

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) Policy

<u>Person Responsible:</u>	Barry New
<u>Date of Review:</u>	February 2023
<u>Next Review Due:</u>	February 2024

Rationale

All children and young people need to know how to be safe and healthy and how to manage their personal and social lives in a positive way. The aim of RSE is to give young people the information they need to help them develop healthy, nurturing relationships of all kinds, not just intimate relationships. (DFE Statutory Guidance, RSE September 2021))

The nature of the learning disabilities for the vast majority of pupils at Oaklands means that they are particularly vulnerable to exploitation and therefore the concept of social safety underpins the core of RSE. **At Primary (New Oaks)**, this starts with pupils being taught the fundamental building blocks of positive relationships, including friendships, family relationships, and relationships with other children and adults. Where appropriate, **and at age appropriate (Secondary- High Oaks)** pupils will also develop their knowledge and understanding of intimate and sexual relationships and facts about sexual health. **This policy will also include information about a parent's right to request that their child be excused from sex education within RSE only.**

Aims and Objectives

For pupils to be able to:

- ◆ Develop confidence in communicating and thinking about feelings and relationships
- ◆ Be able to name parts of their body and describe how their bodies work
- ◆ Be prepared for puberty
- ◆ Understand the basic changes that happen during puberty
- ◆ Understand how to keep their bodies healthy and clean
- ◆ Understand how to keep themselves and their bodies safe
- ◆ Understand the consequences of their actions and behave responsibly within sexual and pastoral relationships
- ◆ Understand the meaning of consent
- ◆ Be aware of and respect the difference in human sexuality

Curriculum Delivery

RSE will mainly be delivered through the PSHEC curriculum and the SoSafe programme, with most of the content based on the learning outcomes for Primary schools, as laid out in the DFE's statutory guidance for RSE (2021).

At Primary level, pupils will work on developing an understanding and awareness of themselves and others. This includes developing their senses, body awareness, recognition of body parts, and early social skills.

At Secondary level, pupils will work towards developing their awareness of gender differences and of how living things grow and change. They will work towards developing an awareness of the importance of family and friends and on developing co-operative skills.

Pupils will work towards developing their understanding of public and private (body parts and places), appropriate greetings, issues relating to growing up, including body changes in puberty (pupils' individual needs in relation to RSE for example menstruation and masturbation will be addressed at whatever age they occur). Wherever appropriate, pupils will be taught about the

changes that will happen to their bodies before they start to occur, in order for pupils to be better prepared. Pupils will also work to further develop their awareness of feelings and emotions and their ability to make choices. For some older pupils, particularly in sixth form, aspects of developing intimate and sexual relationships, including contraception and resisting pressure to have sex (and not applying pressure), may also be taught where this is appropriate. **As with all teaching, Oaklands will ensure that their teaching is sensitive, age-appropriate, developmentally appropriate and delivered with reference to the law**

Delivery of RSE

Pupils will be grouped according to their individual needs and ability. RSE can occur in a whole group, small group or one to one teaching situation. RSE for all stages will be planned and delivered by class staff, with support from the PSHEC coordinator when needed.

Resources

There are several PSHCE resource boxes, stored in the SEMH cupboard, which contain activity packs and objects including anatomically correct dolls, pictures, and videos that are appropriate for teaching RSE. There is also a wide range of electronic resources (worksheets, PowerPoint presentations, pictures, etc.) stored on Staff Shared in the PSHEC folder. We may also request help from outside agencies such as Image in Action who deliver training on RSE to school staff and work alongside class staff in the delivery of RSE.

Equal Opportunities

The school is committed to the provision of RSE to all of its pupils and the differing needs of boys and girls. Our programme aims to respond to the diversity of children's cultures, faiths and family backgrounds. All staff are expected to give every pupil the chance to experience, participate and achieve the understanding of RSE.

Oaklands School 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.

Parents

Parents are the key people in teaching their children about relationships and sex, maintaining the culture and ethos of the family and helping their children cope with the emotional and physical aspects of growing up. Parents need support in their role as relationship and sex educators. At Oaklands, we work in partnership with parents through daily contact via the home/school books and through regular parents' events led by the school's family support worker. Parents can consult with the class teacher and/or member of the senior leadership team regarding all aspects of RSE at Oaklands. They also have the right to information about the content of the school RSE policy and the right to the withdraw their children from **all or part of sex education delivered as part of statutory RSE but not relationships or health education.**

Right to be excused from sex education (commonly referred to as the right to withdraw)

Parents have the right to request that their child be withdrawn from some or all of sex education delivered as part of statutory RSE. Before granting any such request a senior leader will discuss the request with parents and, as appropriate, with the child to ensure that their wishes are understood and to clarify the nature and purpose of the curriculum. Oaklands will document this process to ensure a record is kept.

A senior leader will also discuss with parents the benefits of receiving this important education and any detrimental effects that withdrawal might have on the child. This could include any social and

emotional effects of being excluded, as well as the likelihood of the child hearing their peers' version of what was said in the classes, rather than what was directly said by the teacher. Although the detrimental effects may be mitigated if the parents propose to deliver sex education to their child at home instead.

Once those discussions have taken place, except in exceptional circumstances, the school should respect the parents' request to withdraw the child, up to and until three terms before the child turns 16. After that point, if the child wishes to receive sex education rather than be withdrawn, Oaklands will make arrangements to provide the child with sex education during one of those terms. However; there may be exceptional circumstances where the headteacher may want to take a pupil's specific needs arising from their SEND into account when making this decision. **There is no right to withdraw from Relationships Education or Health Education.**

Parents/carers were consulted about the RSE policy in the summer term of 2020 through an online survey, where they were given the opportunity to express their views about the proposed policy and delivery of RSE at Oaklands School, including suggestions for content they would like to see changed, removed or added to the policy. Responses were evaluated and taken into account in the writing of the final draft of this policy.

Chair of Committee:

Print Name

Date: