



Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) Policy

LONDON MEED PRIMARY SCHOOL

BRAVERY CURIOSITY RESILIENCE COMMUNITY RESPECT

LONDON MEED PRIMARY SCHOOL | REVIEWED JULY 2022

Aims

At London Meed Primary School we believe that effective relationships and sex education (RSE) can make a significant contribution to the knowledge, skills and understanding needed by pupils if they are to lead confident, healthy, independent lives and to become informed, active and responsible citizens. It is an intrinsic part of the physical, intellectual and emotional growth of an individual. Relationship and sex education is delivered through the PSHE and Citizenship framework, and the Science curriculum. The aims of (RSE) at our London Meed 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

As a maintained primary school, we must provide relationships education to all pupils under section 34 of the [Children and Social Work Act 2017](#).

We are not required to provide sex education, but we do need to teach the elements of sex education contained in the Science curriculum.

In teaching RSE, we must have regard to [guidance](#) issued by the secretary of state, as outlined in section 403 of the [Education Act 1996](#).

We must also have regard to our legal duties set out in:

- Sections 406 and 407 of the Education Act 1996
- Part 6, chapter 1 of the [Equality Act 2010](#)
- The Public Sector Equality Duty (as set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010). This duty requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities

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/stakeholder consultation – parents and any interested parties were invited to contribute to / reflect upon the 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

This process last took place in April 2021.

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.

Our RSE curriculum is set out as per Appendix A, but we may need to adapt it as and when necessary.

We have developed the curriculum in consultation with parents, pupils and staff, and taking into account the age, developmental stage, needs and feelings of our pupils. If pupils ask questions outside the scope of this policy, teachers will respond in an appropriate manner so that pupils are fully informed and don't need to seek answers online.

Primary sex education will focus on:

- Preparing boys and girls for the changes that adolescence brings
- How a baby is conceived and born

Delivery of RSE

RSE is taught within the personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education curriculum, which, at London Meed, is delivered through the Jigsaw scheme of work. Please see the school's PSHE policy for further details of the Jigsaw scheme of work.

Biological aspects of RSE are taught within the Science curriculum, and other aspects are included in Religious Education (RE).

Relationships education focuses on teaching the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships including:

- Families and people who care for me
- Caring friendships
- Respectful relationships
- Online relationships
- Being safe

These areas of learning are taught within the context of family life, taking care to make sure that there is no stigmatisation of children based on their home circumstances (families can include single parent families, LGBT parents, families headed by grandparents, adoptive parents and foster parents/carers, amongst other structures), along with reflecting sensitively that some children may have a different structure of support around them (for example, looked-after children or young carers).

We will also be mindful of the law and legal requirements, taking care not to condone or encourage illegal political activity, such as violent action against people, criminal damage to property, hate crime, terrorism or the illegal use of drugs.

We will teach about these topics in a manner that:

- Considers how a diverse range of pupils will relate to them
- Is sensitive to all pupils' experiences

During lessons, makes pupils feel:

- Safe and supported
- Able to engage with the key messages

Make sure that pupils learn about these topics in an environment that's appropriate for them, for example in:

- A whole-class setting
- Small groups or targeted sessions
- 1-to-1 discussions
- Digital formats

Give careful consideration to the level of differentiation needed

We will consider whether resources we plan to use:

- Are aligned with the teaching requirements set out in the statutory RSE guidance
- Would support pupils in applying their knowledge in different contexts and settings
- Are age-appropriate, given the age, developmental stage and background of our pupils
- Are evidence-based and contain robust facts and statistics
- Fit into our curriculum plan
- Are from credible sources
- Are compatible with effective teaching approaches
- Are sensitive to pupils' experiences and won't provoke distress

Roles and responsibilities

The Governing Board

The governing board will approve the RSE policy, and hold the Head teacher to account for its implementation.

The Head teacher

The Head teacher 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 Head teacher.

RSE is taught by class teachers, as identified on the school's staffing structure, and the Deputy Head teacher.

Training

Staff are trained on the delivery of RSE as part of their induction and it is included in our continuing professional development calendar.

The Head teacher 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.

Monitoring arrangements

The delivery of RSE is monitored by Jake Terrill (Deputy head teacher) through:

- Termly book scrutinies, learning walks and pupil interviews.
- Pupils' development in RSE is monitored by class teachers as part of our internal assessment systems.

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

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the non-statutory components of sex education within RSE.

Parents do not have the right to withdraw their children from relationships education.

At London Meed, puberty is taught as a statutory requirement of Health Education and covered by our Jigsaw PSHE Programme in the 'Changing Me' Puzzle (unit). We conclude that sex education refers to Human Reproduction, and therefore inform parents of their right to request their child be withdrawn from the PSHE lessons that explicitly teach this, i.e. the Jigsaw Changing Me Puzzle (unit):

- Year 4, Lesson 2 (Having a baby)
- Year 5, Lesson 4 (Conception)
- Year 6, Lesson 4 (Conception, birth)

Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing using the form found in Appendix C of this policy and addressed to the Head teacher.

Once a child has been withdrawn they cannot take part in the RSE programme until the request for withdrawal has been removed.

Alternative school work will be given to pupils who are withdrawn from sex education.

Sex and relationships topics can arise incidentally in other subjects, such as Science, and it is not possible to withdraw pupils from these relatively limited and often unplanned discussions.

Other related policies

RSE has clear links with other school policies aimed at promoting pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, including the:

- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Good Behaviour Policy
- Equality and Diversity Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Acceptable use and E-Safety Policies
- RE Policy

- Safeguarding Policy
- Special Educational Needs Policy

Organisation

The school's RSE programme will not be delivered in isolation but will be firmly embedded in relevant curriculum areas including PSHE, Citizenship, RE, Literacy and assemblies.

RSE is normally delivered by class teachers in mixed gender groups. Occasionally, appropriate and suitably experienced and/or knowledgeable visitors from outside school may be invited to contribute to the delivery of RSE in school. London Meed Primary has a code of practice for using visitors to support the delivery of PSHE:

Visitors are invited in to school because of the particular expertise or contribution they are able to make;

- All visitors are familiar with and understand the school's RSE policy and work within it
- All input to PSHE lessons are part of a planned programme and negotiated and agreed with staff in advance
- All visitors are supervised/supported by a member of staff at all times

The input of visitors is monitored and evaluated by staff and pupils. This evaluation informs future planning.

Specific Issues within RSE

Language

During all RSE lessons across KS1 and KS2, the scientific / technical terms for all body parts and functions will be used. Sex-related slang words will be clarified in a factual way and it is made clear to pupils which words are potentially offensive and that from this point onwards, the correct terms will be used. This aims to prevent bullying of children for not knowing definitions and points out the offensive nature of some words.

Teaching Sensitive and Controversial Issues

Sensitive and controversial issues are certain to arise in learning from real-life experience. Teachers will be prepared to handle personal issues arising from the work, to deal sensitively with, and to follow up appropriately, disclosures made in a group or individual setting. Issues that we address that are likely to be sensitive and controversial because they have a political, social or personal impact or deal with values and beliefs include: family lifestyles and values, physical and medical issues, financial issues, bullying and bereavement.

Teachers will take all reasonable, practical steps to ensure that, where political or controversial issues are brought to pupils' attention, they are offered a balanced presentation of opposing views. Teachers will adopt strategies that seek to avoid bias on their part and will teach pupils how to recognise bias and evaluate evidence. Teachers will seek to establish a classroom climate in which all pupils are free from any fear of expressing reasonable points of view that contradict those held either by their class teachers or their peers.

Answering Difficult Questions and Sensitive Issues

Staff members are aware that views around RSE issues are varied. However, while personal views are respected, all RSE issues are taught without bias using Jigsaw. Topics are presented using a variety of views and beliefs so that pupils are able to form their own, informed opinions but also respect that others have the right to a different opinion.

Both formal and informal RSE Education arising from pupils' questions are answered according to the age and maturity of the pupil(s) concerned. Questions do not have to be answered directly and can be

addressed individually later. The school believes that individual teachers must use their skill and discretion in this area and refer to the Designated Safeguarding Lead if they are concerned.

Our school believes that RSE Education should meet the needs of all pupils, answer appropriate questions and offer support. In the Jigsaw sections that cover RSE provision, this should be regardless of their developing sexuality and be able to deal honestly and sensitively with sexual orientation, answer appropriate questions and offer support. The school liaises with parents/carers on this issue to reassure them of the content and context.

Sexual Identity and Sexual Orientation

London Meed Primary believes that RSE should meet the needs of all pupils regardless of their developing sexuality and be able to deal honestly and sensitively with sexual orientation, answer appropriate questions and offer support. Prejudice over protected characteristics is dealt with strongly yet sensitively in line with our Anti-Bullying Policy.

Pupils' Access to Help and Support

The school displays ChildLine posters, and information about any agencies that support the welfare of children is held in the main office. Girls who start their periods at school are given confidential advice and support by members of staff. Girls are aware of the provision of sanitary protection which can be obtained from the school office or the medical room. There is a sanitary bin in the girls' toilets.

Confidentiality and Child Protection/Safeguarding Issues

If a possible safeguarding issue is raised / becomes apparent during the teaching of RSE, the member of staff who has the concern / has had a disclosure made to them, reports to the named Designated Safeguarding Lead who may take action as laid down in the Child Protection Policy. All staff members are familiar with the policy and know the identity of the member of staff with responsibility for Child Protection issues.

Dissemination

This policy is available on our school website where it can be accessed by the community. Training is regularly delivered to staff on the policy content. Hard copies are available from the school office on request from parents/carers.

Policy Review

This policy is reviewed on a 2-year cycle. It will next be reviewed in April 2023.

Appendix A: Jigsaw RSE Content

The grid below shows specific RSE learning intentions for each year group in the 'Changing Me' Puzzle.

Year Group	Piece Number and Name	Learning Intentions 'Pupils will be able to...'	
FS1/2	Piece 3 Growing Up	D4 - Seek out others to share experiences. Show affection and concern for people who are special to them D6 - Explain own knowledge and understanding, and ask appropriate questions of others ELG - Show sensitivity to others' needs and feelings	
	1 Piece 4 Boys' and Girls' Bodies	identify the parts of the body that make boys different to girls and use the correct names for these: penis, testicles, vagina respect my body and understand which parts are private	
	2 Piece 4 Boys' and Girls' Bodies	recognise the physical differences between boys and girls, use the correct names for parts of the body (penis, testicles, vagina) and appreciate that some parts of my body are private	
	3	Piece 1 How Babies Grow	tell you what I like/don't like about being a boy/girl understand that in animals and humans lots of changes happen between conception and growing up, and that usually it is the female who has the baby
		Piece 2 Babies	express how I feel when I see babies or baby animals understand how babies grow and develop in the mother's uterus and understand what a baby needs to live and grow
		Piece 3 Outside Body Changes	express how I might feel if I had a new baby in my family understand that boys' and girls' bodies need to change so that when they grow up their bodies can make babies identify how boys' and girls' bodies change on the outside during this growing up process recognise how I feel about these changes happening to me and know how to cope with those feelings
		Piece 4 Inside Body Changes	identify how boys' and girls' bodies change on the inside during the growing up process and why these changes are necessary so that their bodies can make babies when they grow up recognise how I feel about these changes happening to me and how to cope with these feelings

4	Piece 2 Having A Baby	correctly label the internal and external parts of male and female bodies that are necessary for making a baby
		understand that having a baby is a personal choice and express how I feel about having children when I am an adult
	Piece 3 Girls and Puberty	describe how a girl's body changes in order for her to be able to have babies when she is an adult, and that menstruation (having periods) is a natural part of this
		know that I have strategies to help me cope with the physical and emotional changes I will experience during puberty
5	Piece 2 Puberty for Girls	explain how a girl's body changes during puberty and understand the importance of looking after myself physically and emotionally
		understand that puberty is a natural process that happens to everybody and that it will be OK for me
	Piece 3 Puberty for Boys and Girls	describe how boys' and girls' bodies change during puberty
		express how I feel about the changes that will happen to me during puberty
	Piece 4 Conception	understand that sexual intercourse can lead to conception and that is how babies are usually made
		understand that sometimes people need IVF to help them have a baby
		appreciate how amazing it is that human bodies can reproduce in these ways
	6	Piece 2 Puberty
		express how I feel about the changes that will happen to me during puberty
	Piece 3 Girl Talk/Boy Talk	ask the questions I need answered about changes during puberty
		reflect on how I feel about asking the questions and about the answers I receive
	Piece 4 Babies – Conception to Birth	describe how a baby develops from conception through the nine months of pregnancy, and how it is born
		recognise how I feel when I reflect on the development and birth of a baby
	Piece 5 Attraction	understand how being physically attracted to someone changes the nature of the relationship
		express how I feel about the growing independence of becoming a teenager and am confident that I can cope with this

Appendix B By the end of primary school pupils should know

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Families and people who care about me	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That families are important for children growing up because they can give love, security and stability • The characteristics of healthy family life, commitment to each other, including in times of difficulty, protection and care for children and other family members, the importance of spending time together and sharing each other's lives • That others' families, either in school or in the wider world, sometimes look different from their family, but that they should respect those differences and know that other children's families are also characterised by love and care • That stable, caring relationships, which may be of different types, are at the heart of happy families, and are important for children's security as they grow up • That marriage represents a formal and legally recognised commitment of two people to each other which is intended to be lifelong • How to recognise if family relationships are making them feel unhappy or unsafe, and how to seek help or advice from others if needed
Caring friendships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How important friendships are in making us feel happy and secure, and how people choose and make friends • The characteristics of friendships, including mutual respect, truthfulness, trustworthiness, loyalty, kindness, generosity, trust, sharing interests and experiences and support with problems and difficulties • That healthy friendships are positive and welcoming towards others, and do not make others feel lonely or excluded • That most friendships have ups and downs, and that these can often be worked through so that the friendship is repaired or even strengthened, and that resorting to violence is never right • How to recognise who to trust and who not to trust, how to judge when a friendship is making them feel unhappy or uncomfortable, managing conflict, how to manage these situations and how to seek help or advice from others, if needed

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Respectful relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The importance of respecting others, even when they are very different from them (for example, physically, in character, personality or backgrounds), or make different choices or have different preferences or beliefs • Practical steps they can take in a range of different contexts to improve or support respectful relationships • The conventions of courtesy and manners • The importance of self-respect and how this links to their own happiness • That in school and in wider society they can expect to be treated with respect by others, and that in turn they should show due respect to others, including those in positions of authority • About different types of bullying (including cyberbullying), the impact of bullying, responsibilities of bystanders (primarily reporting bullying to an adult) and how to get help • What a stereotype is, and how stereotypes can be unfair, negative or destructive • The importance of permission-seeking and giving in relationships with friends, peers and adults
Online relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That people sometimes behave differently online, including by pretending to be someone they are not • That the same principles apply to online relationships as to face-to face relationships, including the importance of respect for others online including when we are anonymous • The rules and principles for keeping safe online, how to recognise risks, harmful content and contact, and how to report them • How to critically consider their online friendships and sources of information including awareness of the risks associated with people they have never met • How information and data is shared and used online

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Being safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What sorts of boundaries are appropriate in friendships with peers and others (including in a digital context) • About the concept of privacy and the implications of it for both children and adults; including that it is not always right to keep secrets if they relate to being safe • That each person’s body belongs to them, and the differences between appropriate and inappropriate or unsafe physical, and other, contact • How to respond safely and appropriately to adults they may encounter (in all contexts, including online) whom they do not know • How to recognise and report feelings of being unsafe or feeling bad about any adult • How to ask for advice or help for themselves or others, and to keep trying until they are heard • How to report concerns or abuse, and the vocabulary and confidence needed to do so • Where to get advice e.g. family, school and/or other sources

Parent form: Request for withdrawal from sex education within RSE

TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENTS			
Name of child		Class	
Name of parent		Date	
Reason/s for withdrawing from sex education within relationships and sex education			
Any other information you would like the school to consider			
Parent signature	Parent name:		

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE SCHOOL	
Agreed actions from discussion with parents	
Signed	