

RSE (RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION) POLICY

September 2022 onwards

Aims and Objectives:

This Relationships & Sex Education (RSE) Policy applies to all pupils at Edge Grove School.

We fully believe that RSE is an important element as we know that our children, young people and parents request an education that continues to reflect the realities of growing up in modern society, whilst equipping them with the skills so that they can enjoy safe and respectful relationships. Our School's core values 'Kindness, Collegiality and Respect' underpin RSE (within PSHEE) and are vital components in meeting these requirements.

The aims of RSE at Edge Grove are to:

- Provide a framework in which sensitive discussion can take place.
- Prepare students for puberty, and give them an understanding of sexual development and the importance of health and hygiene.
- Help pupils develop feelings of self-respect, confidence and empathy.
- Create a positive culture around sexuality and relationships
- Teach students the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies (Protective Behaviours)
- Help students understand that healthy relationships are an essential part of one's well being

Statutory Requirements:

We provide relationships and sex education to all learners as per [section 34 of the Children and Social work act 2017](#). Our policy follows this statutory government guidance and also meets the requirements of the Independent School Standards. We must ensure that every student in Pre-School, Pre-Prep and Lower Prep (Primary age phase) is provided with relationships education. We must ensure that all pupils within the Upper School (Secondary age phase) is provided with relationships and sex education, unless excused from elements.

Definition:

RSE is about the emotional, social and cultural development of learners and involves learning about relationships, sexual health, sexuality, healthy lifestyles, diversity and personal identity. RSE involves a combination of sharing information, and exploring issues and values. RSE is not about the promotion of sexual activity, sexual orientation, or a specific sexual identity.

Policy availability:

The policy is available on the school website or a hardcopy can be requested from the front office.

Curriculum

Sex education is not compulsory in the primary age phase; however, we cover the elements below in primary sex education (part of Edge Grove's science curriculum):

- Preparing pupils for the changes that adolescence brings; and
- How a baby is conceived and born.

The age, aptitude and needs of all pupils, including those with SEND will be taken into consideration. The fundamental British values (democracy; rule of law; individual liberty; mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs) will not be undermined. Discriminatory and extremist opinions or behaviours will be challenged as a matter of routine.

Delivery of RSE

Our RSE is taught as part of our PSHEE curriculum. This is delivered to all pupils through discrete lessons, on a weekly basis taught by class teachers in Pre-School, Pre-Prep and Years 3-4, and by a team of specialist PSHEE teachers in Years 5-8. It is expected that in Years 5-8, the form tutors support and reinforce the weekly PSHEE topic in form time, through follow up discussions, activities and sharing/answering questions.

All members of staff are responsible for:

- Delivering RSE in a sensitive way;
- Modelling positive attitudes to RSE;
- Monitoring progress;
- Responding to the needs of individual students; and
- Responding appropriately to students whose parents wish them to be withdrawn from the non-statutory components of RSE.

We expect all Edge Grove pupils to engage fully in RSE, and when discussing related issues, treat others with respect and dignity.

Assessment

The pupils' learning in RSE is assessed in the same way as their learning is assessed in PSHEE.

Parents' Right to Withdraw

Parents do not have the right to withdraw their child from relationships education.

Parents of children in the Upper School do have the right to withdraw their children from the non-statutory and non-science curriculum components of sex-education within RSE

Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing, and addressed to the Headteacher. A copy of the request will be placed in the pupil's record. The Headteacher will invite the parents in to discuss the request, and will take appropriate action.

Alternative work will be given to pupils who are withdrawn.

Handling disclosures

Refer to the Child Protection policy

Responding to pupils' questions

It is important that pupils feel able to ask any questions that they wish to and that their questions are valued. However, consideration will be given to how to respond to questions and will take the prior learning, readiness and safety of pupils into account. If necessary, teachers will ask a pupil to wait for an answer to give them time to consult with the schools leadership team if they feel this is appropriate, or if the question raises potential safeguarding concerns - refer to Child Protection policy.

Monitoring and Review

The Education Committee of the governing body monitors this policy on an annual basis. This committee reports its findings and recommendations to the full governing body, as necessary, if the policy needs modification. The Curriculum Committee gives serious consideration to any comments from parents about the PSHEE programme, and makes a record of all such comments. Governors scrutinise and ratify teaching materials to check they are in accordance with the school's ethos.

Policy last reviewed in September 2022 by Anna Warren.