

Sex and Relationship Education Policy

The Old Priory School

Contents

1. Aims	3
2. Statutory Requirements.....	3
3. Policy Development	3
4. Definition	3
5. RSE Curriulum	4
6. Roles and Responsibilities.....	4
The Proprietor:.....	4
The Head of Education:	4
Staff:.....	4
Pupils:.....	5
7. Parents' Right to Withdraw	5
8. Training	5
9. Monitoring Arrangements.....	5

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Relationship and Sex Education Policy

1. Aims

The aims of Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) at our school are to:

- Teach pupils the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies.
- Provide a framework in which sensitive discussions can take place.
- Prepare pupils for puberty, 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.

2. Statutory Requirements

As a secondary school we must provide Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) to all pupils as per section 34 of the [Children and Social work act 2017](#).

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

At The Old Priory School, we teach RSE as set out in this policy.

3. Policy Development

This policy has been developed in consultation with staff, pupils, and Carers/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. Carers /stakeholder consultation – carers and any interested parties were invited to attend a meeting about the Policy.
4. Pupil consultation – we investigated what exactly pupils want from their RSE.
5. Ratification – once amendments were made, the policy was shared with The Proprietor and ratified.

4. 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, exploring issues and values, RSE is not about the promotion of sexual activity.

5. RSE Curriculum

RSE is taught within the Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE) curriculum, biological aspects of RSE are taught within the science curriculum, and other aspects are included in Citizenship.

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

By the end of Key Stage 4, pupils will have been supported to develop their knowledge of:

- Families
- Respectful relationships, including friendships
- Online safety, risks, harm, and the media
- Keeping themselves safe
- Intimate and sexual relationships, including sexual health
- Mental wellbeing
- Physical health and fitness
- Healthy eating
- Drugs, alcohol, and tobacco
- Personal hygiene
- Changing adolescent bodies

6. Roles and Responsibilities

The Proprietor:

The Proprietor will approve the RSE policy, hold the Head of Education to account for its implementation. The Proprietor has delegated the approval of this policy to Gordon Shaw.

Head of Education:

The Head of Education is responsible for ensuring that RSE is taught consistently across the school, and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from components of RSE (see section 7). The curriculum and lesson delivery are the responsibility of the Citizenship and PSHE teacher.

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 who may be withdrawn from the 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 Head of Education.

Pupils:

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

7. Parents' Right to Withdraw

Carers/Parents' have the right to withdraw their children from the Sex Education components of RSE. Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing and addressed to the Head of Education. A copy of withdrawal requests will be placed in the pupil's educational record, the Head of Education will discuss the request with Carers/Parents and take appropriate action. Alternative work will be given to pupils who are withdrawn from RSE.

There is no right to withdraw from the sex education contained in the National Curriculum as part of science, or from the Health Education element of the RSE curriculum.

8. 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 Head of Education 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. Within Ethelbert Children's Services there is a specialist Health Promotion Specialist who can support the staff and children.

9. Monitoring Arrangements

The delivery of RSE is monitored by the Deputy Head, Susan Howson, and pupils' development in RSE is monitored as part of our internal assessment systems. This Policy will be reviewed by the Head of Education, Julie Bartlett. At every review, the policy will be approved by the Proprietor.