

**KING'S WOOD SCHOOL AND NURSEY**  
**RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION POLICY**

**School Ethos**

At King's Wood School and Nursery we are committed to providing a holistic approach to education which aims to support the academic, cultural, personal and social development of all our pupils.

**Aims**

The aims of Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) are to:

- Prepare pupils for puberty, and give them an understanding of sexual development and the importance of health and hygiene
- Provide a framework in which sensitive discussions can take place
- Create a positive culture around issues of sexuality and relationships
- Teach pupils the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies

**Implementation**

RSE sits within the wider context of PSHE and Relationships Education and will be taught as part of this curriculum.

While RSE in our school means that we give children age appropriate information about growing and changing and sexual behaviour, we do this with an awareness of the moral code and values which underpin all our work in school. In particular, we teach RSE in the belief that:

- RSE should be taught in the context of stable relationships and family life;
- RSE is part of a wider social, personal, spiritual and moral education process;
- Children should be taught to have respect for their own and other people's bodies;
- It is important to build positive relationships with others, involving trust and respect.

The theme 'Changing Adolescent Body' is part of the PSHE Curriculum.

The national curriculum for science also includes subject content in related areas, such as the main external body parts and the human body as it grows from birth to old age including the changes experienced in puberty. As part of this we will be teaching children the correct anatomical names for external genitalia from Reception onwards. This helps to avoid confusion if there is a medical issue. There is also research to suggest that children who have an understanding of the correct vocabulary are less susceptible to abuse.

Parents do not have the right to withdraw your child from science lessons on these aspects

RSE lessons on puberty take place in Years 5 and 6 and are specific lessons within our 'Growing and Changing' units. They allow the children the opportunity to ask questions beyond the basic science element, discuss the changes that will soon be happening to their bodies and voice concerns.

**Parent's right to withdraw**

Parents' have the right to withdraw their children from the non-science components of RSE. Parents will be sent information prior to RSE lessons taking place, giving details of the content, so they are able to make an informed decision.

Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing and addressed to the Headteacher. A copy of withdrawal requests will be placed in the pupil's educational record. The Headteacher will discuss the request with parents and take appropriate action.

Alternative work will be given to pupils who are withdrawn from RSE.

## **Managing Difficult Questions**

All aspects of RSE are underpinned by shared and understood ground rules with lessons being delivered in a safe and well managed environment. Pupils are encouraged to ask questions and raise issues in a respectful and appropriate manner.

Some questions or issues raised may not be appropriately answered in whole class lessons and these will be followed up separately on an individual or group basis. A question box is available for pupils who do not feel confident to ask questions or wish to have a separate conversation with a member of staff.

We also respect that some questions are better addressed at home with parents/ carers and the school will share information with parents/carers on an individual basis should the need arise.

## **Confidentiality**

Teachers conduct RSE in a sensitive manner and in confidence. Pupils will also be advised that information discussed within RSE lessons is confidential and not to be shared with pupils outside of the class. All pupils will sign a class contract outlining a code of conduct during lessons and the expectations around confidentiality.

However, if a child makes a reference to being involved, or likely to be involved in sexual activity, then the teacher will take the matter seriously and deal with it as a safeguarding issue. Teachers will respond in a similar way if a child indicates that they may have been a victim of abuse. In these circumstances the teacher will talk to the child as a matter of urgency. If the teacher has concerns, they will draw their concerns to the attention of the Designated Safeguarding Lead. They will then deal with the matter in consultation with health care professionals. (See the Child Protection Policy.)

## **CPD**

To ensure staff are confident to deliver all aspects of RSE they will be provided with appropriate training in accordance with the school's CPD programme for staff development.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

It is the statutory responsibility of the governing body to ensure the school has a compliant and up to date RSE policy. The Governing Body are required to approve the policy and hold the Headteacher to account for its implementation.

The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring RSE is taught consistently across the school.

The quality of provision will be monitored by the SLT in line with the school's Monitoring and Evaluation policy.

The Headteacher is responsible for managing requests with regards to the parental right to withdraw from non-statutory Sex Education.

**Agreed:** 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2021

**Reviewed:** 25<sup>th</sup> January 2022

**Reviewed:** 24<sup>th</sup> January 2023

**Next Review Date:** January 2024