

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) – Statutory Guidance for 2026

At Southam Primary School we are committed to supporting the wellbeing, safety and personal development of all our pupils. As you may be aware, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) is now a statutory requirement for all primary schools in England. This guidance was introduced by the Department for Education to ensure that children are taught essential knowledge and skills to help them develop healthy, respectful relationships and to keep themselves safe.

What does this mean for your child?

In primary schools, the focus is on **Relationships Education**, which includes:

- Building positive friendships and relationships
- Understanding respect, kindness and empathy
- Recognising family diversity
- Learning about personal boundaries and consent (in an age-appropriate way)
- Staying safe, including online safety
- Knowing how to seek help if they feel unsafe or worried

Children will also learn about basic health and hygiene, including the changes that occur during puberty (taught in Key Stage 2 in a sensitive and age-appropriate way).

What is meant by “sex education” in primary school?

The Department for Education distinguishes between **Relationships Education (statutory)** and **Sex Education (non-statutory in primary schools)**. In primary schools, **sex education is not taught in the same way as in secondary schools**. Instead, it may include:

- Learning about **human reproduction in the context of the science curriculum** (e.g. how a baby grows and is born)
- Understanding the **basic facts about puberty and how bodies change**
- Schools may choose to teach **additional, age-appropriate content** such as how a baby is conceived, but this is not mandatory

We ensure that any content taught:

- Is **appropriate to the age and maturity** of the children
- Is delivered in a **sensitive and factual way**
- Focuses on **respect, safety and understanding**, rather than explicit detail

Our approach

At Southam Primary School RSE is taught as part of our wider PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic) education curriculum, using a structured programme (*Jigsaw*). Lessons are carefully planned to be:

- Age-appropriate
- Inclusive and respectful
- Supportive of our school values: Ready, Respectful and Responsible

We aim to create a safe environment where children feel confident to ask questions and develop understanding at a level suitable for them.

Working with parents

We recognise that parents and carers play a crucial role in this area of education. We want to work in partnership with you and ensure you feel informed and confident about what your child is learning.

Parent consultation

We welcome the views of parents and carers and recognise the importance of working in partnership. As part of our ongoing development of RSE at Southam Primary School, we would like to invite you to share your feedback by completing a short online questionnaire.

Please complete the questionnaire by **1st July 2026** using the following link or scan the QR code:

[RSE Parent/Carer Consultation – Fill in form](#)



Your feedback is valuable and will help us ensure that our approach reflects the needs and views of our school community.

Right to withdraw

Parents do **not have the right to withdraw** their child from Relationships Education in primary school. However, if any elements of **sex education (beyond the statutory science curriculum)** are taught, you will be informed in advance and have the right to request withdrawal from those specific lessons.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us provide a safe, respectful and nurturing environment for all our pupils.

If you would like a paper copy of the letter, please contact the office.

Yours sincerely,

Lleryn Gardner

(PSHE Co-ordinator)