



Approved by Governors:
Review date: February 2027

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) Policy

To be read in conjunction with the PSHE Policy and Relationship Education and Health Education Policy.

Rationale

We define sex education as part of the personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) curriculum in our school. When we inform our pupils through sex education about sexual issues, we do this with regards to morality and individual responsibility, and in a way that allows children to ask and explore moral questions. We do not use sex education as a means of promoting any form of sexual orientation or activity.

Aims and Objectives

We teach children about:

- The physical development of their bodies as they grow into adults.
- The way humans reproduce
- Respect for their own bodies and the importance of sexual activity as part of a committed, long term and loving relationship, involving trust and respect
- The importance of family life
- Moral questions
- Relationship issues
- Respect for the views of other people
- Sex abuse and what they should do if they are worried about any sexual matters
- To give children accurate information in an honest and open manner.

Teaching and Learning Approach

To ensure our Norwood children get the very best teaching in Relationships and Sex Education we have chosen to use an award-winning resource, 1decision. 1decision has been kite-marked by the PSHE association as a quality assured product. The 1decision resources have been created by PSHE and Safeguarding experts together with schools, and most importantly children.

1decision always ensures it is updated in line with both statutory requirements and best practice. It clearly follows OFSTED guidance detailing elements of Intent, Implementation and Impact.

Planning and delivery

In Science lessons, in Key Stage 1, we teach children about how animals, including humans, move, feed, grow and reproduce. In Key Stage 2, we teach about life processes and the main stages of the human life cycle, in greater depth. In Year 5 and Year 6, children will be taught key aspects of puberty and menstrual wellbeing through the Science curriculum and PSHE lessons under Relationship/Health Education. In Year 6, the non-mandatory Relationships and Sex education topic of conception and birth. Using 1decision resources, the education given will be tailored to the age and the physical and emotional maturity of the children.

Establishing a safe learning environment

Girls and boys will be taught in class groups as normal, but single sex groups will be made available if deemed appropriate for the year group. If this occurs, any questions and discussions will be shared with the whole class group afterwards. After watching the 1decision video, all pupils will be encouraged to use the class question box. All will be encouraged to write some form of response, even if they don't have a question, so that no-one feels embarrassed about asking a question in this way. This means that everyone is writing at the same time. All questions will be taken away and reflected upon before responding to the whole class to ensure appropriateness. Pupils will be advised that the way to research this topic is through talking to trusted adults in school and at home and not using the internet. Each Year 6 classroom will display a poster after watching the video clip, giving pupils options if they require more information (speak to teacher, ask a parent, Childline website and phone number).

Confidentiality

Teachers will conduct sex education lessons in a sensitive manner and in confidence. Staff will keep an awareness of child protection issues when dealing with this sensitive subject and any concerns will be dealt with in line with the school's Safeguarding policy.

The Role of Parents

Norwood is well aware that the primary role in children's Relationships and Sex Education lies with parents and carers. We therefore wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents of children at our school, through mutual understanding, trust and cooperation. To promote this objective, we will:

- inform parents about the school's sex education policy and practice;
- answer any questions that parents may have about the sex education of their child;
- take seriously any issue that parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy, or about the arrangements for sex education in the school;
- encourage parents to be involved in reviewing the school policy, and making modifications to it as necessary;
- inform parents about the best practice known with regard to sex education, so that the teaching in school supports the key messages that parents and carers give to children at home;
- We believe that, through this mutual exchange of knowledge and information, children will benefit from being given consistent messages about their changing bodies and their increasing responsibilities.

Year 6 parents will be invited to a meeting outlining the scheme to be followed and there will be an opportunity to watch the 1decision video. Any parents who do not wish their children to participate in this topic may withdraw them at any time, and permission to withdraw will automatically be granted by the head teacher. It would be good practice for the class teacher/head teacher to discuss the request with parents and, as appropriate, with the child to ensure that their wishes are understood and to clarify the nature and purpose of the curriculum. Schools will want to document this process to ensure a record is kept.

Good practice is also likely to include the head teacher discussing with parents the benefits of receiving this important 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 (although the detrimental effects may be mitigated if the parents propose to deliver sex education to their child at home instead).

The Role of the Community

We encourage other valued members of the community to work with us to provide advice and support to the children. In particular, members of the Local Health Authority, such as the school nurse and other health professionals, will be sought if appropriate.

Equal Opportunities and Inclusion

Teaching and resources will be differentiated as appropriate to address the needs of these children in order for them to have full access of the content of Relationship and Sex Education. In Year 6, the non-mandatory Relationships and Sex education topic of conception and birth, will be delivered with consistency, sensitivity and in an honest and balanced way, taking into account, religious, social and cultural issues. For children with SEND, there may be times where additional help and support is needed. There will be provision made for this to meet individual needs.

Consultation Process

This policy will involve the following consultation stages:

Stage 1

Existing policy reviewed by PSHE subject leaders and Pastoral Leader

Policy and additional DFE documents provided to parents for consultation

Stage 2

Parent survey to collect feedback and views, to inform additions to the proposed policy

Stage 3

New draft made available to Head Teacher for comment

New draft policy given to staff for comment

Policy taken to the Governors for acceptance

Relative Policies

Norwood's PSHE and Relationship/Health policies embraces and works in conjunction with this policy.

Monitoring and Reviewing

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Curriculum Committee of the governing body to ensure that it is meeting the needs of the children and support of parents.