidelines

In order to prepare children for life in modern Britain, Relationship Education will be addressed throughout the academic year. Issues concerning Relationship Education may arise as part of other subject areas children receive throughout their time at Sir Alexander Fleming. These will be dealt with sensitively with regard to the age and maturity of the children concerned. Details of topics included are shown below.

- To provide a structured programme of factual knowledge about the growth and development of the human body designed to combat ignorance and to clarify existing knowledge. This will be matched to the age and stage of development of pupils;
- To provide opportunities to explore feelings, emotions and attitudes in a safe, non-threatening situation, leading to self awareness and prompting tolerance and understanding of others (LGBTQ);
- To facilitate open discussion at appropriate times, e.g. via the use of question boxes, about sexual matters and to foster mutual understanding;
- To be sensitive to the needs and feelings of individuals, providing time and opportunity for private questions as well as class and group work.

The specific Sex Education programme will be an integral part of the Personal, Social and Health Education programme for children in years 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6. We will be following the 'Respect Yourself' programme with additional resources and videos sourced elsewhere to support this work. Please see appendix 1 (SMSC/Citizenship Overview) for detailed objectives and resources.

Science in Key Stage 1:

Children will learn:

- that animals including humans, move, feed, grow, use their senses and reproduce
- to recognise and compare the main external parts of the bodies of humans
- that humans and animals can produce offspring and these grow into adults
- to recognise similarities and differences between themselves and others and treat others with sensitivity

Key Stage 2:

Children will learn:

- About how the skeleton and muscles help animals move

- About how animals grow, including changes that may happen during a human's life cycle
- How to be healthy, including looking after their bodies and eating well
- About changes related to puberty and when these changes are likely to happen
- About human and animal/plants life cycle and reproduction

In addition to these science units, children will also extend their knowledge within the Sex and Relationships Education programme of study and learn about:

- What issues may cause young people anxiety and how to deal with these
- How a baby is conceived and born
- A gender – grouped session to cover areas such as puberty and menstruation (children will cover these areas in one single Sex Education session)

Equal opportunities and SEND

All children, regardless of learning needs, disabilities, race, culture, gender and developing sexuality will be able to develop their understanding of Sex and Relationship Education. Our intention is to support children's appropriate progress and development.

Please refer to Equality Policy.

The views of parents and the teaching team

Children's questions will be dealt with sensitivity, taking account of the needs and parental views of the whole group. The role of the teaching team is to work within the guidelines of this policy without compromising either their own religious, cultural or moral views or promoting practises or relationships beyond their scope of current school and LEA guidance.

At the consultation meeting in 2011, parents viewed the DVD and books available to aid the teaching of RSE within the curriculum. The parents were happy for RSE to be taught in school from year 1 – using the basis of the books alongside the DVD 'boys and girls' and 'Mommy ate my football' in years 1 and 2 respectfully. Parents agreed with RSE being brought forward in the curriculum due to the children developing at a faster rate. Parents raised initial concern at the content of the video but upon watching it the parents agreed that RSE was being taught in a sensitive way throughout the school and the DVD's covered the key points accurately.

At the consultation meeting in 2013 and 2015, despite RSE not being statutory, it was decided that we would continue our RSE programme. Those present believed it was a vital part of education that children at a primary age should be aware of.

At the consultation meeting in 2016, parents were happy with the current provision and thought that it was addressed in an age appropriate way. How LGBT is taught was also shared with the parents and they felt that it was set appropriately for upper key stage two children.

At the consultation meeting in 2018, the new 'Respect Yourself' scheme of work was introduced to parents. Parents felt that the scheme explains information to children in a sensitive and age-appropriate way and would help children make responsible decisions about the relationships they form with others, and help them to understand the changes and challenges which maturity brings.

Outcomes

As a results of the school's SMSC/Citizenship programmes children should:

- Develop confidence in talking and thinking about feelings and relationships,
- Be able to name parts of the body and describe how their bodies work,

- Be able to ask for help and support,
- Be prepared for adolescence.
- Be prepared for life in modern Britain (British Values).
- Show respect towards all individuals no matter what their life style choice may be (LGBTQ)

Child protection

An effective Sex and Relationship Education programme, which brings and understanding of what is and not acceptable in a new relationship, can lead to disclosure of a child protection issue. In such a case, the school would follow the appropriate child protection policy guidelines as prescribed by the area child protection committee.

Homophobic Bullying/Language

As part of the Relationship curriculum, tackling homophobic language will be addressed in Year 4-6. See behaviour policy for specifics on LGBT bullying.

Guidance for visitors

As with all visitors working within school, our Guidance for Visitors policy will be shared and followed, so that school procedures for teaching, behaviour and child protection policies are followed.

Parental support

The production of schemes of work will be following consultation with parents/carers. Prior to the children beginning Sex Education topics, parents will be informed by letter about the work and invited in to view any material/videos that will be used as part of the topic. Parents/carers will also be made aware of useful websites to support their work with children at home.

Parents/carers do have the right to remove their children from the Relationship Education programme and any who wish to do so should consult the Head teacher. Within the admission pack for the school, parental/carer consent will be sought. However, reminders of the content will be sent prior to each unit within each year group. (Please note removal is from the entire Sex Education programme but not from the teaching of the biological aspects of human growth and reproduction necessary to deliver the requirements of the science national curriculum)

Review

This policy will be reviewed regularly, which will involve consultation between staff, governors, parents and pupils.