Seghill First School
Relationship and sex education policy

1. Aims

The aims of relationship and sex education (RSE) at our school 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
- 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

RSE is not compulsory in primary schools. **Primary schools** are required to teach the elements of sex education contained in the science curriculum. As a first school, teaching up to lower key stage 2, we do not teach any elements of sex education.

Please note: National Curriculum 2014: Y2 - notice that animals, including humans, have offspring which grow into adults. They should also be introduced to the processes of reproduction and growth in animals. The focus at this stage should be on questions that help pupils to recognise growth; they should not be expected to understand how reproduction occurs.
When teaching RSE, **primary schools** must have regard to guidance issued by the secretary of state as outlined in section 403 of the Education Act 1996.

In Seghill First School we teach RSE as set out in this policy.

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. Review – a member of staff or working group pulled together all relevant information including relevant national and local guidance;
2. Staff consultation – all school staff were given the opportunity to look at the policy and make recommendations;
3. Parent consultation – parents and any interested parties were invited to annotate a draft edition of our policy and their views were used to inform the final policy;
4. Pupil consultation – we investigated what exactly pupils want from their RSE;
5. 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, 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. 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).

Relationships education will focus on how to form and sustain positive relationships but will also help children identify risks and harms. This can be done without describing the detail of any sexual activity. Similarly, good safeguarding practice requires young people to understand the correct terms for different parts of the body and to be able to confidently use these terms. This can be provided as part of health education and the science curriculum in primary, without describing any detail of sexual activity.

The focus for our relationships education will be on teaching the skills and knowledge that form the building blocks of all positive relationships, supporting our children from the start of their education to grow into kind, caring adults who have respect for others and know how to keep themselves and others safe. The children will be equipped to understands what counts as abusive behaviour and to trust their own instincts about behaviour that doesn't feel right. In addition, children will be taught to understand about bullying, and that this can include derogatory terms relating to sex, race, disability or sexual orientation.

Across all Key Stages, pupils will be supported in developing age-appropriate skills in these key areas-

- Communication, including how to manage changing relationships and emotions;
- Recognising and assessing potential risks, including online;
- Assertiveness;
- Seeking help and support when required, and where to find it;
- Informed decision-making;
- Self-respect and empathy for others, including challenging stereotypes;
- Recognising and maximising a healthy lifestyle;
- Managing conflict;
- Discussion and group work.

These skills are taught within the context of family life and living within a community.

6. Roles and responsibilities

6.1 The governing body

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

6.2 The headteacher

The headteacher is responsible for ensuring that RSE is taught consistently across the school and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from non-statutory components of RSE (see section 7).

6.3 Staff

Our staff will be sensitive to pupils' circumstances, recognizing that families of many forms provide a nurturing environment for children. Teaching will illustrate a wide range of family structures in a positive way, and care will be taken to ensure that children are not stigmatized based on their home circumstances.

Our teaching of primary relationships education will be anchored in an understanding of positive relationships, and will equip our children to keep themselves and others safe, and to recognise and report risks and abuse, including online.

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;
- 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.

6.4 Pupils

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

7. Parents' right to withdraw

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the non-statutory components of RSE. Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing and addressed to the headteacher. A copy of withdrawal requests will be placed in the pupil's educational record. The headteacher will discuss the request with parents and take appropriate action.

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

"Parents have the right to request that their child be withdrawn from some or all of sex education delivered as part of statutory RSE." (Page 6)

"Parents do not have the right to withdraw their pupils from relationships and health education, nor can they be withdrawn from topics taught as part of the science curriculum, including science topics related to puberty or sexual reproduction." Relationships, Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education guidance July 2025.

8. Training

Staff will be trained on the delivery of RSE as it is included in our continuing professional development calendar.
The headteacher will also invite visitors from outside the school, such as school nurses or sexual health professionals, to provide support and training to staff teaching RSE.

9. Monitoring arrangements

The delivery of RSE is monitored by Mrs Lyons (PSHE and RE subject lead) and Miss Chappell (Headteacher) through-

- planning scrutinies;
- learning walks;
- learning observations;
- scrutinies of pupil's books;
- pupil discussions, etc.

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

This policy will be reviewed by Mrs Lyons (PSHE and RE subject lead) and Miss Chappell (Headteacher) annually (or sooner if the need arises). At every review, the policy will be approved by the governing body and the headteacher.

Document Record

Version	Reason for Amendments/Update/Review	Date of Adoption by Seghill First School	Date of next review
1.0	Policy and procedure reviewed and no changes made.	07 February 2024	February 2025
2.0	Policy and procedure reviewed and changes made Para 2 statutory requirements; Para 5 delivery of RSE; Para 6.3 staff; Para 7 parents' right to withdraw.	November 2025	November 2026
2.1	Policy and procedure reviewed and no changes made.	November 2026	November 2027