



Our vision is to enable children to become lifelong learners by creating a safe and inclusive learning environment that nurtures individuality and enhances potential

Our values:

- 🦌 **We're imaginative** - we're creative thinkers and doers
- 🦌 **We're curious** - we encourage inquisitiveness and risk taking
- 🦌 **We're proud** - we take pride in our school and want everyone to succeed
- 🦌 **We're courageous** - we understand that we learn from our mistakes
- 🦌 **We're original** - we celebrate difference

Relationship and Sex Education Policy

Updated on:	
7th February 2024	Reviewed and renewed

Date agreed by Achievement and Standards Committee/ Governing Board on	Signature of Chair of the committee or Headteacher
Date agreed for review Spring 2025	Frequency of Review Annual / two-year-cycle / Three-year-cycle (unless required earlier)
Review Responsibility Headteacher/Achievement and Standards Committee	

1. 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
- the physical development of their bodies as they grow into adults
-
- the way humans reproduce
-
- respect for their own bodies and the importance of sexual activity as part of a committed, long-term, and loving relationship
-
- the importance of family life
-
- moral questions
-
- relationship issues
-
- sexual abuse and what they should do if they are worried about any sexual matters.

2. Statutory requirements

As a maintained primary school we must provide relationships education to all pupils as per section 34 of the [Children and Social work act 2017](#).

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

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

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

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

In teaching RSE, we are 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](#).

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. Curriculum

Our curriculum is set out as per Appendix 1 but we may need to adapt it as and when necessary.

Primary sex education will focus on:

- Preparing boys and girls for the changes that adolescence brings
- How a baby is conceived and born
- We teach sex education through different aspects of the curriculum. While we carry out the main sex education teaching in our personal, social and health education (PSHE) curriculum, we also teach some sex education through other subject areas (for example, science and PE), where we feel that they contribute significantly to a child's knowledge and understanding of his or her own body, and how it is changing and developing.

In PSHE we teach children about relationships, and we encourage children to discuss issues. We teach about the parts of the body and how these work, and we explain to them what will happen to their bodies during puberty.

For example, we tell the boys that their voices will change during puberty and we explain to the girls about menstruation. We encourage the children to ask for help if they need it.

In Science lessons in both Key Stages, teachers inform children about puberty and how a baby is born. For this aspect of the school's teaching, we follow the guidance material in the national scheme of work for science. In Key Stage 1 we teach children about how animals, including humans, move, feed, grow and reproduce, and we also teach them about the main parts of the body. Children learn to appreciate the differences between people and how to show respect for each other. In Key Stage 2 we teach about life processes and the main stages of the human life cycle in greater depth.

In Years 5 and 6 we place a particular emphasis on health education, as many children experience puberty at this age. We liaise with the the Local Health Authority about suitable teaching materials to use with our children in these lessons.

Teachers do their best to answer all questions with sensitivity and care. By the end of Key Stage 2, we ensure that both boys and girls know how babies are born, how their bodies change during puberty, what menstruation is, and how it affects women. We always teach this with due regard for the emotional development of the children (as stated earlier in this policy).

We allow all parents and carers of children at Reay Primary School to discuss this particular programme of lessons, to explain what the issues are and how they are taught, and to see the materials the school uses in its teaching.

We currently use the [Christopher Winter Project](#) to support the teaching of RSE throughout the school

5. Delivery of RSE

We teach sex education in the context of the school's aims and values framework. While sex education in our school means that we give children information about sexual behaviour, we do this with an awareness of the moral code and values which underpin all our work in school. In particular, we teach sex education in the belief that:

- sex education should be taught in the context of family life;
- sex education is part of a wider social, personal, spiritual and moral education process;

- children should be taught to have respect for their own bodies;
- children should learn about their responsibilities to others, and be aware of the consequences of sexual activity;
- it is important to build positive relationships with others, involving trust and respect
- children need to learn the importance of self-control.

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, 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).

6. Roles and responsibilities

6.1 The governing board

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

The headteacher is responsible for ensuring that RSE is taught consistently across the school, and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from [non-statutory/non-science] components of RSE (see section 8).

6.2 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/non-science] 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.

6.3 Pupils

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

6.4 Parents

- The school is well aware that the primary role in children's sex education lies with parents and carers. We wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents of children at our school through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation. In promoting this objective we:
- inform parents about the school's sex education policy and practice;
- answer any questions that parents may have about the sex education of their child;

- take seriously any issue that parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy or the arrangements for sex education in the school;
- inform parents about the best practice known with regard to sex education, so that the teaching in school supports the key messages that parents and carers give to children at home. We believe that, through this mutual exchange of knowledge and information, children will benefit from being given consistent messages about their changing body and their increasing responsibilities.

7. The role of other members of the community

We encourage other valued members of the community to work with us to provide advice and support to the children with regard to health education. In particular, members of the Local Health Authority, such as the school nurse and other health professionals, give us valuable support with our sex education programme. Other people that we may call on include local clergy, social workers and youth workers.

8. Confidentiality

Teachers conduct sex education lessons in a sensitive manner and in confidence. However, if a child makes a reference to being involved, or likely to be involved in sexual activity, then the teacher will take the matter seriously and deal with it as a matter of child protection. Teachers will respond in a similar way if a child indicates that they may have been a victim of abuse. In these circumstances the teacher will talk to the child as a matter of urgency. If the teacher has concerns, they will draw their concerns to the attention of the DSL. The DSL will then deal with the matter in consultation with health care professionals (See also Child Protection Policy).

9. The role of the headteacher

9.1 It is the responsibility of the headteacher to ensure that both staff, parents and carers are informed about our Relationship and Sex Education policy, and that the policy is implemented effectively. It is also the headteacher's responsibility to ensure that members of staff are given sufficient training, so that they can teach effectively and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity.

9.2 The headteacher liaises with external agencies regarding the school's Relationship and Sex Education programme, and ensures that all adults who work with children on these issues are aware of the school policy, and that they work within this framework.

9.3 The headteacher monitors this policy on a regular basis and reports to governors, when requested, on the effectiveness of the policy.

10. 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/non-science] components of sex education within RSE.

Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing using the form found in Appendix 2 of this policy and addressed to the headteacher.

11. 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 or sexual health professionals, to provide support and training to staff teaching RSE.

112. Monitoring arrangements

The headteacher and the Achievement and Standards Committee of the governing board monitor our sex education policy on an annual basis. This committee reports its findings and recommendations to the full governing body, as necessary, if the policy needs modification. The Achievement and Standards Committee gives serious consideration to any comments from parents about the sex education programme, and makes a record of all such comments. Governors require the headteacher to keep a written record, giving details of the content and delivery of the sex education programme that we teach in our school.

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Families and people who care about me	<p>That families are important for children growing up because they can give love, security and stability</p> <p>The characteristics of healthy family life, commitment to each other, including in times of difficulty, protection and care for children and other family members, the importance of spending time together and sharing each other's lives</p> <p>That others' families, either in school or in the wider world, sometimes look different from their family, but that they should respect those differences and know that other children's families are also characterised by love and care</p> <p>That stable, caring relationships, which may be of different types, are at the heart of happy families, and are important for children's security as they grow up</p> <p>That marriage represents a formal and legally recognised commitment of two people to each other which is intended to be lifelong</p> <p>How to recognise if family relationships are making them feel unhappy or unsafe, and how to seek help or advice from others if needed</p>

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Caring friendships	<p>How important friendships are in making us feel happy and secure, and how people choose and make friends</p> <p>The characteristics of friendships, including mutual respect, truthfulness, trustworthiness, loyalty, kindness, generosity, trust, sharing interests and experiences and support with problems and difficulties</p> <p>That healthy friendships are positive and welcoming towards others, and do not make others feel lonely or excluded</p> <p>That most friendships have ups and downs, and that these can often be worked through so that the friendship is repaired or even strengthened, and that resorting to violence is never right</p> <p>How to recognise who to trust and who not to trust, how to judge when a friendship is making them feel unhappy or uncomfortable, managing conflict, how to manage these situations and how to seek help or advice from others, if needed</p>
Respectful relationships	<p>The importance of respecting others, even when they are very different from them (for example, physically, in character, personality or backgrounds), or make different choices or have different preferences or beliefs</p> <p>Practical steps they can take in a range of different contexts to improve or support respectful relationships</p> <p>The conventions of courtesy and manners</p> <p>The importance of self-respect and how this links to their own happiness</p> <p>That in school and in wider society they can expect to be treated with respect by others, and that in turn they should show due respect to others, including those in positions of authority</p> <p>About different types of bullying (including cyberbullying), the impact of bullying, responsibilities of bystanders (primarily reporting bullying to an adult) and how to get help</p> <p>What a stereotype is, and how stereotypes can be unfair, negative or destructive</p> <p>The importance of permission-seeking and giving in relationships with friends, peers and adults</p>
Online relationships	<p>That people sometimes behave differently online, including by pretending to be someone they are not</p> <p>That the same principles apply to online relationships as to face-to face relationships, including the importance of respect for others online including when we are anonymous</p> <p>The rules and principles for keeping safe online, how to recognise risks, harmful content and contact, and how to report them</p> <p>How to critically consider their online friendships and sources of information including awareness of the risks associated with people they have never met</p> <p>How information and data is shared and used online</p>

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Being safe	<p>What sorts of boundaries are appropriate in friendships with peers and others (including in a digital context)</p> <p>About the concept of privacy and the implications of it for both children and adults; including that it is not always right to keep secrets if they relate to being safe</p> <p>That each person's body belongs to them, and the differences between appropriate and inappropriate or unsafe physical, and other, contact</p> <p>How to respond safely and appropriately to adults they may encounter (in all contexts, including online) whom they do not know</p> <p>How to recognise and report feelings of being unsafe or feeling bad about any adult</p> <p>How to ask for advice or help for themselves or others, and to keep trying until they are heard</p> <p>How to report concerns or abuse, and the vocabulary and confidence needed to do so</p> <p>Where to get advice e.g. family, school and/or other sources</p>

Appendix 2: Parent form: withdrawal from sex education within RSE

TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENTS			
Name of child		Class	
Name of parent		Date	

TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENTS

Reason for withdrawing from sex education within relationships and sex education

Any other information you would like the school to consider

Parent signature

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE SCHOOL

Agreed actions
from discussion
with parents