

Relationships Sex and Health Education (RSHE) Policy

January 2021

Aims

The aims of relationships sex and health education (RSHE) at Robsack Wood Primary Academy are to:

- Provide a framework in which sensitive discussions can take place
- Prepare pupils 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 issues of sexuality and relationships
- Teach pupils the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies

RSHE is underpinned by a clear set of embedded values and principles that complement the academy ethos and permeate through the teaching practice, resources and classroom management of RSHE lessons. Our values at Robsack Wood Primary Academy are: Respect, Kindness, Honesty, Courage and Determination.

Effective RSHE can make a significant contribution to the development of personal skills needed by pupils to establish and maintain relationships. RSHE will ensure children and young people are encouraged to understand the importance of stable, loving relationships, respect, love, and care. It also enables young people to make responsible and informed decisions about their health and wellbeing.

RSHE will be approached through evidence-based, best practice principles to ensure the highest impact on improving pupil health, wellbeing, safeguarding and lifelong outcomes. These are based on research evidence, supported by a wide range of leading organisations including the NSPCC, Barnardo's, The Children's Society and education unions.

Statutory requirements

As a primary academy we must provide relationships education to all pupils as per section 34 of the [Children and Social work act 2017](#).

We do not have to follow the National Curriculum but we are expected to offer all pupils a curriculum that is similar to the National Curriculum including requirements to teach science which would include the elements of sex education contained in the science curriculum.

In teaching RSHE, we are required by our funding agreements to have regard to [guidance](#) issued by the secretary of state as outlined in section 403 of the [Education Act 1996](#).

At Robsack Wood Primary Academy we teach RSHE within the [Evolution of Me](#) Curriculum as set out in this policy. This policy has been developed in consultation with staff, pupils and parents.

Definition

At Robsack Wood Primary Academy, we teach statutory Relationships, Health and Emotional Education to all pupils. Sex Education is taught in line with the RSHE Curriculum (DFE 2020) and therefore, at Robsack Wood Primary Academy, we teach Sex Education in addition to what is taught in the Science curriculum.

RSHE is about the emotional, social and cultural development of pupils, and involves learning about relationships, sexual health, sexuality, healthy lifestyles, diversity and personal identity.

RSHE involves a combination of sharing information, and exploring issues and values. RSHE is not about the promotion of sexual activity.

Curriculum

Our curriculum is set but is under constant review to ensure that that high quality teaching and learning reflects the needs of all pupils within our academy.

We have developed the curriculum in consultation with our stakeholders taking into account the age, needs and feelings of pupils. If pupils ask questions outside the scope of this policy, teachers will respond in an appropriate manner so they are fully informed and don't seek answers online.

Primary sex education will focus on:

- Preparing boys and girls for the changes that adolescence brings
- How a baby is conceived and born

For more information about our curriculum, see our curriculum map available on our website.

Delivery of RSHE

RSHE is taught within the personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education curriculum; known at Robsack Primary Academy as 'Evolution of Me'.

Relationships education focuses on teaching the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships including:

1. Families and people who care for me
2. Caring friendships
3. Respectful relationships
4. Online relationships
5. Being safe

Statutory biological aspects of RSHE are taught within the science curriculum. Pupils will also receive sex education sessions delivered by the class teacher as part of the Evolution of Me curriculum. This has been carefully designed in consultation with a trained health professional to provide an age appropriate spiral developmental approach Relationships, Sex, Health and Emotional education.

These areas of learning are taught within the context of family life taking care to ensure that there is no stigmatisation of children based on their home circumstances (families can include single parent families, LGBT parents, families headed by grandparents, adoptive parents, foster parents/carers amongst other structures) along with reflecting sensitively that some children may have a different structure of support around them (for example: looked after children or young carers).

Roles and responsibilities

Governance

The Local Board will receive updates from the Executive Principal regarding the implementation of this policy. The Board of Trustees has delegated the approval of this policy to the Executive Principal.

The Executive Principal

The Executive Principal is responsible for ensuring that RSHE is taught consistently across the academy and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from non-statutory components of RSHE (see section 8).

Staff

Staff are responsible for:

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

All staff are responsible for teaching RSHE at Robsack Wood Primary Academy. Staff do not have the right to opt out of teaching RSHE. Staff who have concerns about teaching RSHE are encouraged to discuss this with the Senior Leadership Team.

Pupils

Pupils are expected to engage fully in RSHE and, when discussing issues related to RSHE, treat others with respect and sensitivity. Staff will ensure that all pupils are supported to feel safe and confident to engage in learning and discussions.

All classrooms have a 'Worry Box' and a 'Question Box' or 'Ask it basket' in order to support pupils to confidently ask questions and raise concerns.

Teachers will signpost pupils to information relevant to the topic being taught to ensure safe sources of information, advice and guidance are provided for pupils.

Any concerns that arise during RSHE lessons will be dealt with in line with the Academy Safeguarding Policy.

Parents' right to withdraw

Parents do not have the right to withdraw their children from Relationships and Health Education. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the non-statutory components of sex education within RSHE. Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing using the form found in Appendix 3 of this policy and addressed to the Executive Principal. Alternative work will be given to pupils who are withdrawn from sex education.

Training

Staff are trained on the delivery of RSHE as part of their induction and it is included in our continuing professional development calendar. The Executive Principal and Senior Leadership Team will also invite visitors from outside the academy, such as school nurses or sexual health professionals, to provide support and training to staff teaching RSHE.

Monitoring arrangements

The delivery of RSHE is monitored by Annie Tanner (PSHE / RSHE Subject Leader, Learning and Achievement Leader) as well as other members of the Senior Leadership Team. Monitoring will take place in the form of learning walks, planning and book scrutinise and pupil voice activities.

Pupils' development in RSHE is monitored by class teachers as part of our internal assessment systems. This policy will be reviewed by the Local Board annually. At every review, the policy will be approved by the Executive Principal.

Policy status and review

Written by:	The Senior Leadership Team
Review Date:	Jan 2024

Appendix 3: Parent form: withdrawal from sex education within RSHE

Please use the form below if you wish to withdraw your child from the non-statutory aspects of the RSHE curriculum at Robsack Wood Primary Academy. Requests should be submitted to the academy office FAO: The Executive Principal.

TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENTS / CARERS			
Name of child		Class	
Name of parent		Date	
Reason for withdrawing from sex education within relationships and sex education			
Any other information you would like the academy to consider			
Parent/ Carer signature			

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE ACADEMY	
Agreed actions from discussion with parents	