



Minerva
Learning Trust

Relationships, Health and Sex Education Policy (RSHE)

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1. Aims

The aims of Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) at our primary schools are to:

- Provide a framework in which sensitive discussions can take place.
- Prepare students for puberty, and give them an understanding of sexual development and the importance of health and hygiene.
- Help students develop feelings of self-respect, confidence and empathy.
- Create a positive culture around issues of sexuality and relationships.
- Teach students the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies.

2. Links other Documents

A primary school must provide relationships education to all students as per section 34 of the [Children and Social work act 2017](#).

However, are not required to provide sex education but do need to teach the elements of sex education contained in the science curriculum.

In teaching RSHE, the primary school must have regard to [guidance](#) issued by the secretary of state as outlined in section 403 of the [Education Act 1996](#).

The Trust primary schools teach RSHE as set out in this policy.

3. Policy development

This policy has been developed in consultation with staff, students and parents. The consultation and policy development process involved the following steps:

1. Review – a member of staff or working group pulled together all relevant information including relevant national and local guidance
2. Staff consultation – all school staff were given the opportunity to look at the policy and make recommendations
3. Parent/stakeholder consultation – parents and any interested parties were invited to attend a meeting about the policy
4. Students consultation – we investigated what exactly students want from their RSHE
5. Ratification – once amendments were made, the policy was shared with Trustees and Governors and ratified.

4. Definition

RSHE is about the emotional, social and cultural development of students, 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.

5. Curriculum

The curriculum is developed in consultation with parents, students and staff, taking into account the age, needs and feelings of students. If students 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, which will be delivered in Y6 and will focus on:

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

6. Delivery of RSHE

Biological aspects of RSHE are taught within the science curriculum, and other aspects are included in religious education (RE).

Students also receive stand-alone sex education sessions. The class teachers will deliver this in Y6.

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

- Families and people who care for me
- Caring friendships
- Respectful relationships
- Online relationships
- Being safe

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, and foster parents/carers amongst other structures. All family structures will be reflected with sensitivity.

7. Roles and Responsibilities

7.1 The Trust Board

The Trust Board will approve the RSHE policy, and hold the Headteacher to account for its implementation.

7.2 The Headteacher

The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring that RSE is taught consistently across the school.

7.3 Staff

Staff are responsible for:

- Delivering RSE in a sensitive way
- Modelling positive attitudes to RSE
- Monitoring progress
- Responding to the needs of individual students

Staff do not have the right to opt out of teaching RSE. Staff who have concerns about teaching RSE are encouraged to discuss this with the Headteacher.

The class teacher are responsible for teaching RSE within the school.

7.4 Students

Students are expected to engage fully in RSE and, when discussing issues related to RSE, treat others with respect and sensitivity.

8. Parents' right to withdraw

Parents do not have the right to withdraw their children from relationships education. They do however have the option to withdraw their child from the stand alone Sex Education lessons which will be delivered in Y6.

9. 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 Headteacher will also invite visitors from outside the school, such as school nurses or sexual health professionals, to provide support and training to staff teaching RSHE.

10. Monitoring arrangements

The delivery of RSHE is monitored by nominated senior staff through:

- Monitoring visits
- Planning checks
- Learning walks
- Conversations with the teachers delivering the RSHE and the children.

Students' development in RSHE is monitored by class teachers as part of the internal assessment systems.

This policy will be reviewed by members of the Senior Leadership Team annually. At every review, the policy will be approved by the Trust Board and LGB and the Headteacher. There will also be an opportunity for consultation with parents and carers.