



RELATIONSHIPS & HEALTH EDUCATION POLICY

RATIFYING COMMITTEE	Educational Standards & Achievement
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Relationships and Health Education policy

Introduction

We have based Ravenbank's Relationships and Health Education policy on the Warrington Borough Council Primary School relationships education policy document (WBC Public Health, 2020.) Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) is lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is also about the understanding of the importance of loving and caring relationships.

Intent

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 requires Relationships Education to be mandatory in all primary schools from September 2020. PSHE (personal, social, health and economic) education is therefore mandatory in all schools. RSE forms an integral part of PSHE, and at Ravenbank it is embedded as a whole school approach.

A broad programme of RSE, delivered effectively in education and at home, prepares children and young people for the realities of the modern world, and is vital for keeping children and young people safe. It protects them from the dangers of exploitation and abuse, as well as providing them with the knowledge and skills to develop healthy and fulfilling relationships. For primary school age children, it helps them identify what areas of the body are private, how their bodies will change, how to say no and who they can talk to if they are worried. Later, it explores what a healthy relationship looks like, giving them the language to communicate and report when someone is making them feel uncomfortable or making them do things they don't want to do. It promotes an awareness of where to turn for help, identifying trusted adults in their lives. RSE also provides an opportunity to integrate an awareness of resilience-building as part of effective PSHE.

The Department for Education published the statutory guidance for Health Education, Relationships Education and RSE in June 2019. These legislative commitments will help ensure all children and young people at Ravenbank, are provided with age appropriate knowledge and information to build healthy and safe relationships into adulthood. The statutory changes will ensure support for safe, effective PSHE practice and ensure we have consistency and high standards.

RSE has the following aims:

- To provide the knowledge and information to which all pupils are entitled;
- To raise pupils' self-esteem and confidence, especially in their relationships with others;
- To help pupils develop skills (language, decision making, choice, assertiveness) and make the most of their abilities;

- To develop pupils' skills for a healthier, safer lifestyle;
- To develop pupils' communication skills and assertiveness skills to cope with the influences of their peers and the media;
- To help pupils learn to respect and care for their bodies;
- To prepare pupils for puberty and adulthood;
- To help pupils learn how to gain access to information and support.

Implementation

Our RSE programme is an integral part of our whole school PSHE education provision. These lessons are delivered by Class Teachers and support staff. Biological aspects of RSE are taught within the Science curriculum. A range of teaching methods which involve children's full participation are used to teach health and relationship education. These include use of small group work, media, discussion, case studies, drama and role-play. Ground rules are used to establish a safe environment to facilitate discussions and children are encouraged to reflect on their learning. RSE is delivered in mixed gender groups, with exception to the puberty discussions which are delivered separately to each gender group.

Whilst there will be no grade for RSE, the new guidance on RSE explains that governors and school management must ensure the subject is 'resourced, staffed and timetabled in a way that ensures that the school can fulfil its legal obligation' (Roary Pownall, Ofsted's National Lead for PSHE and for Citizenship). Ravenbank will follow this legal guidance to ensure the teaching of RSE fulfils the obligations successfully.

The new statutory requirements do not extend to sex education at Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2, so at Ravenbank we will not teach beyond the biological/reproductive aspects which schools are already required to cover in the Science National Curriculum. Year 5 children will learn about puberty, which is delivered by the school nurse. At Ravenbank we understand that children need to be able to recognise abusive behaviour and to know how to seek help if they are worried about abuse or personally experience it. We will be following the current guidance which 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'.

Inclusion

Relationships Education at Ravenbank will promote equal, safe and enjoyable relationships and will be taught in a way which fosters LGBT and gender equality, in line with the Equalities Act 2010. As stated in the new RSE Statutory Guidance, our pupils will receive teaching on relationships and families which at primary level can include LGBT families which means teaching children that some families can have two mums, two dads, or any other family structure. We will teach our pupils about the society that we live in and the different types of loving, healthy relationships that exist in a way that respects everyone. The religious background of pupils will be taken into account when planning teaching, so that topics are appropriately handled.

SEN

Teachers will plan in different ways and use a variety of teaching strategies to meet the needs of individuals. For some children, particularly those with special educational needs and disabilities, a tailored approach may be necessary to ensure learning outcomes are met – this

will be discussed with parents/carers and based upon the individual needs of the pupil, prior to the session.

Learning outside the classroom

RSE also extends beyond the classroom. Whilst the majority of young people want to learn about RSE at school, we know that they also want to be able to talk to their parents and health professionals, such as school nurses. In addition to the school pastoral support, Warrington Borough Council commissions the Warrington School Health Service to work closely with schools, other partner agencies and young people to provide support around health and wellbeing and the changing adolescent body. The School Nurse Puberty Talk takes place for Year 5 pupils. Parents/Carers will receive a letter providing further information regarding this puberty lesson and will be given the opportunity to ask any questions they might have.

Engaging with parents

Ravenbank will maintain an open dialogue between parents and teachers; as we value and welcome any questions about our school's approach to the RSE curriculum. **The Department for Education** has published the following **guidance for parents: [a useful list of FAQs for parents](#)** on the new RSE/Relationships Education requirements, and guides for parents on Relationships Education, RSE and Health Education. Please see the [RSE primary schools guide for parents](#) which we will display on our school's website with this RSE policy.

RSE – Parent's right of withdrawal from September 2020

There is no right to withdraw from Relationships Education at primary school, as the Government believes the contents of these subjects: such as family, friendship, safety (including online safety) is important for all children to receive this information. The science curriculum in all maintained schools also includes content on human development, including reproduction, which there is no right to withdraw from. As a primary school who has chosen not to teach sex education, parents do not have the right to withdraw from any aspect of Ravenbank's RSE curriculum, but will be fully informed of what it will include.

Cross-curricular learning

SRE has close links with science. In Upper Key Stage 2 Ravenbank pupils will be taught the basics of sex education within the National Curriculum Science. This includes subject content in related areas, such as the main external body parts, the human body as it grows from birth to old age (including puberty) and reproduction in some plants and animals. At Ravenbank we do not require any additional content on sex education to meet the needs of our pupils but we will continue to monitor this.

Safeguarding

RSE plays a vital part in meeting safeguarding obligations. The 2016 DfE Statutory guidance 'Keeping children safe in education' states that schools and colleges should ensure children are taught about safeguarding, including online. For further information please see the statutory [Keeping children safe in education guidance](#) for schools and colleges on safeguarding children. Pupils may need support to recognise when relationships (including family relationships) are unhealthy or abusive and strategies to manage this or access support

for oneself or others at risk. Ravenbank will be mindful that for pupils who are or have experienced unhealthy or unsafe relationships at home or socially, the school may have a particularly important role in being a place of consistency and safety where they can easily speak to trusted adults, report problems and find support. The RSE programme also covers internet safety with pupils being taught the rules and principles for keeping safe online. This will include how personal data is captured on social media, how to recognise risks, harmful content and contact, and how and to whom to report issues. Ravenbank will follow safeguarding procedures if there are any safeguarding concerns raised in lessons.

Impact

Ravenbank will have the same high expectations of the quality of pupils' work in PSHE as for other curriculum areas. Our strong curriculum will build on the knowledge pupils have previously acquired, including in other subjects, with regular feedback provided on pupil progress. Lessons will be planned to ensure that pupils of differing abilities are receiving the support they may need and that the most able are suitably challenged.

Teachers use a range of assessment strategies to track pupils' progress towards our published learning outcomes. This may include self-assessment and peer assessment. Class Teachers gather assessments at the end of each term, based on the units covered. These assessments allow for teachers to check understanding and to inform planning.

Children's understanding, knowledge and skills are assessed through observation, discussion and questioning and participation in groups. Children will be involved in self-assessment e.g. talking about their own experiences.