

Mountjoy School

Relationship & Sex Education Policy

November 2023



This is a Dorset Council Policy
Reviewed by: Full Governing Board

Date: November 2023
Date of next review: November 2024

1. Aims

The aims of relationships and sex education (RSE) at our school are to:

- Provide a framework in which sensitive discussions can take place
- Prepare pupils for changes to their bodies, puberty, and give them an understanding of sexual development and the importance of health and hygiene
- Help pupils develop feelings of self-respect, confidence and empathy
- Create a positive culture around issues of sexuality and relationships
- Teach pupils the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies

2. Statutory requirements

We must provide relationship education to all our primary aged pupils as per section 34 of the Children and Social work act 2017. However, we are not required to provide sex education but we do need to teach the elements of sex education contained in the science curriculum.

We must provide RSE to all our secondary aged pupils as per section 34 of the Children and Social work act 2017.

In teaching RSE, we must have regard to [guidance](#) issued by the secretary of state as outlined in section 403 of the [Education Act 1996](#).

3. Policy development

This policy has been developed in consultation with staff, pupils and parents. The consultation and policy development process involved the following steps:

1. Staff consultation – all school staff were given the opportunity to look at the policy and make recommendations
2. Parent/stakeholder consultation – parents and any interested parties were invited to look at the policy and make recommendations
3. Pupil consultation – we investigated what exactly pupils want from their RSE
4. Ratification – once amendments were made, the policy was shared with governors and ratified

4. Definition

RSE is about the emotional, social and cultural development of pupils and involves learning about relationships, sexual health, sexuality, healthy lifestyles, diversity and personal identity.

RSE involves a combination of sharing information and exploring issues and values.

RSE is not about the promotion of sexual activity.

5. Curriculum

If pupils ask questions outside the scope of this policy, teachers will respond in an appropriate manner so they are fully informed and don't seek answers online.

Sex education will focus on:

- Preparing boys and girls for the changes that adolescence brings
- How a baby is conceived and born
- The importance of consent
- That pupils have the right to say no to unwanted touch

6. Delivery of RSE

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

Pupils also receive stand-alone sex education sessions normally delivered by their class teacher.

Relationships education focuses on teaching the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships including:

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

These areas of learning are taught within the context of family life taking care to ensure that there is no stigmatisation of children based on their home circumstances (families can include single parent families, LGBT+ parents, families headed by grandparents, adoptive parents, foster parents/carers amongst other structures) along with reflecting sensitively that some children may have a different structure of support around them (for example: looked after children or young carers).

7. Roles and responsibilities

7.1 The governing body

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

7.2 The Headteacher

The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring that RSE is taught consistently across the school, and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from components of RSE

7.3 Staff

Staff are responsible for:

- Delivering RSE in a sensitive way
- Modelling positive attitudes to RSE
- Monitoring progress
- Responding to the needs of individual pupils including meeting the needs of and responding to non-verbal young people with complex learning difficulties
- Responding appropriately to pupils whose parents wish them to be withdrawn from the components of RSE

Staff do not have the right to opt out of teaching RSE. Staff who have concerns about teaching RSE are encouraged to discuss this with the Headteacher.

7.4 Pupils

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

8. Parents' right to withdraw

Parents do not have the right to withdraw their children from relationships education.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the non-statutory/non-science components of sex education within RSE.

Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing using the form found in Appendix 1 of this policy and addressed to the Headteacher.

Alternative work will be given to pupils who are withdrawn from sex education.

A copy of withdrawal requests will be placed in the pupil's educational record.

9. Monitoring arrangements

The delivery of RSE is monitored by the Headteacher and Assistant Headteacher, alongside the PSHE lead through:

- Work scrutiny
- Observations
- Audits
- Monitoring of planning

Appendix 1: Parent form: withdrawal from sex education within RSE



TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENTS / CARERS

| | | | |
|--|--|-------|-------|
| Name of child | | Class | |
| Name of parent | | Date | |
| Reason for withdrawing from sex education within relationships and sex education | | | |
| | | | |
| Any other information you would like the school to consider | | | |
| | | | |
| Parent / Carer signature | | | |
| Authorised by | | | Role: |