

RSE/Puberty Parent Information Morning



Aims of the session

- Increase parental awareness of what is taught in RSE lessons
- Understand why RSE is taught in schools
- Clarify how RSE is taught in schools

Housekeeping



What is RSE?

- RSE stands for Relationships and Sex Education
- RSE forms part of the PSHE (personal, social, health and economic) curriculum.
- It is taught throughout the year, lessons are structured into the school timetable
- PSHE is taught all year, relationships lessons are taught in the summer term
- CtS has been teaching comprehensive Relationships Education for many years.
- Content is age appropriate and child friendly
- It is a key part of safeguarding

- **Relationships education is often misunderstood. It is important to remember that when we refer to relationships in primary school we are thinking about family and friendships.**
- Relationships can happen offline and online, children today grow up in a world that has limited distinctions between the offline and online setting.
- The key focus is always around teaching children and young people how to be respectful, be kind to others and keep themselves and others safe.
- Children and young people will witness relationships which may look different to their own experiences, therefore our curriculum must reflect the diversity that exists in today's society. When teaching inclusively, we also promote respect and tolerance; while relationships (whether it be family types or friendships) may look different, we always promote the values that make quality relationships which are trust, love and security.



Statutory Policy

The RSHE policy was published in 2019 and was made statutory September 2020, the policy was the first update to relationships education policy in 20 years. It builds on much of what was already being covered in schools.

- In Year 6 **one** of the three relationships education lessons is about the human reproductive system – a sex education topic
- As there is no statutory requirement to teach sex education in primary schools parents have the right to withdraw their child(ren) from that one sex education lesson in Year six
- Children will still learn about reproduction through the science curriculum
- The one lesson in Year 6 that is considered a sex education topic is primarily focused on reproduction. It has built on knowledge that has been taught since KS1 which teaches children about boys and girls bodies, in KS2 they begin to understand puberty and the individual reproductive systems of men and women. The final lesson brings this knowledge together.
- Children who are removed will be likely to ask their peers about the lesson and we cannot control what is being shared. In the classroom, it is a safe and controlled environment.

Why else do we teach RSE in school?

- Develop confidence in talking, listening and thinking about feelings and relationships.
- Practice relationship skills such as empathy, resilience, respect and communication skills
- Challenge misconceptions presented in the media
- Children are able to name parts of the body and describe how the body works. This normalises the changes they experience growing up.
- Have the skills, language and confidence to protect themselves.
- Are prepared for puberty.

RSE and Safeguarding

Universal
language
spoken by all

Consent-
Appropriate
and
inappropriate
touch

Promotes
healthy
relationships

Links to
online safety



Frequently Asked Questions

What if my religious beliefs are different to the messages taught in the curriculum?

The curriculum ensures young people can develop safe and healthy relationships. Relationships which begin with family and friends.

In line with our teaching on the Fundamental British Values, we encourage young people to be respectful and tolerant of others. Children should be able to recognise and accept differences so they are prepared for the range of people they will meet.

We have students from diverse communities so we recognise the protected characteristics of the Equality Act to ensure that our curriculum is inclusive of all groups.

We do not promote or favour any types of relationships. We ensure children recognise that while relationships or families may look different, family is about those who love, support and care for us.

Frequently Asked Questions

What language do you use when talking about bodies?

Children are taught biologically correct information and terminology reflects this. It is a way to safeguard children that they are using the correct terms for their body.

We encourage parents to continue to use this language at home referring to the penis and testicles for boys and the vulva and vagina for girls.

Children are taught the biological differences between the male and female sex. Issues of gender identity are not openly explored in the PSHE/RSE primary curriculum however would be addressed on an individual case if they were appropriate to the student.

Frequently Asked Questions

What if I have questions about withdrawing my child from sex education lessons?

Relationships and Health education is statutory.

We encourage all children to participate in all RSE lessons as a way of safeguarding them and challenging misconceptions students see in the media and hear from peers.

We cannot guarantee that children will not hear mis-information from peers if they were to be withdrawn.

As addressed in our policy, we ask you to raise your concerns with the Headteacher who will be happy to share any resources with you before finalising your decision.

Your child will remain in school but will be moved to a different classroom if they are withdrawn.

Sophie Gunnion Lasek video

Emotional changes during puberty.

