



## **Abingdon Preparatory School**

### **Relationship and Sex Education Policy**

#### ***Introduction***

This policy applies to all pupils including those in EYFS.

It has regard to the statutory Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education guidance 2020 issued under Section 80A of the Education Act 2002 and section 403 of the Education Act 1996.

#### ***What is Relationships Education for pupils in Reception to Year 6?***

In Reception Relationships Education is taught as part of the Early Years Curriculum.

Pupils in Year 1 to Year 6 will focus on the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships, with particular reference to friendships, family relationships and relationships with other children and with other adults.

As part of Relationships Education, pupils in Year 2 will be taught the correct biological terms for body parts and parents will be notified in advance when this will happen.

Pupils in Reception to Year 6 will only receive sex education in an age appropriate manner as part of the National Curriculum in Science. Boys and girls will be taught the same but a teacher may exercise their discretion and consult with pupils and parents if there is a significant imbalance of girls and boys within a cohort when pupils may be taught separately.

#### ***What is Relationship and Sex Education for pupils in Years 7-8?***

Pupils in Years 7-8 will build upon their previous learning about relationships and will learn how to develop healthy, nurturing relationships of all kinds. They will learn what a healthy relationship looks like and what is acceptable and unacceptable behaviour in a relationship. This will help pupils understand the positive effects that good relationships have on their mental wellbeing, identify when relationships are not right and understand how situations can be managed.

### ***How are RSE and the Science Curriculum related?***

The two programmes of study are closely linked and teachers will work together to ensure that content complements but does not duplicate across the subjects. In science pupils follow the National Curriculum and will learn about physical and emotional changes of puberty (Year 6), how humans reproduce (Year 6) and how to maintain a healthy body (Year 7)

### ***How is Relationship and Sex Education taught?***

Our RSE programme is an integral part of our whole school PSHCE provision and has been carefully planned to meet the needs of our pupils.

Pupils in Reception follow the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum which encompasses all elements of the relationships programme in an age appropriate manner. We also teach some topics via whole school assemblies or section assemblies where themes can be explored in an age appropriate manner.

Form times are also used to discuss topics and have age appropriate discussions. External speakers will also run workshops addressing specific aspects of the RSE programme.

A set of ground rules will help to create a safe environment in which they and the pupils do not feel embarrassed or anxious about unintended or unexpected questions.

- no one (teacher or pupil) will have to answer a personal question;
- no one will be forced to take part in a discussion;
- only the correct names for body parts will be used; and
- meanings of words will be explained in a sensible and factual way.

Teachers should establish clear parameters of what is appropriate and inappropriate in a whole class setting. If a question is too personal, the teacher should remind the pupil of the ground rules. Where appropriate, pupils will be able to raise questions anonymously. If the pupil needs further support, the teacher can refer her or him to the appropriate person, such as a school counsellor, school nurse, helpline, or an outside agency or service.

If a question is too explicit, feels too old for a pupil, is inappropriate for the whole class, or raises concerns about sexual abuse, the teacher should acknowledge it and agree to attend to it later on an individual basis.

### ***Accessibility for all pupils***

We will also ensure that we consider the religious and cultural background of all pupils when teaching RSE and will seek to challenge all forms of discrimination and prejudice between pupils and promote understanding and respect, as outlined under the Equality Act 2010.

All content will be delivered in an age and developmentally appropriate manner to meet the needs of our pupils, including those pupils with SEND.

Teaching and resources will be differentiated as appropriate to address the needs of these children in order for them to have full access to the content of sex and relationship education.

### ***Who is responsible for teaching RSE?***

RSE is taught primarily by PSHCE teachers who may be form teachers or subject specialists. Other teachers may teach elements of the curriculum via assemblies and carefully selected and vetted external speakers may deliver aspects of the curriculum too.

The Head of PSHCE will oversee the RSE programme and work closely with the Head of Science and Deputy Head Pastoral to ensure there is a holistic approach to teaching and curriculum coverage.

### ***What is the subject content for Relationships Education (Year 1 to Year 6)?***

The linked [overview](#) details the subject content for year groups.

### ***What is the subject content for Relationships and Sex Education for pupils in Years 7-8?***

The linked [overview](#) details the subject content for year groups.

### ***Challenging topics in RSE***

It is recognised that some topics may be viewed as challenging by pupils, parents or staff but it is essential that pupils are equipped with the understanding, knowledge and skills appropriate for their age in relation to these. Where pupils will participate in dedicated workshops or sessions relating to sensitive topics, parents will be notified so they may be able to support their children with any discussions that arise. Parents are invited to contact staff with any questions they may have relating to the sessions.

The topic of consent will be introduced to pupils in an age appropriate manner. Younger pupils will explore body boundaries and respecting others while older pupils will learn why negotiating consent and boundaries in friendships and relationships is crucial. LGBTQ+ relationships will be taught in an age appropriate manner. Whilst no one lifestyle will be actively promoted over another, all lifestyles will be validated and respected to reflect the school's aim of being kind and respectful to others.

Pupils in Years 7 and 8 will participate in workshops relating to emotions and intimacy, harassment, sexual images, sharing of nude and semi nude images, pornography, online behaviours and boundaries. These will be discussed in an age appropriate manner with pupils. Workshops will be run by the Foundation's mental health and wellbeing co-ordinator who is experienced teaching boys and girls about challenging topics. They will work closely with APS staff to ensure that all pupils feel comfortable with the workshops, particularly where there may be a significantly smaller number of one sex within a cohort. This will involve consultation with parents and pupils where appropriate.

### ***Revisiting topics and building on prior understanding***

Many topics will be revisited over the course of a pupil's time at the school. It is important that topics are reviewed to consolidate understanding but also to introduce new age appropriate elements.

### ***How is Relationship and Sex Education monitored and evaluated?***

This policy will be reviewed in conjunction with staff and Governors annually.

Pupils will be consulted annually, about the programme in an age appropriate manner. Their views will be used to inform any changes or amendments.

It is recognised that parents are the key people in teaching their children about sex and relationships and we are committed to working with parents in developing and reviewing our policy. A parental information session will run annually and allow parents to ask questions and offer their views. Parents are also welcome to discuss the programme with their child's teacher, the Head of PSHCE or the Headmaster at any time.

Any amendments to the policy will be communicated with staff, pupils and parents.

The school will monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the RSE programme through lesson observation, observing pupil engagement and work, sampling teacher planning, pupil reflection and feedback, discussions with staff and pupils and feedback from parents.

### ***Reporting to Parents***

Parents will receive a written report on their child's attainment and progress in PSHCE/RSE as part of the annual end of year written report. Teachers will also be able to report on progress during parents' evenings.

### ***Can parents withdraw their child from Relationship Education?***

Relationship education in all years is fundamental to building positive relationships. As such, parents do not have the right to withdraw their child from this aspect of the programme.

### ***Can parents withdraw their child from Sex Education?***

Although parents/carers have the right to request to withdraw their child from any or all of sex education as part of Relationships and Sex Education, it is our aim to encourage parents to see the value of RSE learning and its contribution to keeping children safe, developing their emotional, social and physical wellbeing and for promoting equality and social justice.

Should a parent decide that they do not wish their child to take part in any of these

lessons, we would ask that they first speak to the headteacher or deputy head to discuss their concerns. The headteacher or deputy head will discuss the request with the parent/carer to fully understand and address any concerns/objections to the content of the curriculum. If parents/carers do decide to withdraw their child, they should inform the headteacher in writing and the school will keep a record of this. We will remind parents annually that the request to withdraw is still in place and invite them to confirm whether they still want it.

Parents cannot request to withdraw pupils of any age from sex education which is delivered as part of the science curriculum. Parents will be notified by the science teacher of key topics eg sex education in Year 6 in advance and will be invited to discuss any concerns they may have.

### ***Safeguarding and RSE***

The school acknowledges that RSE is crucial for creating a culture of safeguarding within the school and for meeting our statutory obligations as outlined in Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2020).

Teachers are aware that effective RSE, which brings an understanding of what is and is not appropriate in a relationship, can lead to a disclosure of a child protection issue. RSE helps children to understand the difference between healthy and abusive relationships and to understand how to get help if they are experiencing abuse or have experienced abuse.

Following a disclosure the staff member will follow the school's Safeguarding Policy, involving the DSL and safeguarding team to ensure that pupils are fully supported

We also recognise that some children may be vulnerable to some of the content delivered in RSE due to a previous safeguarding concern, ongoing concerns or changes to their personal life. For those children, additional support will be given to prevent them being affected by the scenarios or topics in their planned lessons.

### ***Provision of this policy***

This policy will be published on the school's website and a copy of it will be provided free of charge to anyone requesting it.

### **Head of PSHCE/RSE**

Last internal review: May 2025

Last governor review: May 2025

Next governor review: May 2026