

Dane Royd Primary School Frequently Asked Questions about Relationships and Sex Education.

What is Relationship and Sex Education?

Relationships and sex education (RSE) is learning about the emotional, social and physical aspects of growing up and relationships. It should equip children and young people with the information, skills and positive values to have safe, fulfilling relationships.

What is taught in Relationship and Sex Education?

The new Government guidance sets out the content under the following headings: 'Families and people who care for me', 'Caring friendships', 'Respectful relationships', 'Online relationships', 'Being safe'.

There is widespread agreement that children need to be able to recognise abusive behaviour and to know how to seek help if they are worried about abuse or experience it. The new guidance states that by the end of primary school all children should know: 'how to report concerns or abuse, and the vocabulary and confidence needed to do so'.

Relationships Education should promote equal, safe and enjoyable relationships and be taught in a way which fosters LGBT and gender equality, in line with the Equalities Act 2010. The new Government guidance is compatible with this.

What is taught in Sex Education?

In the new Government guidance DfE continues to recommend that all primary schools 'have a sex education programme tailored to the age and the physical and emotional maturity of the pupils'.

The guidance continues: 'Schools are to determine the content of sex education at primary school. Sex education 'should ensure that both boys and girls are prepared for the changes that adolescence brings and - drawing on knowledge of the human life cycle set out in the national curriculum for science - how a baby is conceived and born'.

Health Education will be mandatory in all primary schools in England from September 2020. Health Education includes a section for primary and secondary schools on puberty, the changing adolescent body, menstrual wellbeing and the menstrual cycle.

Relationships Education, Health Education, science and sex education work together to protect children by ensuring they have knowledge of their bodies, the human life-cycle, emotions, acceptable behaviour and right and wrong.

Why is it important to teach Relationships and Sex education in Primary schools?

The public sector Equality Duty came into force on 5th April 2011 and requires that public bodies (including schools):

- Have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination
- Advance equality of opportunity
- Foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities. (Government Equalities Office 2013, p1)

This makes it clear that promoting some of the protected characteristics of the Equality Act while ignoring others is against UK law.

What is covered in teaching about equality?

It is teaching about:

- Difference
- Acceptance
- Tolerance
- Diversity
- How to challenge discrimination

Teaching about equality helps our children to prepare for the next stages in their lives.

Will my child be taught sex education at Primary School? Is this too young?

Sex education at Primary school is not compulsory. However, compulsory Relationships Education is being introduced in Primary schools from September 2020, to put in place the building blocks needed for positive and safe relationships of all kinds. This will start with family and friends, how to treat each other with kindness, and recognising the difference between online and offline friendships.

At Dane Royd Primary School we will continue to teach sex education which focuses on puberty and reproduction. This is only part of the Science National

Curriculum for Y5 and Y6. As it is part of the science national curriculum, it is compulsory and parents do not have the right to withdraw in these lessons.

With regards to teaching sex education beyond that outlined in the science curriculum, we have made the decision that this is not something which is in the interest of our children. If parents feel this is something which may benefit their child, then they are welcome to approach the class teacher or Senior Leadership Team who will signpost them or provide them with the necessary resources.

Do I have a right to withdraw my child from Relationships and Sex Education?

In a Primary School, you have the right to withdraw from any sex education lessons that go beyond that of the science national curriculum. There is no right to withdraw from Relationships Education at Primary or Secondary school as the contents of these subjects - such as family, friendship, safety (including online safety) - are important for all children to be taught.

Does the new Relationships Education and RSE curriculum take account of my faith?

The RSE curriculum is designed to help children from all backgrounds build positive and safe relationships, and to thrive in modern Britain. All pupils have a right to an education which enables them to flourish and is set in a learning community where differences of lifestyle and opinion are treated with dignity and respect. We are teaching about equality. We understand and respect all faiths.

Has the government listened to the views of my community in introducing these subjects?

The Government undertook a wide public consultation which involved discussions with over 90 organisations, as well as the public consultation on the draft regulations and guidance. This has informed the key decisions on these subjects.

Will these subjects promote LGBT relationships?

No, these subjects don't 'promote' anything, they educate. We are teaching about equality. Our school ethos says that we are respectful of everyone. We value ourselves and all others: This means that if someone is black, they are welcome

in our school; if someone uses a wheelchair, they are welcome in our school; if someone is gay they are welcome in our school. Pupils should be taught about the society in which they are growing up. These subjects are designed to foster respect for others and for difference, and educate pupils about healthy relationships.

RSE should meet the needs of all pupils, whatever their developing sexuality or identity - this should include age-appropriate teaching about different types of relationships in the context of the law. In our school the teaching of LGBT will primarily be delivered through teaching about different types of family, including those with same sex parents. In addition to this in Upper Key Stage, lessons focusing on equality and discrimination will also cover LGBT discussions. All our planned learning will be taught in an age appropriate way.

Are primary children too young to be taught about gay or lesbian people?

Some children grow up in families with gay or lesbian people. We want all of our children to know that their family is normal and accepted in school. Our children will interact with people from different backgrounds we want them to treat all members of the community with the same respect.

Just like racism, school has a duty of care to challenge any language that may cause offence to others, whether used intentionally or not. Phrases such as "that's so gay" or "that's a girls/boys toy" when used in a negative manner may unintentionally cause offence to a child or adult. School will challenge this language if it is used by children, parents or visitors as we want everyone to feel welcome.

LGBT is not statutory at Primary schools, so why are you teaching it?

Although it is not statutory, the guidance for primary schools encourages and enables the teaching of LGBT in an age appropriate way.

We want our children to grow up respectful and tolerant members of our community. As they grow up, make more friends, watch tv, go to different places, they will meet people who are gay or transgender. We want them to understand that this is okay that some children when they grow up may be gay. We don't want children growing up thinking something is wrong with them or with people they recognise who are gay or transgender.

How will we know what is being taught so I can talk to my child about it at home?

Our school website will be our main point of contact. Termly progression maps will outline the objectives and vocabulary used in the weekly lessons. There are also questions to support conversations at home. As always, if you feel you need further clarification, then please speak to your child's class teacher.