



Arden Grove Infant and Nursery School Relationships and Sex Education Policy

This policy was created and ratified by the Trust Board in:	September 2020
The policy owner is:	Arden Grove Infant & Nursery School
This policy will be reviewed by the Trust Board in: (earlier review than the usual 3 years is recommended by the Trust)	September 2023
Policy Version:	V1.2
Signed: Chair of AG	

This policy covers Arden Grove Infant and Nursery School's approach to teaching relationships and sex education (RSE). It will be reviewed every three years, or sooner if the RSE curriculum is amended, in response to emerging themes, changing pupil needs, or introduction of new legislation and guidance.

The policy has been shared with parents & carers, via email and there will be access to it on the school website. If a hard copy of the document is required, the school will be happy to provide this upon request. The school will work with parents requiring the policy in an alternative format, ensuring equitable accessibility for all.

Values, aims and objectives:

Relationships and sex education (RSE) is learning about the emotional, social and physical aspects of growing up, relationships and reproduction. It will equip children and young people with accurate information, positive values and the skills to enjoy healthy, safe and positive relationships, to celebrate their uniqueness and to take responsibility for their health and wellbeing now and in the future.

RSE is taught in a way, which is complementary to the wider ethos, values and principles of our school. RSE in this school is learning about the body, feelings, beliefs, relationships, rights and responsibilities and knowing how and when to ask for help if needed. It involves acquiring information; developing skills and forming positive beliefs, values and attitudes. We teach many aspects of the RSE curriculum through a scheme called Jigsaw. This scheme is used weekly across Reception to Year 2, with elements of the themes being incorporated into the daily running of the school too. Jigsaw comprises of six units of work with each lesson in the unit having two aims, one specific to relationships and health education and the other to develop emotional literacy and social skills. To ensure complete coverage of the 2020 RSE requirements, we have also used additional resources produced by Education Solutions.

Another aspect of our curriculum, which compliments RSE, is our Online Safety overview. This is something, which is embedded into the schools ethos and taught as a standalone lesson every half term. We have used the Government framework 'Education for a Connected World' to base this curriculum around.

RSE empowers children to build self-esteem, offer positive and open views, support mutual respect and celebration of self and others, providing a strong foundation to be successful in life by:

- Providing a spiral curriculum, allowing for the development of knowledge relevant to the age and stage of the learner.
- Providing an inclusive learning environment, which is safe and empowering for everyone involved, based on the belief that bullying, prejudice and discrimination is unacceptable.
- Teaching non-biased, accurate and factual information that is positively inclusive.
- Developing character skills to support healthy and safe relationships, ensure comfortable communication about emotions, bodies and relationships using appropriate terminology.

- Promoting critical awareness of differing attitudes and views presented through society, the media and peers to enable the nurturing of personal values based on respect.
- Providing protection from shock or guilt.
- Actively involving pupils as evaluators to ensure relevance.
- Ensuring pupils are informed of their rights, including the legal framework and how to access confidential help to keep themselves and others safe

The RSE curriculum has been planned with the needs of the pupils in mind. This ensure the needs of all pupils can be met through the delivery of an age and stage-appropriate curriculum. The curriculum addresses traditional and emerging issues and relevant challenges as identified by pupils. Consultation with pupils will be conducted on a regular basis during Pupil Voice and PSHE lessons and as the need arises. This will inform the RSE curriculum review, ensuring it remains responsive to emerging needs.

Some elements of the RSE curriculum are a statutory requirement to teach in order for the school to meet the Governments draft 2018 Regulations and The Equalities Act, 2010. It is important to teach RSE through a spiral curriculum. This means pupils will gain knowledge, develop values and acquire skills gradually by re-visiting core themes to build on prior learning. This developmental approach helps pupils to make informed decisions relevant to their age and stage. RSE will support the school's commitment to safeguard pupils, preparing them to live safely in the modern world.

Our intended RSE curriculum is detailed as follows but may vary in response to emerging issues and to reflect the rapidly changing world in which our pupils are living and learning. If this is the case parent/carers will be provided with appropriate notice before the amended programme is delivered. Where possible the curriculum will be complemented by themed assemblies, standalone sessions, topic days and cross curricular links. The key themes are (in line with the Jigsaw scheme

- Being Me in My World
- Celebrating Difference
- Dreams & Goals
- Healthy Me
- Relationships
- Changing Me

The RSE programme will be led by the PSHE coordinator and taught by class teachers and supported by school nurses, visitors and outside agencies. All staff involved in the delivery of RSE will follow the curriculum overview to ensure pupils are taught with consistent approaches to RSE throughout their time at Arden Grove Infant and Nursery School.

RSE will be taught using a range of teaching methodologies including story-telling, drama, discussions, quizzes, games, group tasks, debating, independent research and artistic presentations etc. This wide range of teaching strategies promotes engagement by all pupils, irrespective of preferred learning styles. The use of characters (a distancing technique) within RSE, avoids pupils feeling under pressure to participate or disclose information beyond that which is appropriate or feels comfortable. This

strategy makes RSE more accessible to all pupils, including those who may have experienced unhealthy relationships and/or abuse. The school’s responsibility to safeguard pupils through a curriculum that prepares them to live safely in the modern world will remain central to curriculum content, teaching methodologies and supporting resources.

At Arden Grove Infant and Nursery School, we actively celebrate the diversity of our pupils, their families and the wider whole school community. RSE will always be taught in a non-judgemental, non-biased and fully inclusive manner through clear, impartial, scientific information as well as covering the law. Through consultation, continual assessment and regular reviews of the curriculum, we ensure that we continually recognise and respect pupils’ different abilities, levels of maturity and personal circumstances including gender identity, faith or culture and that of their family, friends and the wider whole school community.

In every lesson, pupils will be provided with an opportunity to ask questions as a class and can also ask anonymous questions if preferred. Teachers will answer questions as fully as they feel age and stage-appropriate, based on the level of knowledge demonstrated by pupils during the lesson. Teachers may ask a pupil to wait for a response to a question if they need time to consult with a colleague, or the school leadership team, to construct an appropriate answer. Teachers can refuse to answer a question that they feel is inappropriate. Teachers will not answer personal questions about their own body, personal circumstances or lifestyle choices. If a teacher does not answer a question, the pupil will have the reasons for this decision clearly explained. The teacher will work with the pupil to identify suitable sources of information, where they can safely obtain an answer to their question

Where appropriate, teachers will signpost pupils to information relevant to the topic being taught to ensure safe sources of information, advice and guidance are provided. Where relevant, support and links will be shared via our regular communication links with parents and carers. As part of our safeguarding commitment all staff have responsibility to be responsive to pupils’ social, emotional and pastoral needs. Safeguarding arrangements can be actioned efficiently if required. If the school has any reason to believe a pupil is at risk of harm, all staff are required to respond in accordance with the school’s safeguarding policy.

Teachers will review pupils’ learning at regular points. This will ensure that pupils are making sufficient progress building on prior teaching and learning and that teaching strategies and resources remain relevant and effective. Assessment activities will be implicit, forming part of a normal teaching activity to ensure that pupils do not feel under pressure. Any teaching and learning assessments will be shared with pupils and parents as appropriate.

RSE is most effective when it is a collaboration between school and home. The school will provide support to parents and carers if required. The school operates an open-door policy enabling parents to discuss RSE at relevant times throughout the school year.

Policy created: September 2020
To be reviewed: September 2023

Governors approved