



THOMAS RUSSELL INFANTS' SCHOOL

Sex and Relationships policy

The Department for Education is introducing compulsory Relationships Education for primary pupils and Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) for secondary pupils from September 2020.

At Thomas Russell Infants' School we believe that effective RSE is essential to enable children to make informed decisions about their lives. The RSE programme is integrated into the PSHE curriculum within the school. RSE is the lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. Pupils should be taught about the society in which they are growing up; to foster respect for others and for difference, and educate pupils about healthy relationships.

We teach RSE through different aspects of the curriculum. Much of this teaching will take place in PSHE and science lessons. Our school uses the Entrust PSHE scheme of work to deliver PSHE and Relationships Education. Other subject areas contribute significantly to children's knowledge and understanding of their own bodies, particularly Science and P.E.

The aims of Relationships and Health Education at our school is to:

- Develop confidence in talking, listening and thinking about feelings and relationships;
- Teach pupils the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies;
- Understand how to keep themselves and their bodies safe;
- Help pupils develop feeling of self-respect, confidence and empathy;
- Help pupils recognise healthy friendships;
- Provide a framework in which sensitive discussions can take place;
- Foster respect for the views of other people.

Legal Requirements

To comply with the Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (England) Regulations 2019, made under sections 34 and 35 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017 which make Relationships Education compulsory for all

pupils receiving primary education. They also make Health Education compulsory in all schools except independent schools.

To comply with the Relationships Education, Health Education and Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) statutory guidance from the DfE (June 2019), issued under s80A of the Education Act 2002 and s403 of the Education Act 1996.

This replaces the Sex and Relationships Education Guidance (2000).

To comply with the requirements to have an up to date relationships policy, developed in consultation with pupils, parents and carers (Education Act 1996) and in line with the DfE statutory Guidance on Relationships Education, RSE and Health Education (June 2019).

RSE is not compulsory in primary schools. However, primary schools are required to teach the elements of sex education contained in the science curriculum.

If primary schools do teach RSE, they must have regard to guidance issued by the secretary of state as outlined in section 403 of the Education Act 1996.⁴

To have due regard to the Equality Act (2010) which requires schools to prevent discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different groups. The protected characteristics that apply to school age children are disability, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender reassignment and maternity.

To fulfil statutory safeguarding duties and ensure any safeguarding issues arising from Relationships teaching are identified and followed in accordance with the school safeguarding policy and Keeping Children Safe in Education (2020, as amended January 2021).

Within the school's Personal, Social and Health Education children learn about:

- Care and respect for themselves and others
- Parts of the body
- Friends and family
- Types of families
- Getting on with others
- Dealing with conflict
- Keeping safe in relation to people
- Other people's feelings
- Gender stereotypes.

In the year 2 Science curriculum it states that pupils should be taught to:

- notice that animals, including humans, have offspring which grow into adults

The additional, non-statutory advice is that:

- pupils 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

At Thomas Russell Infants we do not teach about sex in humans. If an explicit concern is raised, which is not appropriate for teaching in an infant school the teacher will discuss the issue with the parent.

Date: May 2022

Next review: May 2023