



Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) Policy

Policy:	Relationships and Sex Education Policy
School:	Mickley Village Primary & Nursery School

Policy Lead/Owner or Originator	Headteacher
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Please note: this policy is under consultation and review

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1. Introduction

“Today’s children and young people are growing up in an increasingly complex world and living their lives seamlessly on and offline. This presents many positive and exciting opportunities, but also challenges and risks. In this environment, children and young people need to know how to be safe and healthy, and how to manage their academic, personal and social lives in a positive way.” (DfE, Department of Education 2019).

Mickley Village Primary and Nursery School follow the DfE statutory curriculum and advice from the PSHE Association to inform our Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) offer in school. We deliver the curriculum with support from the school nurse, as well as content covered in the Science, Computing and Religious Education national curriculum.

Relationships, Sex and Health Education must be taught sensitively and inclusively, with respect to the backgrounds and beliefs of the pupils and parents in our community. It is taught in a factual way, referring to rights and responsibilities within a legal framework. We also reflect British Values in the way we teach our pupils about relationships and health.

2. Aims

The aims of relationships and sex education (RSE) at our school 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

3. Statutory Requirements:

As a primary academy, we must provide relationships education to all pupils under section 34 of the [Children and Social Work Act 2017](#).

We don’t 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. This would include the elements of sex education contained in the science curriculum.

In teaching RSE, we’re 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](#).

We also have regard to legal duties set out in:

- Sections 404 to 407 of the Education Act 1996
- Part 6, chapter 1 of the [Equality Act 2010](#)
- The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) (as set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010). This duty requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities

At Mickley Village Primary and Nursery School, we teach RSE as set out in this policy.

4. Policy Development

This policy has been developed in consultation with staff, pupils 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 and Governor 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 given the chance to review the policy before it was ratified. Any questions were answered and changes made if necessary.
4. **Ratification** – once amendments were made, the policy was shared with governors and ratified.

5. Definition

RSE is about the emotional, social and cultural development of pupils, and involves learning about relationships, sexual health, sexuality, healthy lifestyles, diversity and personal identity. Sex and relationships education is a crucial part of preparing children for their lives now and in the future, as adults and parents.

RSE involves a combination of sharing information, and exploring issues and values, it is not about the promotion of sexual activity. RSE is delivered to ensure children acquire the skills, knowledge and attitudes needed to accept their own and others sexuality in positive ways, showing mutual respect and responsibility, free from abuse.

6. Curriculum

Our curriculum is set out as per Appendix 1 but we may need to adapt it as and when necessary. It is taken from the Jigsaw scheme of work.

We have chosen this curriculum, 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.

We have developed the curriculum in consultation with parents and carers, pupils and staff, and taking into account the age, developmental stage, needs (such as cultural and religious needs) and feelings of our pupils. If pupils ask questions outside the scope of this policy, teachers will respond in an appropriate manner so that pupils are fully informed and don't seek answers online.

We will share all curriculum materials with parents and carers on request via face to face meetings with the headteacher.

7. Delivery of RSE

RSE is taught within the personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education curriculum. Biological aspects of RSE are taught within the science curriculum, and other aspects are included in religious education (RE). Delivery of these lessons will be from class teachers and our HLTA's.

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

Sex education focuses on changes to bodies through puberty and how babies are conceived and born. For more information about our RSE curriculum, see Appendix 1.

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).

8. Roles and Responsibilities

- **The Academy Governing Board**

The Academy Governing Board will approve the RSE policy, and hold the headteacher to account for its implementation.

- **The Headteacher**

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

- **Staff**

Staff are responsible for:

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

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. Those responsible for teaching RSE include all class teachers and in some cases, teaching assistants.

- **Pupils**

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

9. Parents' right to withdraw

Parents do not have the right to withdraw their children from relationships education. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the non-statutory components of sex education within RSE. Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing and addressed to the headteacher.

10. Training

Staff are trained on the delivery of RSE 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, to provide support and training to staff teaching RSE, if needed.

11. Monitoring arrangements

The delivery of RSE is monitored by the headteacher through looking at children's work, planning scrutinies and learning walks.

Pupils' development in RSE is monitored by class teachers as part of our internal assessment systems. This policy will be reviewed annually. At every review, the policy will be approved by the governing body and the Headteacher.

Appendix 1: RSE/PSHE curriculum documents on the school website

[Website Link: PSHE, RSE and Protected Characteristics](#)

Appendix 2: Parent Form to request withdrawal from Sex Education within RSE

Parent Form to request withdrawal from Sex Education within RSE

TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENTS/CARERS			
Name of child		Class	
Name of parent/carer		Date	
Reason for withdrawing from sex education within relationships and sex education			
Any other information you would like the school to consider			
Parent/carer signature			
TO BE COMPLETED BY THE SCHOOL			
Agreed actions from discussion with parents/carers			