

Glebe House School
Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) Policy

September 2022

1. Rationale

Relationship and Sex education provides an excellent forum to provide pupils with life-skills that will enable them to make informed decisions and protect themselves against harmful and exploitative situations. Relationship and Sex Education is therefore a tool to safeguard children.

Relationship and Sex Education offers a valuable vehicle for promoting equality between individuals and groups. It involves an exploration of human and social diversity, and a fostering of self worth whilst recognising, accepting and respecting differences.

2. Aim and objectives

The aim of this policy is to enable the effective planning, delivery and assessment of RSE.

Much of this policy is in relation to the older pupils in the school. From Reception to Division V, RSE constitutes an understanding for the pupils of their bodies, how they work, keeping safe and how to have healthy relationships with family and friends.

Objectives are for pupils, at an age appropriate level for this school, to:

- Develop positive values and a moral framework that will guide their judgements, decisions and behaviour.
- Understand the consequences of their actions and behave responsibly within relationships.
- Have the confidence and self-esteem to value themselves and others and respect for individual conscience and the skills to judge the kind of relationships they want.
- Communicate effectively.
- Be aware of, and understand differences in human sexuality
- Have sufficient information and skills to protect themselves offline and online and be aware of the implication of sexting and online grooming
- Know how the law applies to sexual relationships.
- Understand what consent means and factors that influence one's ability to consent

Teaching staff in our school to be confident:

- In planning, delivering and assessing RSE

- In answering parents' questions and dealing with sensitive issues

3. Equal Opportunities Statement

The school is committed to the provision of RSE to all of its pupils and the differing needs of boys and girls. Our programme aims to respond to the diversity of children's cultures, faiths and family backgrounds. All staff are expected to give every pupil the chance to experience, participate and achieve the understanding of RSE. Equal time and provision will be allocated for all groups but there may be occasions where children with special educational needs (SEN) are given extra support.

Glebe House School believes that RSE should meet the needs of all pupils and be able to deal honestly and sensitively with sexual orientation, answer appropriate questions and offer support.

The planning and organising of teaching strategies will be consistently reviewed through e.g. lesson observations to ensure that no pupil is disadvantaged. Teachers will ensure that materials and teaching show sensitivity towards cultural principles.

4. Delivery of RSE

RSE is delivered:

- In mixed gender groups other than when it is deemed more appropriate for topics to be covered in single sex groups.
- During circle time activities with an emphasis on being safe, raising self-esteem etc.
- At times, by external agencies helping us to deliver RSE in our school include:
e.g. The School Health Advisor

Partnership with Parents:

The school views parents as partners in the delivery of RSE.

Parents will be informed about the relationship and sex education programme as part of information provided on what their children will be learning.

The school will liaise with parents through, where appropriate:

- RSE workshops
- Newsletters

- School website
- Informal discussions

The school encourages parents to voice their concerns about RSE with their child's teacher and Headmaster and will be invited to view materials where this is appropriate.

Parents wishing for further support with talking to their child about RSE issues can contact the school.

This policy will be available on the school website for parents.

Parents will be signposted to:

Sex Education Forum's 'Talk to your child about sex & relationships: support for parents' factsheet 31(2003): <http://www.ncb.org.uk/media/183635/talk-to-your-children.pdf>

The PSHE Association's resources for parents:
http://www.pshe-association.org.uk/resources_search_details.aspx?ResourceId=461

Child Withdrawal Procedure

Relationship and Sex Education is to be taught in Division VI – VIII. If a parent/ guardian feels it necessary to withdraw their child, they should arrange to come to school and discuss their concerns with the Headmaster.

In the event of a child being withdrawn from a lesson, that child must stay in school and will be assigned to another class until that specific lesson is over.

Answering Difficult Questions/ Dealing with sensitive issues

Staff are aware that views around RSE related issues are varied. However, while personal views are respected, all RSE issues are taught without bias. Topics are presented using a variety of views and beliefs so that pupils are able to form their own, informed opinions but also respect others that may have a different opinion.

Both formal and informal RSE questions arising from pupils are answered according to the age and maturity of the pupil(s) concerned. Questions do not have to be answered directly, and can be addressed individually later. The school believes that individual teachers must use their skill and discretion in this area and refer to the Child Protection Lead if they are concerned.

The following are protocols for discussion based on lessons with pupils ('Ground Rules')

- No one (teacher or pupil) will have to answer a personal question

- No one will be forced to take part in a discussion
- Only correct/agreed names for body parts will be used
- Meanings of words will be explained in a sensible and factual way
- The use of a question box may help to lessen embarrassment of asking questions
- Teachers may use their discretion in responding to questions and may say (for example):
 - The appropriate person to answer that question is the parent
 - The question can be discussed one to one after class
 - The topic will be covered at a later stage in their RSE

This policy drafted – May 2021

Policy written by – The Headmaster

Policy to be updated on an annual basis.

Next review date: Summer 2023

