



# NORTHSIDE Primary School

## Relationships, Sex and Education Policy

Last review: June 21

Ratified: June 21

Review: June 22

### Rationale

Pupils' entitlement to RSE is enshrined in the terms of the Education Act (1996). The DfES Guidance 2000 states that "RSE is the lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of marriage for family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care." We teach sex education to inform individual responsibility, in a way that allows children to ask and explore questions. We do not use sex and relationship education as a means of promoting any form of sexual orientation.

### Key Principles

Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) contributes to the foundation of RSHE by ensuring that by the end of year 6 all children:

- Develop confidence in talking, listening and thinking about feelings and relationships
- Learn the value of respect, love and care
- Are able to name parts of their body and describe how their bodies work
- Are prepared for puberty
- Understand reproduction and sexual health
- Manage emotions and relationships confidently and sensitively
- Address concerns and correct misunderstandings and be able to protect themselves and ask for help
- Develop skills to make and maintain positive relationships
- Develop positive attitudes and values and respect differences in opinions
- Develop a positive self-image and high self esteem
- Gain accurate knowledge and understanding about sexuality and relationships
- Develop personal responsibility for one's actions
- Know where to get confidential advice and support

### UN Rights of a Child

Article 2- Right to non-discrimination

Article 3- Best interests of the child

Article 29- Aims of education

### In Practice

Teachers set up a group agreement with pupils to ensure that an atmosphere is created where pupils feel able to discuss concerns, feeling and relationships during circle time.

Questions from pupils will be addressed and dealt with in the most appropriate manner and not disregarded, in some instances may refer the child back to their own parents.

The form in which these questions are addressed may be in group activities, or on a one-to-one basis, as appropriate. Pupils use the worry boxes within their classes as form of communication to an adult.

On entry to the school, parents are invited to read the RSE policy. This helps to establish consultation and a partnership with parents, which reinforces the dual responsibility for RSE learning. We invite Year 6 parents in for a meeting to inform them about the content of the sex education programme before teaching takes place.

## **Curriculum**

RSE will reflect the values of the RSHE programme. RSE will be taught in the context of relationships. In addition RSE will promote children's self-esteem and emotional well-being and help them to form and maintain worthwhile and satisfying relationships, based on respect for themselves and for others, at home, school, work and in the community.

### **RSE topics covered:**

- Nursery will be able to identify why boys and girls are different
- Reception will name body parts and identify changes to their bodies
- Year 1 will describe what babies look like and how they behave
- Year 2 will use scientific words to name body parts including including external genitalia and understand the human life cycle
- Year 3 will describe the main physical differences between male and female bodies and recognise how our needs have changed since we were a baby.
- Year 4 identify human reproductive organs, understand key facts of the menstrual cycle including wet dreams and erections and personal hygiene.
- Year 5 will cover personal and gender identity and personal hygiene during puberty.
- Year 6 will cover consent, sexual intercourse, pregnancy and responsibilities of being a parent.

## **Dealing with sensitive issues**

Consideration must be given to the following:

- Child Protection Issues
- Answering questions
- Parental consent and involvement
- Use of outside visitors
- Provision of 1:1 advice and support
- Complaints procedure
- Support and provision for pubertal pupils
- Language to be used during delivery
- Confidentiality
- Parental consent

The school will ensure that pupils know that teachers cannot offer unconditional confidentiality and are reassured that their best interests will be maintained.

They will be reminded that if confidentiality has to be broken, they will be informed first and then supported as appropriate. They are encouraged to talk to their parents or carers and are provided with support to do so

The school will ensure that staff understands that they cannot offer unconditional confidentiality to pupils. They will work within the school's confidentiality policy agreed procedure for recording and reporting disclosures and the nature of access to this information.

## Legal requirement of sex education provision

Parents have a legal right to withdraw their children from dedicated 'sex education' lessons. They do not have a right to withdraw their children from those aspects of RSE that are taught in National Curriculum Science or where RSE issues arise incidentally in other subject areas. At Northside we work in partnership with parents/carers, value their views and keep them informed about our RSE provision. If any parents/carers decide to withdraw their child we will work with them and their child to explore possible alternative provision.

## Resources

In every section of the course a variety of teaching and learning styles are used including videos, discussions, questionnaires, assemblies, circle time, information sheets, pamphlets, textbooks, visual aids and models, games, workshops, drama and role-play, interactive DVDs, the Internet and visits by outside agencies.

Teachers will also use other teaching methods to enable pupils to learn about RSE that are age appropriate, taking into account the developmental needs of individual pupils. We use the support of the school nursing team to deliver our sex education programme to the boys & girls in years 5 & 6. Some sessions may be delivered separately to enable the pupils to feel more comfortable about asking & answering questions. The school nurse is happy to answer any questions the parents may have.

Parents are welcome to view resource materials and may borrow them from school to support the sex education of their children in the home context. Books used to support RSE are also found in the school library and Edgware Community Library and teachers may borrow them when and as need occurs.

## Monitoring and Review

The RSE Lead will be responsible for:

- Ensuring the policy and programmes are implemented as agreed
- Supporting staff to assess pupils progress
- Recommending targets for whole school development
- Evaluation of the programme will be made by assessing, the attitudes of the pupils, the development of their personal skills and the knowledge and understanding they have gained. Review forms part of the content and is an ongoing process. The views of pupils, staff and parents will be sought and taken into account as the programme develops and changes.
- To reassure parents/carers, pupils and governors that the personal beliefs and attitudes of teachers will not influence the teaching of RSE, all those contributing to the programme are expected to work within the aims listed above.
- It is important that staff delivering RSE work within the values framework of this policy and feel confident, skilled and knowledgeable to deliver effective RSE.
- Continuing professional development will be provided through a range of options: individual study and development/ in-house CPD/ external training courses.

