

Manorbrook Primary School



Aiming for Excellence

RSE Policy

November 2022 edition

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) is a statutory requirement in Primary Schools from September 2020. Sex education is an integral part of Personal, Social and Health Education; it has moral, legal, ethical and cultural dimensions. It is not just concerned with how the human body functions but also explores feelings, sexuality and responsibility towards oneself and others.

Our Intent:

We believe it to be valuable for children to learn how and why they grow, and to:

- understand the importance of healthy relationships both in and outside of the family
- understand that relationships take many forms and that these change as you grow
- know that some relationships are unhealthy and to develop strategies to identify and to seek help for these
- understand that relationships can be different for different people (different sexual orientations) and that families can be different based upon this and other factors (such as lone parents, blended families, foster care)
- understand how bodies change through puberty (science curriculum)
- know that sexual intercourse can result in conception (science curriculum)
- understand the human life cycle, including foetal development and childbirth
- children will be made aware that pregnancy can be prevented through contraception however details of different methods of contraception will not be provided
- give children access to the correct information and vocabulary regarding the human body, changes during puberty and sexual activity

(Please note: RSE education does not promote sexual orientation or sexual activity. It intends to be factual and inclusive.)

Implementation:

This programme is taught within a framework of respect, both for the individual and for the wider community. Children are taught in an age-appropriate, progressive manner which begins with early understanding of emotions, external body parts and hygiene, and builds gradually to the Y4-6 science lessons about puberty and Y6 lessons about reproduction. The wider PSHE curriculum also incorporates teaching about personal risk taking, emotional challenges and managing change.

Children with SEND may follow an adapted curriculum according to their needs. This will be agreed with parents and health professionals as appropriate.

Children are taught in their usual class groups until Y5 and 6 where boys and girls may be taught separately for specific lessons to allow opportunities for more open discussion.

Children will have the opportunity to ask their own questions. This will be done in appropriate ways according to their age. For example during puberty lessons, children will be given the opportunity to ask questions anonymously. Teachers will endeavour to answer questions that are appropriate to a child's age and will discuss any issues with parents.

Teachers may support parents in having conversations about sex and relationships education at home.

Confidentiality will be given where possible and in line with safeguarding policy.

Parents will be given the opportunity to review the resources used for teaching about puberty and sexual intercourse before the lessons are taught. This might take the form of a parent meeting where the videos are shown and parents have the opportunity to ask questions.

Parents' legal right to withdraw children from Relationships Education

Parents who wish to exercise their legal right to withdraw children from the relationships education may do so by writing a letter to the Head Teacher. The Science curriculum is statutory and parents may not withdraw children from these lessons (please see the 'Intent' section above). Where parents have concerns, they should speak to their child's class teacher in the first instance and discuss further with the PSHE Lead and/ Head Teacher as required. If parents wish to withdraw their child from the RSE curriculum, they should do so in writing (e.g. via email) at least two weeks prior to the timetabled teaching, so that alternative arrangements can be made for the child.

Please note that in the case of withdrawal from relationship education, children will still be taught about puberty and reproduction in the context of science. Parents may be given access to teaching materials for use at home where practical. It is common for peers to discuss class topics in their social groups and so parents should be aware that where a child is removed from relationships lessons, the content may still be discussed outside of the controlled classroom environment.

Review Frequency	3 years
Reviewed by	RSE/PSHE
Latest version	November 2022
Approved by	tba by Learning Committee
Next review due	November 2025