



Relationships and Sex Education Policy

Bamburgh School

Approved by:	Governing Board	Date: June 2020
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1. Aims

The aims of Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) at Bamburgh 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

These aims reflect school's curriculum intent 'To empower pupils to understand and interact positively with the world around them'.

2. Statutory requirements

As a maintained school we must provide relationships education to all primary 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](#).

We must provide RSE to all secondary pupils as per the [Children and Social work act 2017](#).

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 Bamburgh School, we teach RSE as set out in this policy.

3. Policy development

This policy has been developed in consultation with staff, parents and carers. The consultation and policy development process involved the following steps:

1. Staff consultation – all school staff were given the opportunity to look at the policy and to comment.
2. Parent/stakeholder consultation – parents and carers were given the opportunity to look at the policy and to comment..
3. Ratification – 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. It involves a combination of sharing information, and exploring issues and values.

RSE is not about the promotion of sexual activity.

At Bamburgh School we teach RSE to all children, whatever their ability, which is tailored to their needs as an individual. RSE contributes to the provision of a broad and balanced education for all children. Through our RSE teaching we provide learning opportunities which enable all students to make progress. We do this by setting suitable learning challenges and by responding to each child's different needs.

5. Curriculum

We have developed the curriculum, 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

6. Delivery of RSE

RSE is taught within school's PATH curriculum. Biological aspects of RSE are taught within the science curriculum, and other aspects are included in religious education (RE).

Pupils also receive stand-alone sex education sessions delivered by a trained health professional.

In our primary department, 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

In our secondary department, RSE focuses on giving young people the information they need to help them develop healthy, nurturing relationships of all kinds including:

- Families

- Respectful relationships, including friendships
- Online and media
- Being safe
- Intimate and sexual relationships, including sexual health

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 body

The governing body 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 the non-statutory 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 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.

RSE is taught as part of school's PATH curriculum. Staff may decide to teach this individually, or as a team. No member of staff will be expected to undertake specific parts of the RSE programme if they have strong reservations about their ability to deliver the content.

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 of primary pupils do not have the right to withdraw their children from relationships education.

They do have the right to withdraw their children from the non-statutory components of sex education within RSE.

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

Parents of secondary pupils have the right to withdraw their children from the non-statutory components of sex education within RSE up to and until 3 terms before the child turns 16. After this point, if the child wishes to receive sex education rather than being withdrawn, the school will arrange this.

Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing using the form found in Appendix 1 of this policy and addressed to the headteacher.

A copy of withdrawal requests will be placed in the pupil's educational record. The headteacher will discuss the request with parents and take appropriate action.

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

9. Training

Staff are trained on the delivery of RSE as part of their induction and through CPD.

The headteacher and/or teaching staff 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 SMT through planning scrutinies, learning walks, lesson observations etc.

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

This policy will be reviewed by SMT bi-annually. At every review, the policy will be approved by the full governing body.

11. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies and procedures:

- Accessibility
- Equality, Diversity and Community Cohesion
- Special Educational Needs



Appendix 1: 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			
Agreed actions from discussion with parents			