



*inspirans flammam  
posteritatis*

**ROSEMEAD  
PREPARATORY  
SCHOOL & NURSERY**  
DULWICH

# **Relationships and Sex Education Policy**

Revised: Summer term 2023  
For Board approval: Autumn 2023  
To be reviewed: Summer term 2024

## **Relationships and Sex Education Policy**

This policy covers Rosemead Preparatory School's approach to Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) which is embedded within our PSHE Education curriculum.

### **Aims and Rationale**

Our school motto, 'Inspiring brilliant futures', underpins our ethos of nurturing children to achieve their full potential and to value and respect each other.

Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE) is a vital and important component of all children's education. Through our PSHE programme, we aim to provide children with the knowledge, skills and understanding they need to lead confident, healthy, independent lives and to become informed, active and responsible citizens. In providing children with an understanding of healthy and respectful relationships and appropriate boundaries, we consider effective RSE to be a fundamental part of our approach to supporting children to grow into confident, caring, responsible and respectful young citizens. Children are encouraged to listen to others and value opinions that are different from their own. There are equal opportunities for all to take part in all activities.

The intended outcomes of our programme are that children will:

- understand the importance of family life, moral questions and relationship issues
- understand they have a responsibility to respect the views of other people
- develop feelings of self-respect, confidence and empathy
- take responsibility for their behaviour
- witness a positive culture of communication around issues of relationships
- know the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies
- be part of a framework in which sensitive discussions can take place
- be prepared for puberty, and understand the importance of health and hygiene
- gain an understanding of reproduction and sexual development
- acquire knowledge, skills, and attitudes that will enable them to make positive and healthy choices concerning relationships as they grow up and deal with risk

### **Legislation**

We are required to teach Relationships Education to all children. Current regulations and guidance from the Department for Education state that the teaching of Sex Education in Primary schools remains non-statutory; Rosemead teaches sexual reproduction in Year 6.

Documents that inform the school's RSE Policy include:

- Education Act (1996)
- Learning and Skills Act (2000)
- Education and Inspections Act (2006)
- Equality Act (2010)
- Supplementary Guidance SRE for the 21<sup>st</sup> century (2014) and updated statutory guidance (2019)
- Keeping children safe in education – Statutory safeguarding guidance (2023)
- Children and Social Work Act (2017)

The RSE Policy complements the following policies:

- Anti Bullying Policy
- Curriculum, Teaching and Learning Policy
- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Online Safety Policy
- Physical Education Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy

- Privacy Policy
- PSHE Education Policy
- Safeguarding and Procedures Policy
- Use of Images Policy

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

The RSE programme is led by the PSHE Education Co-ordinators. The Headteacher monitors the policy to ensure it remains effective. Rosemead RSE programme is taught by class teachers and supported by all members of the school community, both teaching and non-teaching, to ensure the delivery of the aims.

Teachers will reply to, and answer, children's questions sensitively and openly. They will ensure that balanced information is provided which takes into account different faith views and avoids negative impressions. Teachers will need to answer questions that may arise through the direct teaching of sex education, as well as those that may be asked at other times. All questions will be handled sensitively, set within a general context and answered in a manner appropriate for the age of the children.

Teaching staff will receive RSE training as required to enable them to support children with their individual needs.

At Rosemead we recognise that parents hold the primary role in RSE. As such we wish to maintain a positive and supporting relationship with parents through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation.

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from all or part of the sex education programme, which is taught in Year 6. Parents wishing to withdraw their children are invited to speak to their class teacher. The class teacher will explore the concern of the parents and the possibility of adjusting the programme or approach and will discuss any impact that withdrawal may have on the child. The teacher will talk with the parents about the possible negative experiences or feelings that may result from withdrawal of the child and the ways in which these may be minimised. If the parent still wishes to withdraw their child, requests for withdrawal should be put in writing and addressed to the Headteacher.

## **Safe and Effective Practice**

At Rosemead we ensure a safe learning environment by providing materials that are age appropriate and matched to the children's level of understanding.

When teaching PSHE ground rules are set at the start of a lesson. This reduces anxieties and embarrassment when discussing sensitive issues such as puberty. For example: only the correct names for body parts will be used and no one (teacher or child) will have to answer personal or embarrassing questions.

We believe that it is important that children feel able to ask any questions that they wish and that their questions are valued. Children's questions will be answered openly and honestly, as would be expected in all areas of the curriculum and in terms which are age appropriate. Additionally, children will be able to raise questions anonymously by using the 'Questions Box'. This also gives the teacher time to prepare for what the children want to know about. Responses may be directed to the whole class or individuals or referral to parents.

Distancing techniques such as role play may be used to help children act out or evaluate situations with invented characters. Appropriate videos and sometimes theatre groups or guest speakers may help children discuss sensitive issues and develop their decision-making skills in a safe environment.

Sensitive issues will be handled by consideration of the cohort of children. This will involve the teachers' consideration of levels of maturity and subject content; for example, whilst we generally teach

all children together, it may be considered beneficial for boys and girls to have some puberty content delivered separately.

All staff teaching RSE will be supported by the SLT.

## **Safeguarding**

Teachers are aware that effective RSE, which brings an understanding of what is and what is not appropriate in a relationship, can lead to a disclosure of a child protection issue. Should this occur the teacher will take the matter seriously and deal with it as outlined in the Safeguarding Policy and Procedures. If the teacher has concerns, they will draw these to the attention of the designated person responsible for child protection as a matter of urgency.

## **Curriculum Design**

Rosemead's RSE programme is an integral part of the whole school PSHE education provision as set out in Appendix 1, however, this will be adapted when necessary.

All RSE is taught without bias and in line with legal responsibilities such as those contained within the Equality Act (2010). Rosemead is committed to equality of opportunity in all aspects of school life. In RSE this will include examining and challenging gender stereotyping and celebrating difference and diversity. Thereby ensuring a relationships programme that is relevant to all children.

We have developed the curriculum taking into account the age, needs and feelings of Rosemead children. If children ask questions outside the scope of this policy, teachers will respond in an age-appropriate manner thereby minimising the need to seek answers online.

Our RSE programme is taught through a range of teaching methods and interactive activities but is especially guided by programmes and material accredited by the PSHE Association. We consider different learning styles in line with our Teaching and Learning Policy and tailor our learning programme accordingly. To this end the children engage in active learning methods, which is most effective when children are working in groups. Methods include, discussion techniques such as the use of circle time, case studies and discussion groups.

Differentiation is by prior knowledge assessment at the beginning of a topic, with support given accordingly as required, and child assessment at the end of a topic. Indeed, children are actively encouraged to reflect on their own learning and progress through observation, discussion, questioning and group participation. Children are encouraged to talk about and reflect on their own experiences. Every child has a PSHE Journal that will follow them through school. This serves as a record of their learning and also an assessment tool.

The school libraries have selected books which support and promote understanding within a moral context and underpin the school's values in the promotion of PSHE.

Some aspects of the RSE programme will be covered through:

- form time
- assemblies
- computing
- stories across the whole curriculum
- PE

## **Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation**

A review of the provision and content of RSE will be undertaken by PSHE co-ordinators and reported to SLT. The children's journals will be used as part of the evaluation process, alongside pupil questionnaires.

Teachers critically reflect on their work in delivering RSE through year group and staff meetings to review and share ideas. The PSHE co-ordinators will monitor delivery of PSHE through learning walks, lesson observation and discussion with teaching staff to ensure consistent and coherent curriculum provision. Teacher evaluation of the content and learning process is ongoing and should reflect changes in society. Children have opportunities to review and reflect on their learning during lessons through their journals.

### **Engagement**

The RSE Policy, including the PSHE Education curriculum mapping, will be available to all parents through the school website.

As part of our whole school approach to RSE, parents are welcome to discuss content and resources used with class teachers informally and at Information sessions. Class teachers will notify Year 6 parents when Sex Education will be taught. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from this element of the RSE programme.

The RSE Policy will be reviewed by the Education Committee prior to ratification by the Governing Board.

### **Review Date**

Summer Term 2024