

# TRANMERE PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

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## RSE Policy

**Adoption Date: Nov-19**

**Review Date: Nov-22**

*Tranmere Park Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.*

# Relationship and Sex Education Policy for Tranmere Park Primary School

**Author: Helen Beestin**

**Date written: November 2019**

## **Ethos**

Tranmere Park takes its responsibility to provide relevant, effective and responsible RSE to all of its pupils as part of the school's personal, social, health, economic (PSHE) education curriculum very seriously. The school wants parents/carers and pupils to feel assured that RSE will be delivered at a level appropriate to both the age and development of pupils, and safe to voice opinions and concerns relating to the RSE provision.

## **Context – why RSE is important**

We teach Relationships Education as part of our PSHE curriculum. Current regulations and guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) state that, from September 2020, all schools must deliver Relationships Education and RSE to help create a safe school community in which our pupils can grow, learn and develop positive, healthy behaviour for life.

It is essential for the following reasons:

- RSE plays a vital part in meeting the schools' safeguarding obligations as outlined in the updated 'Keeping Children Safe in Education – Statutory guidance for schools and colleges (September 2019)'
- The DfE 2019 statutory guidance states that, from September 2020, all schools providing primary education, must teach Relationships Education
- Children have a right to good quality education, as set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Children are prepared for the physical and emotional changes they undergo at puberty, and learn about relationships
- It enables pupils to learn about safety and risks in relationships
- The teaching of RSE plays an important part in fulfilling the statutory duties the school has to meet through the National Curriculum
- The Department of Health has set out its ambition for all children to receive high quality Relationships and Sex Education in the Sexual Health Improvement Framework (2013), while the Department for Education's paper, The Importance of Teaching (2010) highlighted that 'Children need high quality Relationships and Sex Education so they can make wise and informed choices' (p.46)
- Schools maintain a statutory obligation under the Children Act (2004) to promote their pupils' emotional wellbeing, and of improving their ability to achieve in school and under the Education Act (1996) to prepare children for the challenges, opportunities and responsibilities of adult life. A comprehensive RSE programme can have a positive impact on pupils' health and wellbeing and their ability to achieve, and can play a crucial part in meeting these obligations.

## **Development process**

This policy was produced by Mrs Hodgson (Head Teacher) & H Beestin (PSHE Co-ordinator)

From September 2020, the law requires primary schools to consult on their Relationships Education policy.

Parents/carers are consulted through the use of the website and feedback given at parent forum, discussions with class teachers, Learning Mentor or PSHE co-ordinator. Teaching and non-teaching staff are consulted through monitoring RSE planning and conversations around the developmental stage of the current cohort, and pupils are consulted through pupil voice. Governors are consulted through conversations and their feedback of the written policy. This policy has been approved and adopted by the head teacher and governing body. The member of staff responsible for overseeing and reviewing this policy is: Helen Beestin. It will be reviewed briefly annually and in full every 3 years.

We are committed to the ongoing development of RSE in our school. We will use the following indicators to monitor and evaluate progress:

- a coordinated and consistent approach to curriculum delivery has been adopted,
- the content of the RSE curriculum is flexible and responsive to pupils' differing needs e.g. this can be dependent on the developmental stages and age of the cohort, along with responses from data such as the My Health My School Survey
- children are receiving an entitlement curriculum for Relationships Education in line with DfE national statutory guidance and local guidance
- children are receiving an entitlement curriculum for Sex Education in line with national and local guidance
- there are clearly identified learning objectives for all RSE activities and pupils' learning is assessed using both formative and summative approaches
- opportunities for cross-curricular approaches are being used where appropriate
- policy and practice is revised regularly and involves staff, governors, parents/carers and pupils
- opportunities are provided for parents/carers and members of our community to consider the purpose and nature of our RSE, for example, through parent/carer information sessions/workshops
- a variety of methods are employed to communicate the key points of the policy and curriculum to the community e.g. through the school website

### **Location and dissemination**

This policy document is freely available on request to the whole school community. The policy is referred to in the school prospectus as well as in relevant areas of the curriculum. A copy of the policy can be found on the school website.

### **Definition**

Relationships and Sex Education is learning about the emotional, social and physical aspects of growing up, relationships, sex, human sexuality and sexual health. Some aspects are taught in science, and others are taught as part of personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE).

A comprehensive programme of RSE provides accurate information about the body, reproduction, sex, and sexual health. It also gives children and young people essential skills for building positive, enjoyable, respectful and non-exploitative relationships and staying safe both on and offline.

### **Sex and relationships education (SRE) for the 21st century (2014)**

### **The principles of high quality RSE in our school**

Relationships and Sex Education:

- is a partnership between home and school
- ensures pupils' views are actively sought to influence lesson planning and teaching

- starts early and is relevant to pupils at each stage in their development and maturity
- is taught by people who are trained and confident in talking about issues such as healthy and unhealthy relationships, equality, pleasure, respect, abuse, sexuality, gender identity, sex and consent
- includes the acquisition of knowledge, the development of life skills and respectful attitudes and values
- has sufficient time to cover a wide range of topics, with a strong emphasis on relationships, consent, rights, responsibilities to others, negotiation and communication skills, and accessing services
- helps pupils understand on and offline safety, consent, violence and exploitation
- is inclusive of difference: gender identity, sexual orientation, special educational needs and disability, ethnicity, culture, age, faith or belief, or other life experience
- uses active learning methods, and is rigorously planned, assessed and evaluated
- helps pupils understand a range of views and beliefs about relationships and sex in society which may differ to their own
- teaches pupils about the law and their rights to confidentiality even if they are under 16, and is linked to school-based and community health services and organisations
- promotes equality in relationships, recognises and challenges gender inequality and reflects girls' and boys' different experiences and needs

### **Overall school aims for RSE**

Our approach to RSE consists of a comprehensive and developmental programme of teaching and learning, which is delivered through the Islington Scheme of Work. Our RSE programme has a positive influence on the ethos, learning and relationships throughout the school. Our RSE programme helps pupils to develop the knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes they need to live confident, healthy, independent lives now and in the future.

Through the provision outlined in this policy, the school's overall aims of RSE are to teach and develop the following three main elements:

#### Attitudes and values:

- learn the value of family life, marriage, and stable and loving relationships for the nurture of children
- learn the value of respect, love and care
- explore, consider and understand moral dilemmas
- develop critical thinking as part of decision-making

#### Personal and social skills:

- learn to manage emotions and relationships confidently and sensitively
- develop self-respect and empathy for others
- learn to make choices based on an understanding of difference and with an absence of prejudice
- develop an appreciation of the consequences of choices made
- learn how to recognise and avoid exploitation and abuse

#### Knowledge and understanding:

- learn and understand physical development at appropriate stages
- understand human sexuality, reproduction, sexual health, emotions and relationships
- learn about contraception and support services

- learn the reasons for delaying sexual activity, and the benefits to be gained from such delay, including the avoidance of unplanned pregnancy

In addition to this, we also aim to:

- raise pupils' self-esteem and confidence
- teach pupils to be accepting of the different beliefs, cultures, religions, sexual orientations, gender identity, physical and mental abilities, backgrounds and values of those around them
- support pupils to lead a healthy and safe lifestyle, teaching them to care for, and respect, their bodies
- provide pupils with the right tools to enable them to seek information or support, should they need it
- teach pupils about consent and their right to say no, in an age appropriate manner

The aim of RSE is NOT to:

- encourage pupils to become sexually active at a young age
- promote a particular sexual orientation or gender identity
- sexualise children

### **The wider context of RSE**

The school's RSE programme will:

- be an integral part of the lifelong learning process, beginning in early childhood and continuing into adult life
- be an entitlement for all pupils, including those with additional learning and language needs
- be set within the wider school context and support family commitment and love, respect and affection, knowledge and openness
- recognise that family is a broad concept; not just one model, e.g. nuclear family
- encourage pupils and teachers to share and respect each other's views with cultural awareness and sensitivity
- ensure pupils are aware of different approaches to sexual orientation, without promotion of any particular family structure
- recognise that parents/carers are the key people in teaching their children about relationships, sex and growing up
- work in partnership with parents/carers and pupils, consulting them about the content of programme
- work in partnership with other health professionals and the wider community

RSE contributes to:

- a positive ethos and environment for learning
- safeguarding pupils (Children Act 2004), promoting their emotional wellbeing, and improving their ability to achieve in school
- a better understanding of diversity and inclusion, a reduction in gender-based and homophobic, biphobic, transphobic (HBT) prejudice, bullying and violence and an understanding of the difference between consenting and exploitative relationships
- helping pupils keep themselves safe from harm, both on and offline, enjoy their relationships and build confidence in accessing services if they need help and advice
- reducing early sexual activity, teenage conceptions, sexually transmitted infections, sexual exploitation and abuse, domestic violence and bullying

### **Key rights and responsibilities for Relationships and Sex Education**

The headteacher is responsible for ensuring that RSE is taught consistently across the school, and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from non-statutory components of RSE (see appendix 3)

### **Agreed Language**

Pupils will be taught the anatomical terms for body parts. Slang or everyday terms used in certain social circles will be discussed; this will surround discussion about what is and isn't acceptable language to use. This will be shared with parents via the school policy, which can be accessed on the website.

Year Group	Vocabulary - (Vocabulary may be introduced at the discretion of the maturity of each cohort).
Year 2	Penis, Vagina
Year 4	Puberty, penis, foreskin, testicles, wet dreams, erection, ejaculation, testosterone, sperm, vagina, breasts, periods, menstruation, egg, fallopian tube, womb, uterus, tampons, pads
Year 6	Conception, puberty, pregnancy,, birth, ovary, ovum, egg, fallopian tube, womb, uterus, menstruation, period, vagina, vulva, labia, clitoris, cervix, oestrogen, penis, foreskin, testicles, scrotum, epididymis, sperm, sperm duct, prostate gland, urethra, ejaculation, erection, wet dream, testosterone, sexual intercourse, penetration, make love, pleasure, egg ovum, foetus, zygote, embryo, umbilical cord, amniotic fluid, placenta, amniotic sac, cells, contractions, disease, infection, love, relationship, family, marriage, support, caring, loving, consent, heterosexual, gay, transgender, lesbian, bisexual, homophobic, transphobic, biphobic, homophobia, transphobia, biphobia, HIV

We will consider how pupils who are new to English will be supported in accessing and understanding the language used in RSE lessons.

### **Respectful Language**

The use of respectful language which challenges sexism, homophobia and other forms of prejudice will be established in RSE but will have benefits for the whole school community, both in and out of lessons; it helps to ensure we are a happy and healthy place to learn. The casual use of homophobic, biphobic and transphobic language in school will be challenged and pupils will be made aware that using the word 'gay' to mean something is rubbish is wrong and will not be tolerated. To tackle this, staff might say: 'you've used the word 'gay', but not in the right way.' As a result, pupils will hear references to, for example, 'gay,' 'straight' and different kinds of relationships as part of teaching and assemblies, for example when we talk about rights, respect or relationships.

### **Answering questions**

We acknowledge that potentially sensitive or controversial issues will arise as pupils will naturally share information and ask questions. They will often ask their teachers or other adults questions pertaining to sex or sexuality which go beyond what's being discussed for Relationships

Education. We also acknowledge that children of the same age may be developmentally at different stages leading to differing types of questions or behaviours.

When spontaneous discussions arise, it is guided in a way that reflects the stated school aims and curriculum content for RSE. As a first principle, we answer questions relating to taught, planned curriculum for that age group to the whole class. We answer questions, where appropriate, relating to areas beyond the taught, planned curriculum for that age group, in a sensitive and age appropriate way, only to the pupil or pupils who have asked the question. If a member of staff is uncertain about the answer to a question, or indeed whether they should answer it, they will seek guidance from the RSE leader/Child Protection Officer. Questions may be referred to parents/carers if it is not appropriate to answer them in school. We will also use a question box where questions may be asked anonymously.

When answering questions, we ensure that sharing personal information by adults, pupils or their families is discouraged. Where a question or comment from a pupil in the classroom indicates the possibilities of abuse or risk of harm, teachers will pass this information to the designated person for safeguarding and child protection, in line with school policy and procedures.

Ground rules are essential when discussing sensitive subject matters. Staff will establish clear parameters about what is appropriate and inappropriate in a whole-class setting by:

- speaking in a matter-of-fact way
- encouraging pupils to write down questions, anonymously if desired, and post them in a question box or ask-it basket
- staff will have time to prepare answers to all questions before the next session, and will choose not to respond in a whole-class setting to any questions that are inappropriate or need one-to-one follow up
- if a verbal question is too personal, staff will remind the pupils of the ground rules
- if a question is too explicit, feels too old for a pupil, is inappropriate for the whole class, or raises concerns, staff will acknowledge it and if appropriate discuss later on an individual basis
- staff will not provide more information than is appropriate to the age/developmental level of the pupil
- if staff are concerned that a pupil is at risk of abuse, the designated teacher will be informed and the usual child protection procedures followed

### **Key responsibilities for RSE**

#### **Teaching Staff**

When teaching RSE staff will

- ensure that they are up to date with schools policy and curriculum requirements regarding RSE
- attend and engage in professional development training around RSE provision, including individual and whole staff training/inset, where appropriate
- encourage pupils to communicate concerns regarding their social, personal and emotional development in confidence and listen to their needs and support them
- follow the school's reporting systems if a pupil comes to a member of staff with an issue that they feel they are not able to deal with alone
- ensure that their personal beliefs and attitudes will not prevent them from providing balanced RSE in school

- tailor their lessons to suit all pupils in their class, across the whole range of abilities, faiths, beliefs, culture, gender identity and sexual orientations, including SEND
- ask for support in this from the school SEND coordinator or the RSE Coordinator, should they need it

### **Governors**

The governing body as a whole plays an active role in monitoring, developing and reviewing the policy and its implementation in school. The named link governor for RSE is Hannah Lockwood – Teaching and Learning Sub. When aspects of RSE appear in the School Improvement Plan, a governor will be assigned to reflect on, monitor and review the work as appropriate.

### **Pupils**

All pupils:

- are expected to attend the statutory National Curriculum Science elements of the RSE curriculum and the statutory Relationships Education and Health Education curriculum
- should support one another with issues that arise through RSE by, for example, alerting relevant members of staff to any potential worries or issues
- will listen in class, be considerate of other people's feelings and beliefs and comply with the ground rules that are set in class
- will have the opportunity to talk to a member of staff, in confidence, regarding any concerns they have in school related to RSE or otherwise
- will be asked for feedback on the school's RSE provision through monitoring lead by staff

### **Parents/carers**

The role of parents in the development of their children's understanding about relationships is vital. Parents are the first teachers of their children. They have the most significant influence in enabling their children to grow and mature and to form healthy relationships.

The school will:

- work closely with parents/carers when planning and delivering RSE
- ensure that parents/carers know what will be taught and when, and clearly communicate the fact that parents have the right to request that their child be withdrawn from some or all of sex education delivered as part of RSE
- give parents/carers every opportunity to understand the purpose and content of Relationships Education and RSE
- encourage parents/carers to create an open home environment where pupils can engage, discuss and continue to learn about matters that have been raised through RSE

### **The right to withdraw**

Parents/carers cannot withdraw their child from the statutory sex education content included in National Curriculum for Science which includes content on human development, including reproduction. Parents/carers also cannot withdraw their child from Relationships Education or Health Education because it is important that all children receive this content, covering topics such as friendships, how to stay safe and puberty. However, they do have the right to request that

their child be withdrawn from some or all of sex education delivered as part of the non-statutory RSE, delivered as part of the PSHE curriculum.

Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing to the headteacher. The head teacher will discuss this request with parents/carers and, as appropriate, with the child to ensure that their wishes are understood and to clarify the nature and purpose of the curriculum. This process will be documented to ensure a record is kept.

The head teacher will also discuss with parents/carers the benefits of receiving this important education and any detrimental effects that withdrawal might have on the child. This will 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.

RSE is a vital part of the school curriculum and supports child development and we strongly advise parents/carers to carefully consider their decision before withdrawing their child from this aspect of school life. It is acknowledged however that the final decision on the issue is for the parents/carers to take and the child and family should not be stigmatised for the decision.

The school provides an information leaflet to parents/carers to provide further information on understanding Relationships Education. Support materials for home use will be offered.

## **RSE Provision**

### **Statutory aspects of Sex Education within the National Curriculum Science**

All schools must teach the following as part of the National Curriculum Science; parents/carers do not have the right to withdraw their child/children from this.

#### **National Curriculum Science:**

<p><b>Key Stage 1:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• identify, name, draw and label the basic parts of the human body and say which part of the body is associated with each sense</li> <li>• notice that animals, including humans, have offspring which grow into adults</li> <li>• describe the importance for humans of hygiene</li> </ul>	<p><b>Key Stage 2:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• describe the differences in the life cycles of a mammal, an amphibian, an insect and a bird</li> <li>• describe the life process of reproduction in some plants and animals</li> <li>• describe the changes as humans develop to old age</li> </ul>
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#### **Statutory aspects of Relationships Education:**

<p><b>Families and people who care for me</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• that families are important for children growing up because they can give love, security and stability.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Caring friendships</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• how important friendships are in making us feel happy and secure, and how people choose and make friends.</li> <li>• the characteristics of friendships, including mutual respect, truthfulness, trustworthiness, loyalty, kindness, generosity, trust, sharing interests and experiences and support with problems and difficulties.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• that healthy friendships are positive and welcoming towards others, and do not make others feel lonely or excluded.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
<b>Respectful relationships</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• practical steps they can take in a range of different contexts to improve or support respectful relationships.</li> <li>• the conventions of courtesy and manners.</li> <li>• the importance of self-respect and how this links to their own happiness.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• what a stereotype is, and how stereotypes can be unfair, negative or destructive.</li> <li>• the importance of permission-seeking and giving in relationships with friends, peers and adults.</li> </ul>
<b>Online relationships</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• that people sometimes behave differently online, including by pretending to be someone they are not.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• the rules and principles for keeping safe online, how to recognise risks, harmful content and contact, and how to report them.</li> <li>• how to critically consider their online friendships and sources of information including awareness of the risks associated with people they have never met.</li> <li>• how information and data is shared and used online.</li> </ul>
<b>Being safe</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• what sorts of boundaries are appropriate in friendships with peers and others (including in a digital context).</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• that each person's body belongs to them, and the differences between appropriate and inappropriate or unsafe physical, and other, contact.</li> <li>• how to respond safely and appropriately to adults they may encounter (in all contexts, including online) whom they do not know.</li> <li>• how to recognise and report feelings of being unsafe or feeling bad about any adult.</li> <li>• how to ask for advice or help for themselves or others, and to keep trying until they are heard.</li> <li>• how to report concerns or abuse, and the vocabulary and confidence needed to do so.</li> <li>• where to get advice e.g. family, school and/or other sources.</li> </ul>

### Statutory aspects of Health Education (which apply to RSE)

<b>Health and prevention</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• about personal hygiene and germs including bacteria, viruses, how they are spread and treated, and the importance of handwashing.</li> </ul>
<b>Changing adolescent body</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• key facts about puberty and the changing adolescent body, particularly from age 9 through to age 11, including physical and emotional changes.</li> <li>• about menstrual wellbeing including the key facts about the menstrual cycle.</li> </ul>

### The needs of pupils

We recognise that an interactive approach to RSE will better develop the skills of our pupils and also that it is more likely to meet their needs. We involve pupils in the planning, development and evaluation of their RSE in ways appropriate to their age, stage and development.

We will involve pupils through:

- discussions with small groups of pupils
- questionnaires/surveys (e.g. the My Health My School Survey)
- pre and post assessment activities for RSE

## **Delivery of RSE**

RSE needs to start early so that children learn about different kinds of relationships like families and friendships and so they can recognise if other people make them feel uncomfortable or unsafe.

The Relationships Education, Health education and RSE curriculum we follow within in PSHE is taken from the Islington Scheme of work You, Me, PSHE and is delivered within Year 2, 4 and 6.

## **Topics to be covered**

Pupils receive their entitlement for RSE through the Islington Scheme, which is a spiral curriculum. Sessions are taught during the Spring term in year 2, 4 and 6.

### **Year 2**

- Children will talk about the changes to human and animals through their lives. They will label anatomical parts of the body, including male and female genitalia and the distinguishing differences between boys and girls.

### **Year 4**

- Children will learn about growing and changing. They will identify changes through human life-cycles and understand that change is ongoing and individual. They will discuss personal hygiene and learn about physical changes associated with puberty. They will also learn about wet dreams and menstruation.

### **Year 6**

- Children will learn about healthy relationships and how a baby is made.

## **Working with visitors and other external agencies**

Where appropriate, we may use visitors from external agencies or members of the community to support RSE. Working with external organisations enhances delivery of RSE, bringing in specialist knowledge, which gives different ways of engaging with our pupils.

When using visitors, the school's policy on use of visitors will be used. A teacher will be present throughout these lessons. Visitors will be given a copy of this policy, and any other relevant policies, and expected to comply with the guidelines outlined within it. Our partnership with the local community is also a priority, and we recognise and value its contribution to the RSE programme.

We will ensure that the teaching delivered by the visitor fits with our planned programme and policy. We will discuss the detail of how the visitor will deliver their sessions and ensure that the content is age-appropriate and accessible for our pupils. We will ask to see the materials visitors will use as well as a lesson plan in advance, so that we can ensure it meets the full range of pupils' needs.

We will agree in advance of the session how confidentiality will work in any lesson and how a safeguarding report should be dealt with by the external visitor. It is also important that children understand how confidentiality will be handled in a lesson and what might happen if they choose to make a report.

## **Inclusion, equality and diversity**

We are required by law to comply with relevant requirements of the Equality Act 2010. All pupils are entitled to quality RSE that helps them build confidence and a positive sense of self, and to stay healthy. We include all pupils regardless of their age, sex, race, disability, religion or belief, gender reassignment, or sexual orientation.

All classes include pupils with different abilities and aptitudes, experiences, religious/cultural backgrounds, gender and sexual identities. To encourage pupils to participate in lessons, teachers will ensure content, approach and use of inclusive language reflects the diversity of the school community and helps each and every pupil to feel valued and included in the classroom.

We promote the needs and interest of all pupils. The school's approaches to teaching and learning take into account all needs of the pupils to ensure all can access the full RSE provision. Therefore, we consider:

### **Responding to pupils' diverse learning needs:**

- religious and cultural diversity
- differing gender needs and abilities, including SEND
- diverse sexuality of pupils
- homophobic/transphobic/biophobic bullying and behaviour
- pupil's age and physical and emotional maturity
- pupils who are new to English

### **Ethnicity, religion and cultural diversity:**

Our policy values the different backgrounds of all pupils in school and, in acknowledging and exploring different views and beliefs, seeks to promote respect and understanding. We encourage respect for all religions and cultures. We do not ask pupils to represent the views of a particular religious or cultural group to their peers, unless they choose to do so.

### **Single gender groups:**

Our policy is sensitive to the needs of different groups. For some pupils, it may be more appropriate for them to be taught particular topics in single gender groups. Working in single gender groups can considerably ease concerns about RSE, and help to ensure that pupils receive the RSE to which they are entitled. Single gender groups can also help boys and girls to feel safer and less embarrassed about airing issues and discussing relationships. Where single gender groups are used for pupils, they will always be given time after the sessions to come together, if required, in a controlled environment to share and discuss what they have learnt, before leaving the classroom.

### **Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND):**

RSE helps all pupils understand their physical and emotional development and enable them to make positive decisions in their lives. We ensure that all pupils receive RSE and we offer provision appropriate to the particular needs of our pupils, taking specialist advice where necessary.

Some pupils will be more vulnerable to abuse and exploitation than their peers, and others may be confused about what is acceptable public behaviour. These pupils will need help to develop skills to reduce the risks of being abused and exploited, and to learn what sorts of behaviour are, and are not, acceptable.

## **Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Plus (LGBT+):**

We have a clear duty under the Equality Act 2010 to ensure that our teaching is accessible to all pupils, including those who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or + (LGBT+). Inclusive RSE will foster good relations between pupils, tackle all types of prejudice, including homophobia, and promote understanding and respect, enabling us to meet the requirements, and live the intended spirit, of the Equality Act 2010.

We will deal sensitively and honestly with issues of sexual orientation and identity, answer appropriate questions and offer support. Pupils, whatever their developing sexuality or identity, need to feel that RSE is relevant to them. Teachers will never assume that all intimate relationships are between opposite sexes. Information will be inclusive and will include LGBT people in stories, scenarios and role-plays. We will ensure all pupils can explore topics from a different gender's point of view, and a variety of activities, including practical tasks, discussions, group activities and competitions. We will also ensure that our teaching is sensitive and age appropriate in approach and content.

## **Pupils who are new to English**

The school will take into account the language skills of individual pupils, ensuring that all pupils have equal access to the RSE provision and resources.

## **Resources**

We liaise with the Local Health Authority regarding suitable materials to use with the children. In addition, the Headteacher may liaise with other external agencies regarding appropriate materials to deliver the school SRE programme effectively. Age appropriate children's books on relationships and the human body are kept in our school library. Class teachers, PSHE co-ordinator and our Learning Mentor are responsible for other SRE teaching materials.

## **Resources we will use for RSE are:**

- Channel 4 - Living & Growing series
- Life Support Productions DVD
- Puberty bag
- You, Me, PSHE RSE plans and resources

## **Learning environment and additional non-negotiable ground rules**

Staff are careful to ensure their personal beliefs and attitudes do not influence the teaching of RSE. There are clear parameters as to what will be taught in a whole-class setting, and what will be dealt with on an individual basis.

Our additional, non-negotiable ground rules are:

- Confidentiality: 'what is said in the room, stays in the room' except if anyone mentions something which could be harmful or put them at risk – then will have to pass the information on to help keep them safe
- It's not OK to ask personal questions of each other or the teacher but we can put questions in the box for later.
- Don't use names: if you want to ask about or share a personal story or experience, you can speak in the third person about 'someone I know', 'a friend', 'a situation I've heard about/read about'
- We will try to only ask questions related to what we are learning in the lesson.

- We will use the anatomical terms for the sexual body parts.
- It is ok to say pass / not join in.
- We will respect different opinions, situations & backgrounds.

### **Assessment, recording and reporting in RSE**

Sex and Relationships Education is assessed through regular PSHE assessments. Children take part in pre and post assessments and parents receive information related to PSHE issues taught throughout the year through an annual report.

We hope that the RSE programme will help pupils develop respect for self and others; to communicate their feelings and opinions in a clear and articulate manner, and to have the skills to deal with situations they will face in later life.

### **Monitoring and evaluation**

There is a planned cycle of monitoring at Tranmere Park Primary School. RSE forms part of this monitoring cycle as an element of our PSHE work and all audit and review procedures and findings are scrutinised by the school Leadership Team and the Teaching, Learning and Curriculum sub-committee of the Governing Body.

### **Safeguarding and Child Protection**

Through Relationships Education (and RSE), pupils will begin understand that they have rights over their own bodies. This will also include understanding boundaries in friendships with peers and also in families and with others, in all contexts, including online.

Pupils will be taught how to report concerns and seek advice when they suspect or know that something is wrong. At all stages it will be important to balance teaching children about making sensible decisions to stay safe (including online) whilst being clear it is never the fault of a child who is abused and why victim blaming is always wrong.

Children have the right to:

- say no
- respect their own body
- speak out and know that someone can help

We recognise that children are capable of abusing their peers and that peer on peer abuse can manifest in many different ways, including on-line bullying, sharing inappropriate images, initiation/hazing (an activity expected of someone joining or participating in a group that humiliates, degrades, abuses or endangers them, regardless of a person's willingness to participate) and inappropriate/harmful sexual behaviours.

Our use of the anatomical terms for body parts helps to ensure that children are able to describe abusive behaviours if they need to.

Ground rules at the start of sessions help to establish and maintain a safe learning environment; this is important for good learning to take place, and also contributes to effective safeguarding.

### **Confidentiality in the context of RSE lessons –**

Tranmere Park is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of its pupils and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any visitors who are invited into school to support and enhance the curriculum will follow the planned programme for RSE and copies of the RSE policy will be available prior to their visit.

Although an atmosphere of trust is encouraged, teachers will not offer pupils or parents/carers unconditional confidentiality. Information about behaviour likely to cause harm to the pupil or to others will be passed onto the appropriate agency via our Child Protection Officers – Mrs Hodgson, Mr Beech or Mrs Martin.

Please refer to these additional policies to supplement this one:

- Anti-bullying
- Assessment, Recording and Reporting
- Child Protection/Safeguarding Children (including FGM)
- Confidentiality
- Drug Education
- Equal Opportunities
- E-safety/IT
- First Aid
- Health & Safety
- Pastoral
- Science
- SEN/Inclusion
- Teaching and Learning
- Visitors in School