

**Coppice Primary
Partnership**

An Ethic of Excellence



Relationship & Sex Education Policy

Approved: March 2020

Next Review: March 2023

Relationship & Sex Education Policy

A. AIMS

1. The aims of Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) at Coppice Primary Partnership are to:
 - 1.1 Provide a framework in which sensitive discussions can take place.
 - 1.2 Prepare pupils for puberty, and give them an understanding of sexual development and the importance of health and hygiene.
 - 1.3 Help pupils develop feelings of self-respect, confidence and empathy.
 - 1.4 Create a positive culture around issues of sexuality and relationships.
 - 1.5 Teach pupils the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies.

B. STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

1. As a Primary Academy we must provide relationships education to all pupils as per section 34 of the [Children and Social work act 2017](#).
2. We do not have to follow the National Curriculum but we are expected to offer all pupils a curriculum that is similar to the National Curriculum including requirements to teach science which would include the elements of sex education contained in the science curriculum.
3. In teaching RSE, we are required by our funding agreements to have regard to [guidance](#) issued by the secretary of state as outlined in section 403 of the [Education Act 1996](#).
4. Within the Coppice Primary Partnership, we teach RSE as set out in this policy.

C. POLICY DEVELOPMENT

1. This policy has been developed in consultation with staff, pupils and parents. The consultation and policy development process involved the following steps:
 - 1.1 Research: a member of staff gathered together all relevant information including relevant national and local guidance.
 - 1.2 Staff consultation: all staff were given the opportunity to look at the RSE Policy and make recommendations.
 - 1.3 Parent/stakeholder consultation: RSE Policy was shared at Parent Council meetings in all schools to look at the policy and make recommendations.
 - 1.4 Pupil consultation: discussion with pupils on their expectations of RSE.
 - 1.5 Ratification: once amendments were made, the policy was shared with Trust Board and ratified.

D. DEFINITION

1. RSE is about the emotional, social and cultural development of pupils, and involves learning about relationships, sexual health, sexuality, healthy lifestyles, diversity and personal identity.

2. RSE involves a combination of sharing information, and exploring issues and values.
3. RSE is not about the promotion of sexual activity.

E. CURRICULUM

1. We have developed the curriculum in consultation with parents, pupils and staff, taking into account the age, needs and feelings of pupils. If pupils ask questions outside the scope of this policy, teachers will respond in an appropriate manner so they are fully informed and don't seek answers online. Sex education at Coppice Primary schools will focus on:
 - 1.1 Preparing boys and girls for the changes that adolescence brings.
 - 1.2 How a baby is conceived?
 - 1.3 How a baby is born?

For detailed information about our curriculums please see individual school websites:

www.coxheath.kent.sch.uk

www.loose-primary.kent.sch.uk

www.stkatherineskent.co.uk

F. DELIVERY OF RSE

1. At Coppice Primary Partnership RSE is taught across the curriculum. This will include in Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education curriculum, Science, RE, Online Safety and assemblies.
2. Relationships education focuses on teaching the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships including:
 - 1.1 Families and people who care for me.
 - 1.2 Caring friendships.
 - 1.3 Respectful relationships.
 - 1.4 Online relationships.
 - 1.5 Being safe.
3. These areas of learning are taught within the context of family life taking care to ensure that there is no stigmatisation of children based on their home circumstances (families can include single parent families, LGBT parents, families headed by grandparents, adoptive parents, foster parents/carers amongst other structures) along with reflecting sensitively that some children may have a different structure of support around them (for example: looked after children or young carers).

G. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The Trust Board

- 1.1 The Trust Board will approve the RSE policy, and the LGBs will hold the Headteacher to account for the implementation of this policy.

2. Headteacher

- 2.1 The Headteacher in each school is responsible for ensuring that RSE is taught consistently across their school, and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from components of RSE (see section 8).

3. Staff

- 3.1 Staff are responsible for:
 - 3.1.1 Delivering RSE in a sensitive way.
 - 3.1.2 Modelling positive attitudes to RSE.
 - 3.1.3 Responding to the needs of individual pupils.
 - 3.1.4 Responding appropriately to pupils whose parents wish them to be withdrawn from the non-statutory components of RSE.
- 3.2 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. Within Coppice Primary Partnership responsibility of teacher RSE will fall with the Class Teacher and Senior Leaders will support as required.

4. Pupils

- 4.1 Pupils are expected to engage fully in RSE and, when discussing issues related to RSE, treat others with respect and sensitivity.

5. Parents

- 5.1 Parents do not have the right to withdraw their children from relationships education.
- 5.2 Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the non-statutory components of sex education within RSE and alternative work will be given to pupils who are withdrawn from sex education.
- 5.3 Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing using the form found in Appendix 1 of this policy and addressed to the Headteacher of the school.

APPENDIX 1

TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENTS			
Name of child		Class	
Name of parent		Date	
Reason for withdrawing from sex education within relationships and sex education			
Any other information you would like the school to consider			
Parent signature			

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE SCHOOL	
Agreed actions from discussion with parents	(Include notes from discussions with parents and agreed actions taken)