



**Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)  
Policy  
January 2023**

## Why do we teach RSE at Ickford School?

Primary school teachers are in an ideal position to help a child understand growth and development before he or she reaches puberty. A positive relationships education curriculum will put these changes into context and lay the foundation for healthy attitudes towards sexuality in later years.

## Guidelines for RSE

We have based our RSE policy on DfE guidance which states:

RSE is designed to ensure pupils are taught the knowledge and life skills they will need to stay safe and develop healthy and supportive relationships, particularly dealing with the challenges of growing up in an online world.

While we use RSE to inform children about sexual issues, we do this with regard to matters of morality and individual responsibility in a way that allows children to ask and explore moral questions. **We do not** use RSE as a means of promoting any form of sexual orientation and any references to homosexual and transgender relationships are integrated into the curriculum and not taught as standalone units or lessons.

Ickford School has chosen not to teach Sex Education in key stages 1 or 2.

## Aims and Objectives

To ensure children understand:

- What a relationship is.
- What friendship is.
- What family means.
- That there are differences in families and relationships.
- The physical development of their bodies as they grow into adults
- The importance of family life.
- Moral questions.
- Relationship issues.
- Respect for the views of other people.
- Who they can turn to for support.
- The values of kindness, respect and honesty.
- Permission seeking and giving.
- The concept of personal privacy.

We aim to work in partnership with parents, to enable children to develop positive attitudes to all relationships.

## Organisation

We teach RSE through different aspects of the curriculum, including Science, Literacy and Religious Education.

We teach children about relationships, and we encourage children to discuss issues. We teach about parts of the body and how they work, and we explain what will happen to them during puberty. For example, we tell the boys their voices will change during puberty and we explain to girls about menstruation. We encourage the children to ask for help if they need it.

In Science we follow the guidance material in the national curriculum scheme of work for Science. In Key Stage 1 we teach children about how animals, including humans move, feed, grow and that they reproduce, and we also teach them about the main parts of the body. 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/or Year 6 we place a greater emphasis on health education, as many children experience puberty at this age. We liaise with external organisations, when appropriate, about suitable teaching materials to use with our children in these lessons. Teachers do their best to answer all questions with sensitivity and care.

By the end of Key Stage 2, we ensure that both boys and girls know how their bodies change during puberty, what menstruation is, and how it affects women. We always teach this with due regard for the emotional development of the children.

## Who is responsible for teaching RSE?

Each classroom teacher takes responsibility for planning, teaching and assessing RSE for the year groups in their classrooms.

Some external agencies are engaged to support teaching these include:

- The Fire Service
- Thames Valley Police
- Buckinghamshire County Council e-safety team
- National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC)
- Haddenham Cycle Training

## The Role of Parents

Ickford School is aware that the primary role in children's relationships education lies with parents and carers. We wish to build a positive and supportive relationship with parents through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation. In promoting this objective, we:

- Inform parents about the school's RSE policy and practice.
- Answer any questions that parents may have about the RSE teaching to their own child.
- Take seriously any issue that parents raise with teachers or Trustees about this policy or the arrangements for RSE in the school.

- Inform parents about the best practice known with regard to RSE, so that 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.

### The Role of the Headteacher

It is the responsibility of the Headteacher to ensure that both staff and parents are informed about our RSE policy, and that the policy is implemented effectively.

The Headteacher and RSE co-ordinator monitor this policy on a regular basis and report to the Trustees, when requested, on the effectiveness of the policy.

### Withdrawal of children

Parents **do not have the right** to withdraw their children from RSE lessons as we have made the decision not to teach Sex Education. We consider the religious background of all pupils and endeavour to teach appropriately and sensitively.

### Equalities Statement

We have carefully considered and analysed the impact of this policy on equality and the possible implications for pupils with protected characteristics, as part of our commitment to meet the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) requirement to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

### Monitoring and Review

This Policy will be reviewed at least every three years.