

# Relationships and Sex Education Consultation

Thursday 12th January 2023 @ 09:00



# Co-op Academy Princeville

## What is RSE?

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

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



# We have a legal duty to teach RSE

As a primary academy, we must provide relationships education to all children under section 34 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017.

We are expected to offer all children a curriculum that is similar to the National Curriculum including requirements to teach Science. This would include the elements about reproduction contained in the science curriculum, taught in the Year 5 Unit - 'Animals, including Humans'.

In teaching RSE, we're required by our funding agreements to have regard to guidance issued by the secretary of state, as outlined in section 403 of the Education Act 1996.

We also have regard to legal duties set out in:

- Sections 406 and 407 of the Education Act 1996
- Part 6, chapter 1 of the Equality Act 2010
- The Public Sector Equality Duty (as set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010). This duty requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities.

We do not teach Sex Education - at Primary, we are only obliged to teach Relationships Education.

We do not call any of our lessons 'Relationships and Sex Education', as all of the material is taught through other subjects, such as PSHE



# Our Curriculum

Our curriculum is set out as per Appendix 1 of our RSE Policy. This is reviewed on an annual basis.

We have developed the curriculum, over many years, in consultation with parents, children and staff, taking into account the age, needs and feelings of children.

We base our curriculum on the 'Coram Life Education and SCARF ' published curriculum. The chosen content prepares children well for their next stage and for adulthood. We have planned carefully to ensure children build their knowledge in a logical, progressive sequence.

In this consultation, the curriculum has not changed from that which you are used to, have seen before, and have contributed to over time.

Taking into consideration the views of the school community, we have chosen not to teach children about sexual intercourse and how a baby is conceived.

The curriculum will focus on:

- Preparing boys and girls for the changes that adolescence brings

You can find out more here: <https://www.coramlifeeducation.org.uk/scarf/dfe-relationships-health>



# Responding to Questions

Primary-age children will sometimes ask their teachers or other adults questions pertaining to sex or sexuality which go beyond what is set out for Relationships Education.

Given ease of access to the internet, children whose questions go unanswered may turn to inappropriate sources of information.

If difficult questions are asked, teachers are expected to respond in an appropriate manner and inform parents of any conversations dealing with content that falls outside of statutory guidance.

Teachers have received training to deal with these situations.

When responding to questions:

- We will not refuse to answer questions, give limited or misleading answers, or be dishonest with children.
- We will be sensitive, apply what we know about you and our community, and respond sensitively and in an age-appropriate way.
- We will respond to questions in an appropriate context, avoiding publicising questions beyond the pupil or group asking the question.



# The specifics

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 make sure that there is no stigmatisation of children based on their home circumstances:

- Foster/Adoptive Families
- Racially Diverse Families
- Culturally Diverse Families
- Blended Families
- Extended Families
- Childless Families
- Amongst other structures and including combinations of arrangements above



# The specifics (continued)

Children will also learn that parents may be:

- Single
- Adoptive
- Foster
- Same-sex
- Grand-parents
- amongst many others.

We will ensure that the curriculum is taught sensitively, acknowledging that some children may have a different structure of support around them (for example, looked-after children or young carers).

We will actively promote the rights of people who may experience prejudice in their everyday lives, paying attention to the law and relevant legal requirements. We will challenge prejudice and ensure that children understand their legal responsibility not to engage in illegal political activity, such as violent action against people, criminal damage to property, hate crime, terrorism or the illegal use of drugs.



# Delivery

We will teach in a manner which:

- Considers how materials and topics relate to a diverse range of children
- Is sensitive to all children's experiences
- Makes children feel safe, supported and able to engage with the key messages

We will also make sure that children learn about these topics in an environment that's appropriate for them, for example in:

- A whole-class setting
- Small groups or targeted sessions
- Using a variety of formats
- Give careful consideration to the level of differentiation needed





# Right to withdraw

- Parents have a right to withdraw their child from Sex Education lessons
- We don't teach Sex Education
- There is no right to withdraw your child from Relationships Education

Any questions?

