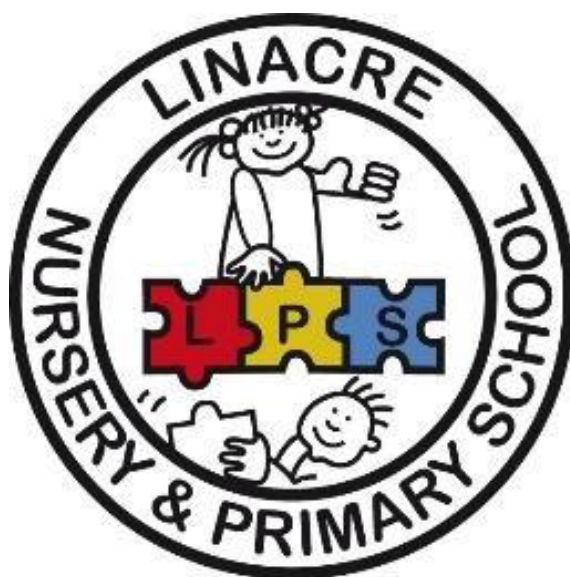


Relationship and sex education policy



Approved by:
J.CONWAY

Date: June 2021

Last reviewed on:
Nov 2019

Next review due by:
June 2022

This policy covers our school's approach to the delivery of Sex and Relationships Education. It was produced in consultation with staff, parents and the school's governing body and will be reviewed annually. The policy will be available to parents through the school's website with paper copies held at the school office.

Linacre Nursery and Primary School is a school that holds values central to all of its work and therefore this RSE policy must be applied in line with the school's values system. This philosophy is essential to this RSE policy and all named parties need to be guided by this principle when applying this policy.

Our school has three commitments that underpin this policy

- To learn
- To be safe
- To show mutual respect

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

Statutory requirements

The Education Act 2002 sets out the statutory duties which all schools, including academies, are required to meet: 'Every state-funded school must offer a curriculum which is balanced and broadly-based and which:

- promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society
- prepares pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life'

The Education Act 1996, as amended by the Learning and Skills Act 2000, requires headteachers and governing bodies to have regard to national guidance on Sex and Relationships Education in schools and to protect children from unsuitable teaching and materials. Under the Children Act 2004 schools have a duty to promote the well-being of their pupils and good quality RSE contributes to this duty.

Further, we recognise that as a school we have a responsibility under The Relationships Education, Relationship & Sex Education and Health Education (England) Regulations 2019, made under sections 34 & 35 of the Children & Social Work Act 2017, to provide comprehensive Relationship Education and Health Education for all pupils receiving primary education. RSE will become statutory in all schools from September 2020. The law requires that Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) is to be taught in all secondary schools in England, and that Relationships

Education is to be taught in all primary schools in England. Primary schools are also required to teach the elements of sex education contained in the science curriculum, and Health Education will also be mandatory in all Government-funded schools, which includes content on puberty.

At Linacre Nursery and Primary School, we teach RSE as set out in this policy.

Policy development

This policy has been developed in consultation with staff, parents and the schools governing body. The consultation and policy development process involved the following steps:

1. Review – a member of staff 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/stakeholder consultation – parents and any interested parties are able to access the policy on the school website and can feedback as they feel appropriate
4. Ratification – once amendments were made, the policy was shared with governors and ratified

Definition

RSE is about the emotional, social and cultural development of pupils, and involves learning about relationships, sexual health, sexuality, 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.

Curriculum and delivery of RSE

Our RSE programme is part of a broader developmental PSHE education programme which is linked to our school curriculum. In science children are taught the biological facts relating to human growth, puberty and reproduction. Other links are made to Computing, which teaches about online safety, and PSHE, which helps pupils to think about the different social contexts, influences and beliefs that affect personal behaviour. PSHE also develops a positive vocabulary and the strategies and skills children and young people need to stay healthy and safe.

The learning outcomes of our programme will be that pupils will;

- know and understand physical development at appropriate stages;
- be able to learn to manage emotions and relationships confidently and sensitively;
- developing self-respect and empathy for others
- understand that they are in control of their bodies.

In the later stages of the programme (upper Key Stage 2), we will ensure that pupils understand that sexual intercourse is an adult activity and that it is an offence for anyone to have any sexual activity with a person under the age of 16. We will respect pupils' unique starting points by providing RSE that is tailored to pupils' different stages of learning, levels of maturity and personal circumstances, e.g. family faith and culture. This approach is in line with the school's SEND Policy and Statement of Equality.

Roles and responsibilities

The governing board

The governing board has delegated the approval of this policy to the Headteacher.

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.

Staff

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.

Pupils

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

Parents' right to withdraw

We provide a letter to parents/carers in year 5 (year 6 this year 2021 due to covid) providing information about the key facts that children will learn about puberty, including menstrual wellbeing which are now part of statutory health education.

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from the non-statutory/non-science 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.

Monitoring arrangements

The delivery of RSE is monitored by the PSHE coordinator through:

Monitoring arrangements which consist of planning and book scrutinies and learning walks.

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

This policy will be reviewed by the PSHE coordinator annually. At every review, the policy will be approved by the Headteacher.

Additional resources

-On periods and menstrual wellbeing: Betty for Schools offers free resources and videos for 8-12 year olds on periods and menstrual wellbeing (www.bettyforschools.co.uk)

-On puberty and the changing body: Growing Up with Yasmine and Tom has interactive lessons on puberty and other RSE topics for £299 a year (www.fpa.org.uk/relationships-and-sex-education/growing-up-with-yasmine-and-tom).

-The Sex Education Forum has lots of free teaching materials on these topics (www.sexeducationforum.org.uk/resources/teaching-resources)

-For further resources on changing body and menstrual wellbeing, visit the PSHE Association's website, where you can search for resources. (www.pshe-association.org.uk/)

