



# **Relationships Education (Rel Ed), Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) & Health Education Policy**

## **Witton-le-Wear Primary School**



**September 2021**

## Primary Relationships, Sex Education & Health Education Policy Guidance

### 1. This policy was developed in response to:

- Children and Social Work Act (2017)
- Relationships Education and Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education Guidance, (Department for Education June 2019)
- Equalities Act 2010
- Not Yet Good Enough: personal, social, health and economic education in schools, (Ofsted 2013)
- Special Educational Needs and Disability code of practice: 0-25 years, 2017
- Life Lessons: PSHE and SRE in schools: Fifth Report, (House of Commons Education Committee 2015)
- Keeping Children safe in Education – Statutory Safe Guarding Guidance (2018)
- Transforming Children and Young People’s Mental Health Provision Green Paper (July 2018)

This policy should be considered alongside the following:

- E-safety/Online Policy
- Anti-bullying/Behaviour Policy
- Safeguarding Policy (including child sexual exploitation)
- Equality and Inclusion Policy
- PSHE Policy

### 2. The Consultation Process has Involved:

- Consultation and engagement with parents/carers
- Review of Relationships Education (Rel Ed) and Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) curriculum content with staff, pupils and parents /carers
- Consultation with wider school community e.g. school nurse, Education Development Service
- Consultation, agreement and implementation of policy by school governors

### 3. What is Relationships Education? (Including Relationships and Sex Education)

**Relationships Education (Rel Ed)** is the building blocks of healthy, respectful relationships, focusing on family and friendships, including on and offline. It gives children and young people the essential skills to build positive, enjoyable and non-exploitative relationships.

**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 and respect, love and care, for family life. It involves acquiring information, developing skills and forming positive beliefs, values and attitudes.

Both areas link strongly with the values of Witton-le-Wear Primary School. We are proud to be a school where children thrive through being part of one large supportive family. We aim to support our young people in developing the skills to build positive relationships, beliefs, values and attitudes.

#### **4. Principles and Values**

In addition, Witton-le-Wear Primary School believes that Rel Ed and 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 step 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 particular 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.

**Relationship Education (Including Relationships and Sex Education) in this school 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 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 peers and adults.
- How to report concerns or abuse, and the vocabulary and confidence needed to do so.

### **Knowledge and Understanding**

- 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.

## **5. Aims and Objectives**

The aim of Rel Ed & 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 Rel Ed & 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.
- communicate effectively by developing the appropriate language for relationship issues.
- have an understanding of seeking permission and consent

- develop awareness of their evolving 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.

## **6. Roles and Responsibilities**

The Governor responsible for RSE at Witton-le-Wear Primary school is Anne Yuill and the lead for RSE design and delivery in school is Rebecca Redfern.

## **7. Organisation and Content of Relationship Education (Including Relationships Education)**

Witton-le-Wear Primary School specifically delivers Relationships Education and Relationship and Sex Education through its PSHE Programme, RE and Science lessons at foundation stage, KS1 and KS2.

Much of the relationship's education (including relationship and sex education) at Witton-le-Wear Primary School takes place within PSHE lessons. 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 Rel Ed 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 Rel Ed/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's 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 Rel Ed/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 Rel Ed/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 Witton-le-Wear Primary School 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, menstruation and pubic hair.

## **8. 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 Rel Ed 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 are an Educate and Celebrate School, which means that we have been following a DCC funded programme to help assist with the implementation and teaching of LGBT+ content in our school. 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.

## **9. Working with parents/carers and the wider community**

Here at Witton-le-Wear Primary School 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.

Schools should consult parents before the final year of primary school about the detailed content of what will be taught. This process should include offering parents support in talking to their children about sex education and how the link this with what is being taught in school.

A maintained primary school should consult with parents on aspects of sex education which go beyond the national curriculum for science.

## **10. Pupils right to be excused from Sex and Relationship Education**

Some parents prefer to take the responsibility for aspects of this element of education. They have the right to excuse their children from all or part of the sex education elements delivered as part of the statutory Relationships Education, except for those parts included in the statutory National Curriculum (i.e. in Science lessons).

We would make alternative arrangements 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.

## **11. Safeguarding reports of abuse and confidentiality**

It should be made clear to pupils that all adults in school cannot guarantee absolute confidentiality. This should be 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, identifying 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 appropriate 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 ([link](#)) 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'*

## **12. Monitoring and Evaluation of Relationship and Sex Education**

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.