



Great Massingham & Harpley
CE Primary Schools Federation
Living, Learning & Flourishing

Sex and Relationships Education Policy

Policy produced by	Headteacher	
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Reviewed and approved by	Governing body	
Next review due	June 2025	
Published on website	Yes	No

Background Information

This policy will be developed by the school PSHE Coordinator through a variety of consultation methods involving pupils, parents/carers, staff, governors and the school health adviser. All views will be taken into account when developing this policy and the Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) programme.

Policy Statement

RSE is a lifelong learning process of acquiring information, developing skills and forming positive beliefs and attitudes about sex, sexuality, relationships and feelings (Sex Education Forum 1999).

Effective RSE can make a significant contribution to the development of the personal skills needed by pupils if they are to establish and maintain relationships. It also enables young people to make responsible and informed decisions about their health and well-being.

The 1996 Education Act consolidates all relevant previous legislation and states that all primary schools must provide an up to date policy that describes the content and organisation of RSE provided outside the National Curriculum Science Order. The DfEE Sex and Relationship Education Guidance (2000) supports this legislation and recommends that all primary schools should have a sex and relationship education programme tailored to the age and physical and emotional maturity of the children.

Other related policies and documents include the PSHE & Citizenship policy, Anti-Bullying Policy, Drug Education Policy, Whole School Safeguarding Policy and the Race Equality Policy.

Aims and Objectives

This policy is a working document which provides guidance and information on all aspects of RSE in the school for staff, parents/carers and governors. To be accessible to all of these groups the document needs to be available on request and presented in a way that is easy to understand.

Moral and Values Framework

The RSE programme at the Great Massingham and Harpley C of E Primary Federation reflects the schools' ethos and demonstrates and encourages the following values:

- Respect for self;
- Respect for others;
- Responsibility for their own actions;
- Responsibility for their family, friends, schools and wider community.

Equal Opportunities Statement

The federation is committed to the provision of RSE to all of its pupils. Our programme aims to respond to the diversity of children's cultures, faiths and family backgrounds.

Equal time and provision will be allocated for all groups but there may be occasions where pupils with Special Educational Needs are given extra support from SEN staff.

Content

In Key Stage 1 pupils learn to recognise similarities and differences between themselves and others, identify and share their feelings with each other, recognise safe and unsafe situations and identify and be able to talk to someone they trust.

In Key Stage 2 pupils learn to express their opinions about relationships and bullying and to listen to and support others, including respecting other people's viewpoints and beliefs. They learn to recognise their own worth and identify positive things about themselves and try to balance the stresses in life in order to promote their own mental health and well-being of others. Life processes are discussed including the physical changes that take place at puberty, why they happen and how to manage them.

Organisation

RSE should not be delivered in isolation but firmly embedded in all curriculum areas, including Personal, Social Health Education (PSHE) and citizenship. At the Great Massingham and Harpley C of E Federation, the main content is delivered in PSHE lessons in Key Stage Two.

RSE is normally delivered by class teachers and teaching assistants in mixed gender groups. Active learning methods which involve children's full participation are used.

Occasionally, appropriate and suitably experienced and/or knowledgeable visitors from outside school may be invited to contribute to the delivery of SRE in school. The Great Massingham and Harpley C of E Federation invites 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 SRE policy and work within it;
- 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.

Elements of the sex education in the science curriculum are assessed formally. Evaluation of the RSE programme outside the science order is conducted using a variety of informal activities which have been built into the programme. Teachers are required to keep their own personal evaluation of each lesson which is used by the coordinator to inform future planning.

Liaison procedures are already in place with the main secondary school in the area. Discussions on RSE are included.

The Great Massingham and Harpley C of E Federation believes in the importance of training for staff delivering SRE. Staff are encouraged to access appropriate training and support to help them deliver effective RSE.

Specific Issues within RSE

Withdrawal

Parents/Carers currently have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the sex and relationships education provided at school except for those parts included in statutory National Curriculum. This will change from September 2020, when parents will no longer be allowed to withdraw their child from the Relationships teaching component of RSE. Those parents/carers wishing to exercise this right are invited in to see the Headteacher who will explore any concerns and discuss any impact that withdrawal may have on the child. Once a child has been withdrawn they cannot take part in the RSE programme until the request for withdrawal has been removed.

Materials are available to parents/carers who wish to supplement the school SRE programme or who wish to deliver RSE to their children at home.

Confidentiality

As a general rule a child's confidentiality is maintained by the teacher or member of staff concerned. If this person believes that the child is at risk or in danger, she/he talks to the named child protection coordinator who may confer with the headteacher before any decision is made.

The child concerned will be informed that confidentiality is being breached and reasons why. The child will be supported by the teacher throughout the process.

Child Protection

The school has a separate Whole School Safeguarding Policy. Effective RSE may bring about disclosures of child protection issues and staff should be aware of the procedures for reporting their concerns. As part of our PSHE programme, the schools receive a 'Speak out, Stay safe' visit from the NSPCC at least every two years. It aims to equip children with the knowledge and understanding they need to stay safe from abuse and neglect. Children are taught to speak out if they are worried, either to a trusted adult or Childline. This is delivered via an assembly and a workshop.

Controversial and Sensitive Issues

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

Dealing with Questions

Both formal and informal RSE arising from pupils' questions are answered according to the age and maturity of the pupil 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 Child Protection Coordinator if they are concerned.

Sexual Identity and Sexual Orientation

The Great Massingham and Harpley C of E Federation 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. Homophobic bullying is dealt with strongly yet sensitively. The school liaises with parents on this issue to reassure them of the content and context.

Dissemination

All staff members and governors have access to the RSE policy. Training is regularly delivered to staff on the policy content. A copy is available on request.

The PSHE coordinator facilitates the gathering of policy feedback from parents, staff and pupils every two years.