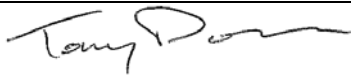




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RSE Policy

Author/Person Responsible	Safeguarding Lead and Governor
Date of Ratification	30/03/17
Review Group	C&C
Ratification Group	Children's Committee
Review Frequency	Annually
Review Date	March 2018
Previous Review Amendments/Notes	
Related Policies	Safeguarding, E-safety, Curriculum
Chair of Governors Signature	



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RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION POLICY

Background

In March 2017, the Department for Education (DfE) issued a policy statement announcing plans to introduce regulations which will make relationships and sex education (RSE) a statutory part of the curriculum. The regulations will also enable the Secretary of State to put Personal, Social, Health and Education (PSHE) on a statutory footing in due course. The new regulations will be accompanied by statutory guidance which schools will have to take into account when setting their policies for these subjects.

Under the regulations, primary schools will only be required to teach **age-appropriate relationships education**. As is now, schools will also have discretion to teach age-appropriate sex education, subject to the right of families to withdraw their children if they so choose.

The Governors, supported by the Head and the senior team, have decided to retain sex education in the curriculum at Bowsland Green because they believe it is important to help pupils learn to respect themselves and others and move with confidence from childhood, through adolescence, into adulthood. RSE will be taught progressively, ensuring that lessons are always age-appropriate, and designed to give pupils a good foundation for further learning in secondary school.

The DfE's timetable envisages draft regulations and guidance being issued for consultation in Autumn 2017. Following consultation, the regulations will come into effect in time for the academic year 2019-20. Until then, Bowsland Green Team have consulted with families and Governors and this document has been approved as an interim policy.

Aims

- To teach the importance of loving and equal relationships
- To develop confidence in talking, listening and thinking about relationships, including celebrating the variety of family make-ups
- To give pupils a scientific understanding of reproduction and birth
- To teach pupils the correct names for body parts and how their bodies work
- To give pupils an understanding of how and why their bodies change and prepare them for puberty
- To ensure that pupils know how to keep themselves safe and ask for help, including assistance with personal hygiene
- To make purposeful links between RSE and other areas of the school curriculum, such as PSHE, Citizenship and Religious Education

General approach

- Working in partnership with families is recognised as essential in supporting pupils in the development of their understanding of relationships and reproduction



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- An informal opportunity will be given to families each year, ahead of the teaching, to come to the school to see the RSE teaching materials including the Curriculum Overviews for each session. This will give families an opportunity to be fully informed to support their children afterwards
- A family has the right to withdraw their child from all or part of the sex education element in RSE by notifying the Head Teacher by letter or email, although it is hoped that families will only take such a decision after seeing the RSE teaching materials and curriculum overviews
- All aspects of the RSE curriculum will be taught having regard to what is age-appropriate for the pupils concerned and respond to the particular needs of all pupils
- The RSE curriculum will be taught over 6 weeks with a 40 minute lesson each week with a clear learning focus
- A member of staff familiar to the pupils will lead all RSE lessons – supply teachers will not be asked to do so
- Teachers will encourage positive celebration to the variety of family make-ups represented in the school
- A culture of safety and trust will be promoted in the classroom so that pupils feel confident to ask questions and take part in discussions. Children will also be made aware and agree, through a code of conduct, that this content is to be discussed within these sessions, with teachers or at home, and not with peers from other younger year groups at school.
- Pupils will be able to post RSE questions in a sealed question box at any time during the term
- Any RSE questions raised by pupils which require more than a scientific explanation or are a sensitive nature will not be answered by teachers but referred to their families for discussion

Curriculum content

- The detailed content of the RSE curriculum, coverage by each year group, and the topic areas where boys and girls will be taught separately, are set out in the attached appendix.
- In addition, an appendix of key vocabulary used with pupils is provided in an additional appendix. *(Please note, this is not included on our school website and is available from the school office)*

Evaluation and review

During 2018, families, pupils and staff will be asked for their views on the way RSE is taught in the school. These views will be borne in mind by governors and senior staff when reviewing this interim policy following publication of regulations and guidance by the DfE. This will result in an improved policy which reflects feedback from the school community and complies with the new statutory requirements.