



Rationale:

Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) is not just learning about growing up, changes and reproduction. It is also about enabling children to make and maintain relationships with others, to understand about human sexuality and to feel good about themselves and the choices they make. This involves helping children to gain knowledge, develop skills and form positive beliefs and attitudes.

Purpose of the Relationship and Sex Education Policy :

- Give information to staff, parents and carers, governors, pupils and outside visitors about the content, organisation and approach to teaching RSE
- Enable parents and carers to support their children in learning about RSE
- Give a clear statement on what the school aims to achieve from RSE
- Set out how the school meets legal requirements in respect of RSE

(i) Duty to promote well-being (Children Act 2004)

(ii) Duty to prepare children for the challenges, opportunities and responsibilities of adult life (Education Act 2006)

(iii) Ensure pupils learn about the nature of marriage and its importance for family life and bringing up of children (Learning and Skills Act 2006)

(iv) Protect pupils from unsuitable teaching and materials (Learning and Skills Act 2006)

(v) Teach statutory RSE elements in the Science National Curriculum

(vi) Have an up to date policy developed in consultation with pupils and parents (Education Act 1996)

(vii) Meet the school's safeguarding obligations

(viii) Make the policy available to pupils and parents (Education Act 1996)

(ix) Right of parental withdrawal from all or part of RSE except those parts included in the national curriculum (Education Act 1996)

(x) Taken account of the DfEE guidance on RSE (2000)

(xi) DfE expects that all state schools "should make provision for personal, social, health and economic education (PSHEE) and that "RSE is an important part of PSHEE" (DfE guidance on PSHEE 2013)

(xii) Prevent discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different groups (Equality Act 2010)

Values promoted through RSE

Our RSE programme promotes the aims and values of our school which include:

- ✓ Valuing family life and stable, loving and committed relationships
- ✓ Acceptance of same sex unions as also offering stable, loving and committed relationships for bringing up children
- ✓ Respect for self and others
- ✓ Commitment, trust and love within relationships
- ✓ Respect for rights and responsibilities in relationships
- ✓ Understanding diversity regarding religion, gender, culture and sexual orientation
- ✓ Working to reduce intolerance and discrimination based on sexual orientation, disability, ethnicity, religion, and gender
- ✓ Acceptance of difference and diversity
- ✓ Promoting gender equality, challenge gender stereotypes and inequality and promote equality in relationships

Aims for RSE

To enable children to:

- Develop the confidence to talk, listen and think about feelings and relationships
- Make and maintain friendships

- Understand the importance of respect, responsibility, love and care in relationships
- Understand and respect different types of families, including families with same sex parents
- Develop positive attitudes about growing up
- Explore their own and other people's attitudes and values
- Challenge and prevent discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender
- Prevent sexist, sexual, homophobic and transphobic language and bullying
- Challenge gender stereotypes and inequality and promote equality and respect in relationships
- Know the correct biological names for the parts of the body, including the male and female reproductive parts
- Know and understand about emotional, social and physical changes at puberty
- Know and understand about reproduction
- Know about human sexuality
- Discuss their concerns and correct misunderstanding they may have gained from the media and peers
- Recognise when something is risky or unsafe
- Know where are how to seek information and advice when they need help

Content and Organisation of the Programme

At Killinghall CE Primary School, we wish to empower children to talk openly and comfortably about their bodies. Therefore, we will use the correct terminology for the body parts unique to boys and girls.

In its wider sense, RSE will be taught through a planned programme in PSHE and Citizenship as well as in science. This will ensure that it covers the statutory biological aspects, but also the social and emotional aspects. It is taught throughout the years, either as discrete topics/units or integrated into other topics such as Ourselves, Growing and Living Things, at a level appropriate to the needs and maturity of the pupils. There is time for discrete teaching topics in particular years e.g. body changes in relation to puberty in Year 5 and reproduction in Year 6. We ensure that the same messages about being safe on line are taught through RSE as well as in Computing and during internet safety days.

On the whole pupils are taught in mixed groups to ensure that boys and girls learn the same information. However, sometimes it is useful in Years 5 and 6 to include time when single gender groups can discuss issues with a teacher of the same gender. This is mostly applicable when they learn about body changes through puberty and about reproduction.

Teachers set a group agreement or ground rules with pupils to ensure that an atmosphere is created where pupils feel able to ask questions, discuss concerns, talk about feelings and relationships, but do not discuss or ask private information of each other or the teacher.

We answer questions honestly and sensitively, appropriate to the age and maturity of the pupils. Some questions may not be answered immediately if the teacher feels they need to consult with the Headteacher and some questions may be more appropriately answered on a one-to-one basis, rather than with the whole class.

A variety of teaching methods are used that enable pupils to participate and reflect on their learning, role play, quizzes, pair and small group work, mixing groups so that pupils work with a range of peers. We also use case studies, stories, puppets and role plays to help de-personalise discussions and help pupils gain confidence to talk and listen to each other.

The RSE policy reflects and is in line with our equal opportunities policy and the school ensures that the RSE teaching programme is an inclusive one and is appropriate and relevant to all pupils, including those with SEN and disabilities. Teachers ensure that the content, approach and use of inclusive language reflect the diversity of the school community, and help all pupils feel valued and included, regardless of their gender, ability, disability, experiences and family background.

Teachers do not discuss details of their personal relationships with pupils.

Teachers are sensitive to the issues of different types of relationships. Promoting inclusion and reducing discrimination are part of RSE throughout the school and reflect our equality policy. When teaching about relationships and families we also include same sex relationships. The teaching programme in Year 5 and 6 will include specific understanding of different types of relationships, including lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans relationships.

Homophobic and transphobic references and homophobic and transphobic actions and bullying are not tolerated in school and are challenged and dealt with as part of our commitment to promoting inclusion, gender equality and preventing bullying.

Teaching about different families is part of RSE and we aim to reflect the broad range of experiences amongst pupils and ensure all pupils feel their family is valued, such as: single parent families; recently divorced parents; parents who are married, parents who are not married, parents who have non-monogamous relationships; lesbian, gay or bisexual parents; children living between two homes; in foster homes; in residential homes and living with relations other than biological parents.

We will emphasise the importance of strong and supportive relationships, including marriage (both heterosexual and gay) and civil partnerships, for family life and bringing up children.

Confidentiality, safeguarding and child protection

Although RSE is not about personal disclosures and personal issues, it is possible that a pupil may disclose personal information. Staff understand that they cannot promise pupils absolute confidentiality, and pupils know this too.

If teachers are concerned in any way that a pupil is at risk of sexual or any other kind of abuse, they will talk to the Designated Child Protection Officer and follow the school's Safeguarding and Child Protection Procedures. If a pupil discloses to a teacher that they are sexually active, or are considering sexual activity, then this would be viewed as a child protection issue.

Working with Parents/Carers and the right to withdraw pupils from RSE

We place the utmost importance on sharing responsibility with parents and carers for their children's education. We do our best to find out about cultural views which may affect the RSE curriculum and will try to balance parental views with our commitment to comprehensive RSE and equality

We will take every opportunity to inform and involve parents and carers by

- Making the policy available on the school's website
- Giving parents the content of the RSE teaching programme via the curriculum page on the website as an appendix to this policy
- Discussing individual concerns and helping parents and carers support the needs of their children

Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their children from RSE, apart from the statutory national curriculum. This means that parents and carers cannot withdraw their children from RSE aspects of the science national curriculum.

If a parent wishes to withdraw their child from the RSE curriculum they must arrange a meeting with the Head Teacher who will talk through their concerns and discuss the benefits of school RSE. If they decide to withdraw their child, work will be provided to do in another class.

Even when a child has been withdrawn from RSE lessons, if the child should ask questions at other times, these questions would be answered honestly by staff.

Policy approved May 2016