



BENSHAM MANOR School

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) Policy

Last reviewed: March 2020

(Draft)



INTRODUCTION

This policy has been written with reference to the Personal, Social and Health Education Association's core themes of Health and Wellbeing, Relationships and Living in the Wider World. We deliberately refer to Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) rather than Sex and Relationships Education (RSE) as we believe that the development of positive, healthy relationships is the cornerstone of a civilised society and will ensure that our pupils grow up respecting themselves and others.

WHAT IS RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION (RSE) AT BENSHAM MANOR SCHOOL?

RSE focuses on understanding the importance of stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care for family life. It involves acquiring information, developing skills, understanding and positive attitudes and values. RSE is not Sex Education, which is provided through science lessons and focuses on the biological information surrounding reproduction. Sex Education is part of the National Curriculum and pupils cannot be withdrawn from this subject.

Parents will continue to have a right to request to withdraw their child from sex education delivered as part of RSE in secondary schools which, unless there are exceptional circumstances, will be granted up to three terms before their child turns 16. At this point, if the child themselves wishes to receive sex education rather than be withdrawn, the Bensham Manor School will make arrangements for this to happen in one of the three terms before the child turns 16 - the legal age of sexual consent. If parents would like to withdraw their child from sex education delivered as part of RSE, then in the first instance, we would encourage parents / carers to contact the appropriate Key Stage Manager to discuss their concerns, given that the teaching of RSE is done in an appropriate way and focuses on the level of understanding and needs of the individual pupil. If parents/carers still wish for their child to be withdrawn from the activity they should make this request in writing to the Head Teacher.

Bensham Manor School is committed to empowering young people with RSE and will provide parents and carers with advance information about RSE lessons. There is no right to withdraw from Relationships Education at Bensham Manor as we believe the contents of these subjects – such as family, friendship, safety (including online safety) – are important for all children to be taught.

AIMS OF THIS POLICY

1. To adopt a child-centred approach to the teaching of RSE as part of the PSHE Curriculum through the provision of a safe, secure and comfortable environment in which pupils can begin to comprehend the world around them.
2. To dispel any misconceptions acquired through social media or otherwise, ensuring that pupils at Bensham Manor School will form their own attitudes and opinions and develop healthy and appropriate behaviours towards relationships and sex.
3. To explore a range of attitudes towards gender stereotyping and sexual orientation, whilst not promoting any specific sexual activity or orientation.
4. To enhance a young person's communication skills to allow them to be more assertive, manage conflict and identify signs of an unhealthy relationship.

The school will:

1. Provide objective, factual information about the human body and its changes, including information about consent, reproduction, contraception and puberty.
2. Start RSE education at an early age in an appropriate way - promoting personal space, good hygiene and teaching positive relationships to ensure later topics do not present as unfamiliar or uncomfortable.
3. Provide opportunities to discuss moral issues and everyday scenarios to engage with the views and options of others, encouraging empathy skills.
4. Develop pupils' self-esteem and assertiveness skills and increase their awareness of sources of help and support as well as pupils' confidence to use them.
5. Provide factual information concerning this aspect of their development and the Law.
6. Offer opportunities to challenge misconceptions, prejudice and ignorance within an atmosphere of trust and support, free from embarrassment and stigma.
7. Teach RSE in ability groups, differentiated to the level of understanding of individual pupils.
8. Work in partnership with health professionals, social workers, nurses and mentors to ensure access to appropriate support and advice for the pupils.

MORAL VALUES AND FRAMEWORK

The personal beliefs and attitudes of staff members delivering this aspect of the curriculum will not affect the delivery or content of the lessons in a way that is not compatible with the school ethos. At Bensham Manor School we see knowledge as something to be valued, therefore it is key that the information is appropriate to the needs, age and ability of a young person. Staff will work within the following framework of expectations:

1. Valuing every young person as an individual.
2. Understanding of abuse and the exploitation of vulnerable people.
3. A respect for self and others.
4. A culture where we understand and explore the rights and responsibilities of others.
5. Teaching staff will include up to date information, fast responses to any concern and a feeling of safety in expression.
6. An understanding of diversity including religion, culture, sexual orientation, physical and mental ability and social class.
7. An understanding of the key building blocks of any relationship including trust and honesty as a foundation.
8. The significance of marriage and commitment without any stigmatism towards individuals' home circumstances.
9. Realistic discussion about the effects of early sexual activity and how to seek support should the situation arise.
10. An understanding about choice with regards to partner, parenthood and sexual activity and that those choices carry consequences.

SAFETY AND TRUST

All staff at Bensham Manor have a role to play in creating a safe learning environment for young people, encouraging a sense of security and confidence in all. An emphasis on understanding feelings and emotions will always be integral to learning about physical relationships.

CONFIDENTIALITY

1. RSE will take part in a secure and supportive environment; however, staff will never guarantee confidentiality where the disclosure compromises the safety and well-being of its pupils. All staff have received safeguarding training and are alert to signs of abuse, exploitation and neglect. Effective RSE may bring about disclosures of child protection and all staff are aware of the importance and process of reporting their concerns.
2. Ground rules are agreed prior to any RSE session to implement boundaries to support in the safe learning environment.
3. Young people will always be informed should the information shared require further attention. Sharing information without consent is only recommended if it is with the best intention and there is a clear risk of significant harm to an individual or others.
4. Although the age of consent is 16, all sexual behaviours involving a pupil at Bensham Manor School will be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) Mrs K. Byrne or one of the Deputy DSLs, Mr M. Keane, Mr R. Barwick and Mr B. Murphy.

RSE plays a very important part in fulfilling the statutory duties all schools have to meet. RSE helps children understand the difference between safe and abusive relationships and equips them with the skills to get help if they need it.

STRATEGIES

In order to de-sensitize sensitive issues trained staff will use distancing techniques such as creating a character and storyboarding. Bensham Manor School also works closely with nurses from the Community Learning Difficulties Team to identify any health or behaviour issues linking to RSE.

In answering difficult questions, staff will respond with the aforementioned agreed values and establish ground rules from the outset. Please note that all topics below are adaptable and changeable depending on the needs of the pupils and can be offered as a specific intervention by the Bensham Manor Wellbeing Team where appropriate.

The school operates a scheme whereby pupils may wish to make a request for contraceptive advice and contraception, subject to their age and ability.

WORKING WITH PARENTS AND CARERS

Parents and carers are key people in:

- Teaching their children about relationships
- Maintaining positive relationships with their young people to ensure an open and honest attitude
- Supporting their children to cope with emotional and physical aspects such as puberty
- Preparing their children for the challenges and responsibilities that come with being an adult
- Engaging and involving staff in any changes in behaviours linked to RSE.

Monitoring procedures

The teaching of RSE will be monitored in the following ways:

1. Informal discussions with class staff and parents
2. Lesson observations

3. Observations of behaviours of pupils relating to healthy and safe relationships
4. RSE planning documents and evaluations

Any safeguarding concerns which arise as a result of the RSE sessions will be reported to the DSL and any misconceptions a pupil may have will be discussed with the child's parents. Ofsted is required to evaluate and report on the school's spiritual, moral, social and cultural curriculum, which includes the teaching of RSE.

STAFF TRAINING

Bensham Manor School ensures RSE/PSHE CPD for staff through:

1. Opportunities for the Subject Lead to undertake any training required to fulfil the position effectively.
2. CPD by trained practitioners to take place for staff involved in teaching the subject
3. Surveys of all staff with regard to RSE content and support required.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Bensham Manor School considers the needs of different groups within the school (boys and girls, varying home backgrounds, sexuality, SEN, LAC, faith, ethnicity and culture, as well as other protected characteristics as per the 2010 Equality Act).

Bensham Manor School is sensitive to the needs of all young people, and will not discriminate between different groups. For some young people it may not be culturally appropriate for them to be taught particular areas of the RSE curriculum in mixed groups – we will discuss this with you. We will deal sensitively with issues of sexual orientation and gender identity, and seek additional support where necessary.

We aim to ensure that all pupils are treated fairly, with no discrimination or bullying on the grounds of gender, race, religion, colour, language, culture, social circumstances, appearance, sexuality, disability or ability, etc.

RSE at Bensham Manor School will be taught in a way that does not subject pupils to discrimination and will ensure that teaching is accessible to all children and young people, including those who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT). Inclusive RSE at Bensham Manor School will foster good relations between pupils, tackle all types of prejudice - including homophobia and racism and promote understanding and respect.

RSE SCHEME OF WORK

The RSE programme follows the guidelines from the National Curriculum and PSHE Association framework, differentiated to the needs, knowledge, skills and level of understanding of the pupils. Several topics are repeated across year groups, depending on the developmental needs and understanding of the pupils.

Year 7	Personal Identities Mental and Emotional Health (assertiveness and resilience) Valuing Difference (importance and respect of diversity) Online and Offline Relationships (families) Relationships and Self Esteem (friendships) Puberty, Personal Hygiene & Consent
Year 8	Mental and Emotional Illness and Wellbeing Rights and Responsibilities (human and child rights) Online Safety, Intimacy and Consent
Year 9	Dealing with Problems (domestic conflict) Individual Rights and Responsibilities

Key Stage 4	Managing Social Relationships Contraception Marriage Prevention of STI's Self-esteem
Key Stage 5	Assessing risks in sexual activity and general relationships; Pregnancy and abortion

Delivery of RSE programme through:

1. Specialist discrete PSHE teaching.
2. Drop down days.
3. Extended Tutor time.
4. External agencies used where appropriate to enhance programme.

Delivery of RSE throughout the school:

1. Delivery across the curriculum e.g. biological aspects through the Science curriculum and other aspects through English, Drama, History, Geography and as appropriate.
2. Including and compromising but not limited to; quizzes, case studies, research, role-play, video, new stories and small group discussion.
3. A wide range of teaching methods can be used to enable pupils to actively participate in their own learning.
4. Embedding within the PSHE Curriculum at a whole school level.
5. Opportunities for each year group in form tutor time.
6. Specific groups or individuals identified
7. Enhanced collapsed timetable days.

Assessment

Teaching and learning of RSE will be assessed by:

1. Pupil self-assessment
2. Assessment for Learning
3. Teacher assessment
4. Peer assessment

Monitoring

The RSE programme is monitored by:

1. Lesson planning and observations.
2. Teacher monitoring.
3. Pupil feedback.

Working with outside agencies:

Bensham Manor School may use the expertise of outside agencies. Appropriate and suitably experienced and/or knowledgeable visitors from outside school may be invited to contribute to the delivery of RSE.

POLICY CONSULTATION

Dissemination and consultation/review of policy includes:

1. Consultation with the wider school community e.g. school nurse
2. Review of RSE curriculum content with staff and pupils.
3. Pupil focus groups or school council.
4. Consultation with school governors.
5. Parent focus group/workshop.

RELATED POLICIES and LEGISLATIONS

1. Anti-Radicalisation Policy
2. Behaviour Policy
3. Early Help and Child Protection Policy (Replaces Safeguarding)
4. Keeping Children Safe in Education (A Government Document)
5. FGM Policy
6. Self Harm Policy
7. Allegations Against a Child Policy
8. Online Safety Policy
9. Teaching and Learning Policy
10. Section 34 of the [*Children and Social Work Act 2017*](#)
11. The Equalities Act 2010

FURTHER INFORMATION

‘Relationships education, relationships and sex education (RSE) and health education’ (DfE, 2019) <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education>

‘Relationships education, relationships and sex education (RSE) and health education: FAQs’ - (2019) Information from the Department for Education about the introduction of compulsory relationships education and RSE from September 2020.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education-faqs>

‘Relationships, sex and health education: guides for parents’ (2019)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-sex-and-health-education-guides-for-schools>

‘Sex and Relationships Education for the 21st Century’, PSHE Association/Brook/Sex Education Forum (2014)

<https://www.pshe-association.org.uk/system/files/SRE%20for%20the%2021st%20Century%20-%20FINAL.pdf.pdf>

‘Policy paper: Relationships education, RSE and PSHE’, DfE (2017) - DfE statement on relationships education, relationships and sex education (RSE), and personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-rse-and-pshe>

‘Sex and Relationship Education in Schools (England)’, House of Commons Library (2017)

<https://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/SN06103#fullreport>