



Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) Policy



Article 13: Every child must be free to say what they think and seek and receive information



Department
for Education

What is sex and relationship education?

It is lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of marriage for family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality, and sexual health. It is not about the promotion of sexual orientation or sexual activity – this would be inappropriate teaching.

At St. Osmund's Middle School it is our aim to equip each pupil with the relevant knowledge, attitudes and skills to make informed decisions regarding matters of sexual health.

The principles which underpin the curriculum are as follows:

- To ensure that all pupils receive appropriate information and advice
- To prepare pupils to cope with the physical and emotional challenges of growing up
- To inform the pupils about the facts relating to human reproduction
- To counter misleading notions and folklore
- To help the pupils consider the broader emotional and ethical dimensions of sexual attitudes
- To promote the pupils' self esteem
- To develop the pupils' sense of moral responsibility
- To develop the pupils' communication skills
- To help the pupils explore values and attitudes

- To acknowledge and complement the role of parents / guardians as sex educators and to work with them.

Arrangements for teaching Relationships and Sex Education

RSE will be delivered as part of the Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) programme with pupils taught in mixed-gender classes as part of their weekly PSHE curriculum. Where it is deemed more appropriate, arrangements may be made for single sex groups to be taught by members of staff of that gender depending upon topic content. For pupils who may require further support in accessing and/or understanding subject content (such as pupils with SEND), the PSHE teacher will consult the SENDCO / SEND Manager for strategies as necessary. It is the intention that all pupils can access all aspects of the subject content.

Cross Curricular Links

It is envisaged that the teaching of RSE will be supported through cross curricular opportunities being taken in other subject areas. Topics covered in PSHE involving anatomy, physiology and human biology are further consolidated as part of the school's science curriculum. Subject specialism in this area will have a strong role in supporting the delivery of our RSE programme.

Partnership with Parents

At St. Osmund's Middle School we believe that the teaching of RSE can best be accomplished by successfully working in partnership with parents and carers who are of course the child's principle sex educators. Information about subject content and resources used are available for parents to view via the school website or via communication with the PSHE teachers.

The right to withdraw

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the sex RSE programme provided at school except for those parts included in the statutory National Curriculum. In the event of this occurring the parents will be invited into the school to discuss their reservations with the Subject Leader who will hopefully allay their fears.

Monitoring the Curriculum

St. Osmund's Middle School RSE Programme will undergo a constant monitoring process which will consider the following:

- The needs of the pupils
- The wishes of the parents
- County and National guidelines
- Changes in Society
- Areas for improvement issues raised by staff / guest contributors.

Reviewing the policy

In line with statutory guidelines the RSE policy will be reviewed on an annual basis by the school governors.