



# **Billingham South Community Primary School**

Everybody Prepared and Inspired to be the Best we can be.  
Excellent Relationships.  
Excellent Classrooms.  
Hearts in Billingham and Eyes on the World.

## **Relationships and Sex Education Policy**

**September 2023**

## **RSE Policy September 2023**

The aims of Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) at Billingham South are to:

- Provide a framework in which sensitive discussions can take place
- Prepare pupils for puberty, and give them an understanding of sexual development and the importance of health and hygiene
- Teach pupils the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies
- Help pupils develop feelings of self-respect, confidence and empathy
- Create a positive culture around issues of sexuality and relationships, including the importance of family for the care and support of children
- Help children to understand the consequences of their actions and behave responsibly within relationships
- To be able to recognise unsafe situations, protect themselves and ask for help and support

Billingham South Primary School considers that Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) is an integral part of the Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship and Economic (PSHCE) Education curriculum. We aim to offer pupils a carefully planned programme on human development, relationships, sexuality and family life within a safe, comfortable atmosphere and in a relaxed relationship between teacher and pupil. The programme is set within a moral framework and matched to the pupils' level of maturity.

### **Delivery**

Our RSE education is delivered through the Dimensions PSHE Programme by class teachers. Support and advice is taken from the Relationships and Health Coordinator from Stockton Borough Council where necessary.

### **Relationships Education (Statutory)**

The focus of 3D PSHE in primary school is on teaching the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships, with particular reference to friendships, family relationships and relationships with other children and adults.

3D PSHE teaches pupils, in an age-appropriate way, what a healthy relationship is, enabling them to form a clear understanding of the features of positive relationships that are likely to lead to fulfilment, happiness and security. Pupils learn what friendship is, what family means and who the people are who can support them.

Our school's careful use of 3D PSHE teaches about families in a well-judged and sensitive way, based on a clear knowledge of the pupils and their circumstances, reflecting that some children have different family structures and supportive relationships. They learn how to take turns, how to treat each other with kindness, consideration and respect, the importance of honesty and truthfulness, permission seeking and giving, and the concept of

personal privacy. Establishing personal space and boundaries, showing respect and understanding, including the differences between appropriate and inappropriate or unsafe physical, and other, contact are the forerunners of teaching about consent, which takes place at secondary.

3D PSHE lessons teach pupils about online safety and appropriate behaviour online, including sharing data and ways in which information provided by users may be used negatively.

3D PSHE's Relationship Education encourages the development and practice of resilience and perseverance, self-respect and self-worth. Pupils are also helped to develop personal attributes including honesty, integrity, courage, humility, kindness, generosity, trustworthiness and a sense of justice. In 3D PSHE, this is achieved through a plethora of exciting and innovative learning experiences for in active citizenship.

Pupils are taught about positive emotional and mental wellbeing, including how friendships can support mental wellbeing.

They also learn about safe relationships, focusing on boundaries and privacy and ensuring that they understand that they have rights over their own bodies. This also covers understanding boundaries in friendships with peers, in families and with others, in all contexts, including online. In 3D PSHE, pupils are clearly taught how to report concerns and seek advice when they suspect or know that something is wrong. Of paramount importance is ensuring the balance between informing children about making sensible decisions to stay safe (including online) without frightening them unnecessarily, whilst also making it clear that it is never the fault of a child who is exploited or abused, and why victim blaming is always wrong.

### **Sex Education (Not statutory)**

Sex Education is not statutory in primary schools.

The National Curriculum for science includes subject content in related areas, such as the main external body parts, the human body as it grows from birth to old age (including puberty) and reproduction in some plants and animals.

We use the 3D Sex Education Unit at Billingham South. This is tailored to the age and the physical and emotional maturity of our pupils and supports pupils' ongoing emotional and physical development effectively. We ensure that both boys and girls are prepared for the changes that adolescence brings and, drawing on knowledge of the human life cycle set out in the national curriculum for science, understand how a baby is conceived and born.

We consult parents before their children start Year 5 and 6 about the detailed content of what will be learnt through the 3D PSHE Sex Education unit. We offer parents support in talking to their children about sex education and how to link this with what is being taught in school.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from our sex education lessons. Our head or deputy head teacher will be available to discuss the request with parents to ensure that their wishes are understood and to clarify the nature and purpose of the curriculum, and a record will be kept of this process. The head or deputy head teacher will discuss with parents the benefits of receiving this education and any detrimental effects that withdrawal might have on the child, for example 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. These detrimental effects may, of course, be mitigated if the parents propose to deliver sex education to their child at home instead. If a pupil is excused from sex education, our school will ensure that the pupil receives appropriate, purposeful education during the period of withdrawal.

The 3D PSHE Sex Education teaching and materials are appropriate, having regard to the age and religious backgrounds, and any special educational needs or disabilities of our pupils.

### **Roles and responsibilities**

The governing body

It is the school governors' responsibility to ensure that the policy is developed and implemented. School governors are, in law, expected to give 'due regard' to the SRE 2000 guidance and to maintain an up to date RSE policy which must be made available to parents/carers. (Learning and Skills Act, 2000).

The headteacher

The headteacher is responsible for ensuring that RSE is taught consistently across the school, and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from non-statutory components of RSE.

The headteacher also:

- Ensures that members of staff are given sufficient training, so that they can teach effectively and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity
- Monitors this policy on a regular basis and reports to governors on the effectiveness of the policy

Staff

All staff are responsible for:

- Delivering RSE in a sensitive way
- Modelling positive attitudes to RSE
- Monitoring progress
- Responding to the needs of individual pupils
- Responding appropriately to pupils whose parents wish them to be withdrawn from the non-statutory components of RSE

Class teachers are responsible for teaching RSE at Billingham South.

Teachers will reply to, and answer, children's questions sensitively and openly. They will ensure that balanced information is provided which will take into account the different faiths' views and avoid any negative impressions.

Teachers will need to answer questions that may arise through the direct teaching of sex education, as well as those that may be asked at other times. All questions will be handled sensitively and set within a general context.

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. Questions which teachers feel uncertain about answering should be discussed with a senior member of staff and answered at a later date. Consideration should be given to religious or cultural factors, and to parents' wishes before questions are answered.

### Pupils

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

### Parents

The school is well aware that the primary role in children's RSE lies with parents and carers. We wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents of children at our school through mutual understanding, trust and cooperation. In promoting this objective we:

- Inform parents about the school's RSE policy and practice; this includes informing parents by letter or email before beginning to teach a unit of RSE
- Answer any questions that parents may have about the RSE of their child; this includes providing opportunities for parents to view the resources that are used in lessons
- Take seriously any issue that parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy or the arrangements for RSE in the school
- Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the **non-statutory components** of sex education within RSE. However, this rarely happens as, by working in partnership with parents, they recognise the importance of this aspect of their child's education
- A register of any pupils who are removed from lessons will be kept and distributed to all teachers involved

### **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 components of sex education within RSE.

The science curriculum in all maintained schools also includes content on human development, including reproduction, which there is no right to withdraw from.

Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing addressed to the headteacher.

Alternative work will be given to pupils who are withdrawn from sex education and that child will go to another class for the duration of the lesson.

### **Confidentiality**

Teachers conduct sex education lessons in a sensitive manner. However, if a child makes a reference to being involved, or likely to be involved in sexual activity, then the teacher will take the matter seriously and deal with it as outlined in the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy. Teachers will respond in a similar way if a child indicates that they may have been a victim of abuse or exploitation. If the teacher has concerns, they will draw these to the attention of the designated person responsible for child protection or the headteacher as a matter of urgency. Disclosure of female genital mutilation must be reported to the police (either by the teacher to whom it is disclosed or by the DSL).

Legally, the school cannot offer or guarantee absolute confidentiality. We aim to ensure that pupils' best interests are maintained and try to encourage pupils to talk to their parents or carers to provide support. If confidentiality has to be broken, pupils are informed first and then supported by the designated teacher throughout the whole process.

### **Special Educational Needs**

Pupils with special educational needs will be given the opportunity to fully participate in RSE lessons, and a differentiated program will be provided where necessary, to ensure that all pupils gain a full understanding.

### **Equal Opportunities**

RSE will be given to ensure quality of access for all pupils, regardless of gender, race or disability, so giving equal opportunities and avoiding discrimination.

### **Complaints Procedure**

Any complaints or concerns about the Relationships and Sex Education programme should be made to the class teacher in the first instance. Parents can choose to follow the Billingham South complaints procedure if they feel things are not resolved.

### **Monitoring arrangements**

The delivery of RSE is monitored by the PSHE lead through, for example, work scrutinies, learning walks and lesson observations

Pupils' development in RSE is monitored by class teachers as part of our internal assessment systems.