



Edisford Primary School

Confidence. Persistence. Getting Along. Organisation. Resilience.

PSHE, Relationship and Sex Education Policy

The Relationships Education, RSE and Health Education (England) Regulations 2019 have made Relationships Education compulsory in all primary schools. Sex education is not compulsory in primary schools. Therefore, parents can elect to withdraw their child from any sex education taught within RSE but do not have the right to withdraw consent for health education (including puberty) or relationship education.

Governor Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of the school governors to check RSE provision is effective and legal obligations are met. They must also check that clear information is provided for parents on the subject content and the right to request that their child is withdrawn (from the sex education part of the curriculum).

RSE Leadership

The member of staff responsible for the co-ordination of RSE throughout school is Elizabeth Hamilton-Thorpe. She will be supported by all staff members, who will be actively involved in the planning and/or provision of RSE. Staff will be regularly updated and training delivered, where required, should changes or amendments occur to the policy or statutory guidance for RSE. We believe that the school staff who have a relationship with the children and families are best placed to deliver RSE, however the headteacher may invite visitors, such as school nurses or sexual health professionals, to assist with the delivery of RSE or to train staff. Any visitors will follow the school policy and deliver in line with the ethos of the school.

The headteacher, Elizabeth Hamilton-Thorpe, has the responsibility of informing staff and parents about our sex education policy and of ensuring that this policy is

implemented effectively. It is also the headteacher's responsibility to ensure that all staff are given sufficient training so they are knowledgeable and equipped to teach about sex (where parents choose to opt in) and relationships sensitively and effectively.

Due to the encouraged 'open and honest' approach to relationships and sex education, there may be some instances in which a question or request for advice may indicate a pupil to be at risk or in danger, in which case appropriate action will be taken in accordance with the school's written policy and procedure for Child Protection. This also means that if a pupil puts a private question to a teacher or other member of staff and requests secrecy, no promise of secrecy or confidentiality will be given, but with the reassurance that any steps taken will always be in the pupil's best interest. The designated safeguarding leads with such responsibility are Elizabeth Hamilton-Thorpe and Emma Blockeel.

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

Statutory Requirements and Guidance

The revised DfE statutory guidance states that from September 2021, all primary schools must deliver health and relationships education and secondary schools must deliver relationships and sex education. Edisford complies with the requirements of the Equality Act and the Public Sector Equality Duty in addition to complying with the statutory guidance on Relationships Education, Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education.

Curriculum Design

At Edisford, we want all children to grow up healthy, happy and safe. They should be able to manage the challenges and opportunities of modern Britain.

All curriculum content is adapted to meet the needs of pupils with special educational needs or disabilities and where specific adaptations are needed. Our school's Relationship and Sex Education programme will provide opportunities for children to 'talk honestly and openly'. At the same time, we respect the pace of children's development.

Relationship Education

This aims to put in place the building blocks needed for positive and safe relationships, including with family, friends and online.

In an age appropriate way, each child will be taught about:

Families and people that care for me
Caring friendships
Respectful relationships
Online relationships
Being safe

PSHE and Health Education

The aim of PSHE and health education is to give children information they need to make good decisions about their own health and wellbeing, to recognise issues in themselves and others, and to seek support as early as possible when issues arise. PSHE is an important and necessary part of all pupils' education. All schools should teach PSHE, drawing on good practice and this expectation is outlined in the introduction to the new curriculum. We tailor our PSHE programme to reflect the needs of our pupils.

By the end of Year 6, pupils will have been taught:

- staying safe – online and offline;
- valuing difference;
- healthy relationships;
- positive self-image;
- rights and respect;
- mental wellbeing;
- internet safety and harms;
- physical health and fitness;
- healthy eating;
- facts and risks associated with drugs, alcohol and tobacco;
- health and prevention;
- basic first aid;
- changing adolescent bodies.

Parents cannot withdraw their child from relationship education because it is important that all children receive the content.

Sex Education

At Edisford, we have opted to teach pupils about sex education. Much of this is taught as part of the Science curriculum, which includes human development and reproduction. Parents do not have the right to withdraw their children from this.

In years 4, 5 and 6, pupils are taught in more detail and sex education and, in particular, it makes links to appropriate relationships, being based on love, respect and consideration. Parents have the right to request that their child is withdrawn from such lessons. At primary level, the head teacher must grant this request.

All Years

The School's Behaviour Policy is an empowerment model that teaches pupils to make informed choice based upon the basic rights of children:

To feel safe

To be respected

To learn

We consider that all pupils will have access to ongoing teaching and discussion. However significant coverage of aspects will be organised as such in an age appropriate way.

Please see our PSHE & RSE Progression of Learning document.

The Teaching of Sexuality, Physical Changes and Sexual Reproduction

Teaching Approach

Sex education is taught from Year 4 through to Year 6. Effective RSE helps young people understand human sexuality and to respect themselves and others. It enables young people to mature, build their confidence and self-esteem and understand the reasons for delaying sexual activity. Effective RSE also helps people, throughout life, to develop safe, fulfilling and healthy sexual relationships at the appropriate time. We believe that children are better prepared for physical, emotional and social changes if they are taught about sex education from the age of 8.

In Years 4, 5 and 6 the children have a specific lesson taught jointly by two members of staff. The focus will be on boys and girls equally. In this way we intend that children should understand and respect each other as differing individuals.

Lessons will be conducted in an environment that takes into account children's feelings and emphasises the importance of family life and stable loving relationships as the medium in which to bring up children. We acknowledge that not every Year 4 child is ready for the same depth of learning, so we will tailor teaching for this age group based on levels of maturity. In Year 5, we will teach the full RSE curriculum as children cover much of human reproduction in their science unit.

Lessons will include:

- No individual teacher or pupil will be asked to answer personal questions that may arise out of discussion.
- Teachers will use the correct terminology, but we recognise that children may give private parts a variety of names.
- Meanings of words will be discussed in a sensible and factual way.
- Teachers will acknowledge if they do not know the answer to a question.

Our teaching may include the opportunity for children to write anonymous questions which will be addressed with the whole class. It is our experience that these questions throw up a wide range of facts children have access to, but with some misconceptions. We will endeavour to address these misconceptions.

A summary of commonly asked questions and our answers can be found below. Parents should be aware that we will not discuss any of these topics in detail, nor will we dismiss them. Where children press for more information or moral opinions, we will refer them to yourselves.

- We will discuss the importance of caring, loving relationships.
- Contraception: usually questions relate to condoms and a simple explanation of their purpose will be given.
- Masturbation: this question is answered simply by acknowledging that it is a normal part of growing up.
- Abortion: the answer will be given that abortions are used to end pregnancies for different reasons.
- Aids: an explanation will be given that this is a sexually/blood transmitted disease.

Right to Withdraw

Parents have the right to request that their child be withdrawn from some or all of sex education delivered as part of statutory RSE. Before granting any such request, as part of good practice, the headteacher will discuss the request with parents and, as appropriate, with the child to ensure that their wishes are understood. The headteacher will discuss with parents the benefits of receiving sex education and any detrimental effects that withdrawal might have on the child. This could include any social and emotional effects of being excluded, as well as the likelihood of the child hearing their peers' version of what was said in the classes, rather than what was directly said by the teacher.

Parents do not have the right to withdraw from relationships and health education or the science curriculum.

Parents should bear in mind that school will keep a record of who hasn't had our full sex education curriculum.

Children who are withdrawn from the sex education part of the curriculum will receive appropriate, purposeful education.

Children with SEND

We may in exceptional circumstances need to take a pupil's specific needs, arising from their SEND, into account when teaching sex education.

Monitoring and Reviewing

At Edisford, relationship and sex education is delivered with the same high expectations as with all areas of the curriculum.

We review our teaching of the RSE curriculum frequently through pupil interviews, observations and teachers' knowledge.

Updated July 2025.

Review date July 2026.