



Relationships and Sex Education Policy

Morecambe Road School

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Introduction:

Our children who attend Morecambe Road are between 3 and 16 years of age and have a range of learning needs including moderate to severe learning difficulties, communication difficulties and social communication needs. All of our children have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

Our Vision & Aims:

At Morecambe Road School, our vision is for our children to become independent, resilient young people, with a love of learning and confidence in their own abilities. RSE is an important part of our curriculum and plays a fundamental role in achieving our overall aims.

Our Aims:

1. To provide a balanced, individualised curriculum, rich in diversity and life skills that facilitates independent learning;
2. To support, facilitate and celebrate each child's unique strengths and abilities;
3. To form and maintain highly positive working relationships with parents, carers, the local community and multi-agency partners;
4. To uphold a collaborative approach in building a young person's self-confidence and resilience in order to face future challenges;
5. To inspire our children to be happy, healthy and ready to learn;
6. To ensure a wholly inclusive environment, that embraces difference and promotes tolerance and respect for the whole school community.



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Statutory Requirements:

The Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education (England) Regulations 2019 made under sections 34 and 35 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017 make Relationships Education (RE) compulsory for all pupils receiving primary education, and Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) compulsory for all pupils receiving secondary education. The regulations also make Health Education compulsory in all state funded schools.

The sex education contained in National Curriculum science (Key Stages 1 and 2) is compulsory in maintained schools. All state-funded schools must have 'due regard' to the Secretary of State's guidance on SRE (DfEE, 2000). This states that:

- 'All children, including those who develop earlier than average, need to know about puberty before they experience the onset of physical changes' (1.13).
- Children should learn 'how a baby is conceived and born' before they leave primary school (1.16).

Section 2.1 of the National Curriculum framework (DfE, 2013) states: 'Every state-funded school must offer a curriculum which is balanced and broadly based and which:

- promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society
- prepares pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.'

Equality

The Equality Act 2010 covers the way the curriculum is delivered, as schools and other education providers must ensure that issues are taught in a way that does not subject pupils to discrimination. Schools have a legal duty to promote equality (Equality Act, 2010) and to combat bullying (Education Act, 2006) (which includes homophobic, sexist, sexual and transphobic bullying) and Section 4.2 of the national curriculum (2014) states "Teachers should take account of their duties under equal opportunities legislation that covers race, disability, sex, religion or belief, sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity, and gender reassignment."

Morecambe Road School is an inclusive school where we place a strong focus on the wellbeing and progress of every child and where all members of our community are of equal worth. We aim to ensure all pupils are treated fairly, with no discrimination or bullying. RSE has clear links with other school policies aimed at promoting pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, including the:

- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Positive Relationships & Behaviour Policy
- Confidentiality Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy
- Teaching & Learning Policy
- SMSC Policy



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- PSHE Policy

Definition:

Sex and relationships education is learning about the emotional, social and physical aspects of growing up, relationships, sex, human sexuality and sexual health. Some aspects are taught in science, and others are taught as part of personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE).

A comprehensive programme of SRE provides accurate information about the body, reproduction, sex, and sexual health. It also gives children and young people essential skills for building positive, enjoyable, respectful and non-exploitative relationships and staying safe both on and offline (SRE for the 21st Century, Supplementary Advice to the Sex and Relationship Education Guidance DfEE, 2014).

Curriculum Content & Delivery

At Morecambe Road School we are aware that Relationships Education and RSE are particularly important subjects for our pupils who may be more vulnerable to exploitation, bullying and other issues due to the nature of their SEND.

RSE is taught as part of our weekly personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education lessons. Biological aspects of RSE are also taught within the science curriculum, and other aspects are included in our Religious Education (RE) curriculum and Computing curriculum.

We are committed to delivering high quality lessons that are differentiated and meet the specific needs of our pupils by ensuring our teaching is sensitive, age-appropriate and developmentally appropriate. At Morecambe Road School, we use the PSHE Association 'Planning Framework for Pupils with SEND KS1-KS4'. The Planning Framework provides teachers with a spiral PSHE education programme where they are free to use it flexibly, adapting it to the unique needs and abilities of their learners. The focus is on the quality of learning; providing opportunities for pupils to explore, recognise and understand the subject content. This helps to ensure pupils develop the essential skills and attributes identified in the Framework, including key communication skills, vocabulary, strategies and the confidence to help manage issues when they encounter them (knowing how to seek help when necessary).

Some KS4 classes will also have the opportunity to complete AQA Unit Awards and/or WJEC Entry Pathways: Personal & Social Development as part of their PSHE and SRE Education.

Relationships Education (Primary)

Relationships Education will put in place the building blocks needed for positive and safe relationships, including with family, friends and online. Your child will be taught what a relationship is, what friendship is, what family means and who can support them. In an age-appropriate way, we will cover how to treat each other with kindness, consideration and respect.

By the end of primary school, pupils will have been taught content on:

- families and people who care for me
- caring friendships



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- respectful relationships
- online relationships
- being safe

Health Education (Primary & Secondary)

Health Education aims to give your child the information they need to make good decisions about their own health and wellbeing, to recognise issues in themselves and others, and to seek support as early as possible when issues arise.

By the end of primary school, pupils will have been taught content on:

- mental wellbeing
- internet safety and harms
- physical health and fitness
- healthy eating
- facts and risks associated with drugs, alcohol and tobacco
- health and prevention
- basic first aid
- changing adolescent body.

Relationships and Sex Education (Secondary)

Relationships and Sex Education will build on the teaching at primary. It aims to give young people the information they need to help them develop healthy, nurturing relationships of all kinds. We will cover content on what healthy and unhealthy relationships look like and what makes a good friend, colleague and successful marriage or committed relationship. At the appropriate time, the focus will move to developing intimate relationships, to equip your child with knowledge they need to make safe, informed and healthy choices as they progress through adult life.

By the end of secondary school, pupils will have been taught content on:

- families
- respectful relationships, including friendships
- online media
- being safe
- intimate and sexual relationships, including sexual health

Further information about the RSE curriculum content and delivery can be requested from the school at any time.

Parents 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 Relationships and Sex Education” DfE Guidance p.17

Parents/Carers have the right to request that their child be withdrawn from some or all aspects of sex education, but not from relationships education. This right becomes that of the child 3 terms before their 16th birthday.



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If parents wish to withdraw their child from any or all aspects of the Sex Education curriculum, they should write to the Headteacher outlining their concerns. The School will then discuss their reasons for withdrawal or particular concerns and will be happy to share full information on the approaches, resources used and reasons for teaching these areas. It is hoped that this procedure will prevent any misunderstandings arising about Relationships and Sex education at Morecambe Road School. Should parents wish to withdraw their child from any or all aspects of sex education, alternative arrangements will be made within school whilst these aspects are being taught. This will usually mean the child joining another class group for that specific period of time. It is important to note that relationships education and the biological aspects of human sexual behaviour are covered in National Curriculum Science. Parents are not entitled to withdraw their children from this teaching.

The DfE Guidance 2019 (p.23) recommends that all primary schools 'have a sex education programme tailored to the age and the physical and emotional maturity of the pupils'. At Morecambe Road School, we believe that all pupils should have access to an age appropriate and developmentally appropriate sex education programme to enable pupils to:

- Listen to and develop an understanding of factual information about human reproduction, sexuality and sexual health that will help them make appropriate and responsible decisions in these areas.
- Be provided with the correct scientific terminology and taught how to use it in the right context.
- Develop an understanding and knowledge of their physical selves including preparation for puberty.
- Develop an understanding of their physical and emotional reactions to different situations and encourage expression of their feelings in an appropriate manner.
- Be respectful of themselves and others to enable them to move confidently through childhood, adolescence into adulthood.
- Have the understanding to develop and maintain positive and healthy relationships.
- Make responsible, informed and healthy choices about their lives now and in the future.
- Develop the knowledge and skills that enables them to recognise and counter sexually abusive situations and relationships that are abusive by association.

Roles & Responsibilities (including Subject Monitoring)

The Headteacher

The Headteacher is responsible for managing requests to withdraw pupils from Sex Education.

Primary and Secondary PSHE Subject Leads

The PSHE Subject Leads are responsible for:

- Updating and reviewing policies.
- Monitoring progress in RSE.
- Completing work scrutiny to ensure high-quality RSE lessons are being delivered across the school and good RSE curriculum coverage.
- Requesting CPD to develop their subject knowledge.

Teachers



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It is the teacher's responsibility to:

- Deliver RSE in a sensitive way.
- Respond to the needs of individual pupils.
- Assess RSE using the PSHE B Squared assessment tracker and/or external accreditations for KS4 to monitor pupil progress.
- Ensure lessons and resources are differentiated, age-appropriate, developmentally appropriate and accessible to all learners.
- Request CPD to develop their subject knowledge.
- Offer Parents/Carers the opportunity to speak/meet with the class team to discuss RSE lessons and share resources at the request of Parents/Carers.

Staff do not have the right to opt out of teaching RSE. Staff who have concerns about teaching RSE are encouraged to discuss this with the Headteacher.

Policy Development, Monitoring & Review

This policy has been developed in consultation with staff, pupils and parents. The consultation and policy development process involved the following steps:

- **Reviewed & Developed:** A member of staff pulled together all relevant information, including relevant national and local guidance.
- **Staff consultation:** All school staff were given the opportunity to look at the policy. The draft policy was made available for one month and staff were invited to share their views and make recommendations.
- **Parent/Carer consultation:** Parents/Carers were emailed a copy of the draft policy and could request a hardcopy. The draft policy was made available for one month and parents were invited to share their views and make recommendations.
- **Pupil consultation:** We used Pupil Voice to listen to their views, wishes and experiences in PSHE lessons.
- **Ratification:** After one month, Parent/Carer/Staff views and recommendations were reviewed and amendments were made where necessary. This policy was shared with governors and ratified.

Reviewer: Lead Teaching Practitioner

**Approved by the Full Governing Body: S Mainwaring (CoG)
and Anna Dootson (Headteacher)**

Date: 26 March 2025