



RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION

STATEMENT OF INTENT

At Riverside we believe that Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) is an integral part of a child's education. RSE is about understanding the importance of family life, stable and loving relationships and respect for others, love and care. We take care to ensure there is no stigmatisation of any child based on their home circumstances and we do not use RSE as a means of promoting any form of sexual orientation.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

15.1 By means of **Relationships and Sex Education** we aim to teach pupils about:

- a) the physical development of their bodies as they grow to adulthood
- b) respect for the views of others
- c) respect for their own and others' bodies
- d) the importance of family life
- e) relationship issues.

DEFINITION OF RSE

16.1 RSE is lifelong learning about sex, sexuality, emotions, relationships and sexual health. It involves acquiring information, developing skills and forming positive beliefs, values and attitudes. RSE has a key part to play in the personal, social, moral and spiritual development of young people. It begins informally in the home with parents and carers long before any formal education takes place at school. Young people's entitlement to RSE is enshrined in the terms of the Education Act (1996).

DELIVERY OF RSE

17.1 RSE is taught within the personal, social, health and economic (PSHE education) curriculum. Biological aspects are taught within the science curriculum, and other aspects are included in religious education (RE).

17.2 Pupils also receive stand-alone sex education sessions delivered by a trained health professional.

17.3 Across all Key Stages, pupils will be supported with developing the following skills:

- communication, including how to manage changing relationships and emotions
- recognising and assessing potential risks
- assertiveness
- seeking help and support when required
- informed decision making
- self-respect and empathy for others

- recognising and maximising a healthy lifestyle
- managing conflict
- discussion and group work.

17.4 RSE discussions are conducted in a sensitive, confidential manner. However, if a pupil discloses something that is cause for concern, the teacher/staff concerned will deal with the matter in line with the safeguarding policies of the school.

Sexual Behaviour

17.5 At Riverside, it is unacceptable to display any behaviour that would be deemed to be sexual harassment; this includes physical or verbal conduct. It is unacceptable for online behaviour to increase the likelihood of, or cause, harm, such as making, sending and receiving explicit images, using sexual language or viewing/engaging with images promoting sexual violence. It is unacceptable to behave in a sexually violent manner.

17.6 Any negative sexual behaviours or images witnessed or viewed must be reported to a member of staff immediately. Staff must share any reports of this nature with a DSL. Pupils are taught how to report an image or behaviour that makes them feel uncomfortable.

17.7 This policy works together with our Online Safety Policy, Behaviour Policy and Safeguarding Policy as well as policies implemented throughout the school such as curriculum policies and conduct policies. *This list is not intended to be exhaustive*

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

18.1 The governing body will approve the RSE policy and hold the Headteacher to account for its implementation.

18.2 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.

18.3 Staff are responsible for:

- delivering RSE in a sensitive way
- modelling positive attitudes to RSE
- monitoring progress
- responding to the needs of individuals
- responding appropriately to pupils whose parents wish them to be withdrawn from the non-statutory components of RSE.

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

WORKING WITH PARENTS / CARERS AND RIGHT TO WITHDRAW

19.1 Letters are sent to parents to make them aware that their child will take part in RSE discussions and parents will be informed of topics for discussion.

19.2 Parents have a right to withdraw their children from the non-statutory/non-science components of RSE lessons. Requests for withdrawal must be put in writing for the attention of the Headteacher.

19.3 Even when a pupil has been withdrawn from RSE lessons at the request of their parent, if an individual should ask questions at other times, these questions would be answered honestly by staff.