



# RELATIONSHIP AND SEX EDUCATION (RSE) POLICY

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## 1. Aims

The aims of sex and relationship 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

## 2. Statutory requirements

Under [section 3.6 of the National Curriculum](#), RSE is compulsory from Year 7 onwards.

Secondary schools must have regard to <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education> issued by the secretary of state as outlined in section 403 of the [Education Act 1996](#).

At Fearnhill School we teach RSE as set out in this policy.

## 3. 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.

RSE involves a combination of sharing information, and exploring issues and values.

**RSE is not about the promotion of sexual activity.**

## 4. 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).

Pupils also receive stand-alone sex education sessions delivered by a trained health professional.

Across all Key Stages, pupils will be supported with developing the following skills:

- Communication, including how to manage changing relationships and emotions

- Recognising and assessing potential risks
- Assertiveness
- Seeking help and support when required
- Informed decision-making
- Self-respect and empathy for others
- Recognising and maximising a healthy lifestyle
- Managing conflict
- Discussion and group work

These skills are taught within the context of family life.

## **5. Roles and responsibilities**

### **5.1 The governing board**

The governing board will approve the RSE policy, and hold the Headteacher to account for its implementation.

### **5.2 The Headteacher**

The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring that RSE is taught consistently across the school, and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from non-statutory components of RSE (see section 6).

### **5.3 Staff**

Staff are responsible for:

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- Responding appropriately to pupils whose parents wish them to be withdrawn from the non-statutory components of RSE

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.

#### **5.4 Pupils**

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

#### **6. Parents' right to withdraw**

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the non-statutory components of RSE.

Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing and addressed to the Headteacher. A copy of withdrawal requests will be placed in the pupil's educational record. The Headteacher will discuss the request with parents and take appropriate action.

Alternative work will be given to pupils who are withdrawn from RSE.

#### **7. Training**

Staff are supported in the delivery of RSE as part of their induction and it is included in our continuing professional development calendar.

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

#### **8. Monitoring arrangements**

The delivery of RSE is monitored by the Senior Leadership Team through:

- In-school monitoring arrangements such as work scrutinies, learning walks and vulnerable learner checks.
- Pupils' development in RSE is monitored by class teachers as part of our internal assessment systems.