

# STYAL PRIMARY SCHOOL



**Styal Primary School**

## RSE Policy (Relationships and Sex Education)

**February 2023**  
To be reviewed February 2024

## **Policy for Relationships and Sex Education**

At Styal Primary School, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) involves learning about the emotional, social and physical aspects of growing up and relationships. Some aspects are taught within the Science curriculum whilst others are covered by Personal, Social, Health and Economic education (PSHE). A comprehensive programme of RSE provides accurate information about the body as well as providing essential skills for building positive, respectful and non-exploitative relationships and staying safe. High quality RSE helps to create a safe school community in which children can grow, learn and develop healthy behaviour for life.

### **Safeguarding Statement**

This school recognises that every member of its staff has a key role in prevention of harm, early identification, intervention and support for pupils at risk of significant harm and will endeavour to provide an environment where children are valued and know that their concerns will be taken seriously.

Our school fully recognises the contribution it can make to protect children and support pupils in school making it a place where young people are safe and feel safe.

Our day to day contact with individual children enables teaching and non-teaching staff to observe outward signs of abuse (physical, sexual, emotional and neglect) and changes in behaviour. Consequently this places a responsibility on us all to ensure that all elements of this policy are followed.

The legal position of RSE in Styal Primary School

Schools have a statutory obligation under the Children Act (2004) to promote their pupils' wellbeing. Under the Education Act (1996), schools must prepare children and young people for the challenges, opportunities and responsibilities of adult life. A comprehensive RSE programme can have a positive impact on pupils' health and wellbeing and their ability to achieve, and can play a crucial role in meeting these obligations.

### **Aims for teaching and learning RSE**

Styal Primary School's overarching aims and objectives for our pupils are as follows.

- RSE should start in Reception and build as children move through the school, reflecting their stage of development and maturity.

- RSE should be taught within Science and PSHE lessons by teachers and health professionals.
- RSE contributes to safeguarding pupils, promoting their emotional wellbeing and improving their ability to achieve in school.
- RSE helps pupils to keep themselves safe from harm, build positive relationships, resist peer pressure and develop confidence in asking questions and seeking advice if needed.
- RSE should be taught using consistent, clear, impartial scientific information and takes into account children's existing knowledge and maturity.
- RSE helps children to understand the nature and consequences of discrimination, teasing, bullying and aggressive behaviours, use of prejudice-based language and how to respond and ask for help.

The contribution RSE makes to other curriculum aims

### **PSHE**

Section 78 (1) of the 2002 Education Act states that 'all pupils should follow a balanced and broadly based curriculum which 'promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, social, mental and physical development of pupils and of society, and prepares pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life'. A comprehensive RSE programme can have a positive impact on pupils' health and wellbeing and their ability to achieve, and can play a crucial part in meeting these obligations. It develops a positive vocabulary and the strategies and skills children need to stay healthy and safe.

### **Science**

Science teaches about the biological facts relating to human growth, puberty and reproduction. Correct scientific vocabulary is promoted.

### **Computing**

RSE teaches about on-line safety and cyber bullying. Whilst the internet and social media are important resources for learning and information and a great opportunity to build social networks, children need to be aware of risks and how to stay safe.

### **Teaching and learning RSE at Styal Primary School**

RSE has an important part to play as part of a broad, balanced and coherent curriculum to which all pupils are entitled. High quality learning experiences in RSE are designed and provided by careful planning, taking into account the need to offer breadth of content.

In order to make RSE a lively, active subject a variety of teaching methods are employed, for example, discussion, debate, drama, stories, pictures, DVDs, quizzes and games.

### **How the RSE curriculum is delivered at Styal Primary School**

Each year group, from Reception to year 6, receives approximately 6 sessions. In most cases, these are delivered to mixed gender classes. However, children will be taught about growing up, puberty (including learning about periods) and reproduction in single sex groups.

Reception	Our lives
Year 1	Growing and caring for ourselves
Year 2	Differences
Year 3	Valuing difference and keeping safe
Year 4	Growing up
Year 5	Puberty
Year 6	Puberty, relationships and reproduction

Children are equipped with scientific vocabulary, learn how to keep themselves safe, cope with peer pressure and recognise when something feels 'wrong' and where to go for help.

For Reception and KS1 children, RSE lays the foundations for understanding about growth and change and respect for one another. Sessions in KS2 build on these areas and prepare children for puberty.

The Subject Leader is responsible for the whole school Curriculum and works closely with staff in its delivery.

### **Inclusion and differentiation**

All pupils have equal access to the RSE curriculum with their different abilities, levels of maturity and personal circumstances taken into account. Pupils are consulted to establish any prior knowledge to ensure that teaching is appropriate and relevant. RSE will be taught in an environment where children feel able to ask questions and that their questions will be valued and answered sensitively. It may be necessary for a teacher to seek advice from colleagues before answering a question with consideration given to a child's knowledge and readiness. Children are also given the opportunity to ask questions anonymously via a question box if they are not comfortable asking in an open setting.

### **Assessment and Recording of RSE**

Each teacher is responsible for the regular, formative assessment of pupils. Opportunities to monitor progress are built into on-going teaching and learning which in turn, inform the class teacher to ensure that content and delivery are appropriate.

### **The right of withdrawal from RSE**

Styal Primary School recognises that parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from RSE. However, the right of withdrawal does not extend to other areas of the curriculum when, as may happen on occasion, spontaneous questions are raised by pupils or there are issues that arise in other subjects. We would ask any parent considering withdrawal to contact the Headteacher and a meeting will be arranged to discuss any concerns or anxieties about the policy, provision and practice of RSE at Styal Primary School. Minutes of the meeting will be recorded on as per the form which can be seen in Appendix One.

### **Managing the right of withdrawal**

- The school will ensure that parents who want to withdraw their children from RSE are aware of the curriculum content and its relevance to all pupils.
- Parents should be made aware of learning objectives and what is covered in the RSE curriculum and should be given the opportunity to discuss these, if they wish.
- The school may also wish to review such a request each year, in discussion with the parents.
- The use of the right to withdraw should be at the instigation of parents and it should be made clear whether it is from the whole of the subject or specific parts of it. No reasons need be given.
- Parents have the right to choose whether or not to withdraw their child from RSE without influence from the school, although the school should ensure that parents or carers are informed of this right and are aware of the educational objectives and content of the RSE curriculum. In this way, parents can make an informed decision.
- Where parents have requested that their child is withdrawn, their right must be respected, and where RSE is integrated into the curriculum, the school will need to discuss the arrangements with the parents or carers to explore how the child's withdrawal can be best accommodated.
- If pupils are withdrawn from RSE, the school has a duty to supervise them, though not to provide additional teaching or to incur extra cost.

Jade MacDonald  
RSE Subject Leader  
February 202



**Appendix One – Agenda for Right to Withdraw Meeting**

Date			
Name of child		Year group	
Name of Attendees			
Concerns of Family			
Key discussion points			

I would like to remove my child from all lessons that discuss the following:	
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Signed by Parent/Carer	

Signed by Head Teacher	
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