

West Coker Primary School



Relationship and Sex Education Policy

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**Approved by the Governing Body of West Coker Primary
School in May 2021**

Headteacher.....

Chair of Governors.....

Proposed Date of Future Review May 2023

Relationship and Sex Education Policy September 2020

This policy covers our school's approach to Relationship and Sex education, not only in lessons but through the attitude of our staff and students alike, our ethos and approach and commitment to equality both within and outside of the classroom.

It will be reviewed every 2 years to ensure that it reflects the attitudes and belief of the school and remains relevant to the children and is up to date with both current guidance from Government and the DfES.

This policy endeavours to reflect the aims of 'West Coker Primary School' for all of our children.

**Note that due to Covid-19 restrictions, initial parent and child consultations have not been included as part of this policy. However, this policy has been drafted in collaboration with the RSE Subject leader, Curriculum Lead and SLT members before being sent to our Governing body with the view to update the policy in September 2021 with parental consultation amendments.*

CONTEXT

"Today's children and young people are growing up in an increasingly complex world and living their lives seamlessly on and offline. This presents many positive and exciting opportunities, but also challenges and risks. In this environment, children and young people need to know how to be safe and healthy, and how to manage their academic, personal and social lives in a positive way.

This is why we have made Relationships Education compulsory in all primary schools in England and Relationships and Sex Education compulsory in all secondary schools, as well as making Health Education compulsory in all state-funded schools".

"In primary schools, we want the subjects to put in place the key building blocks of healthy, respectful relationships, focusing on family and friendships, in all contexts, including online. This will sit alongside the essential understanding of how to be healthy."

Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education Guidance DfES July 2020

Therefore, West Coker is required to teach Relationships Education as part of our SMSC curriculum. Current regulations and guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) state that from September 2020, all schools must deliver Relationships Education.

This document has been written in accordance with the statutory guidance document “Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education” (DfE, 2019) and the PSHE Association’s supplementary guidance “Writing your school’s relationships and sex education (RSE) policy” (PSHE Association, September 2018).

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Our RSE programme helps pupils to develop the knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes they need to live confident, healthy, independent lives now and in the future.

Through the provision outlined in this policy, the school's overall aims of RSE are to teach and develop the following three main elements:

Attitudes and values:

learn the importance of values and individual conscience and moral considerations
learn the value of family life, marriage, and stable and loving relationships for the nurture of children
learn the value of respect, love and care
explore, consider and understand moral dilemmas
develop critical thinking as part of decision-making

Personal and social skills:

learn to manage emotions and relationships confidently and sensitively
develop self-respect and empathy for others
learn to make choices based on an understanding of difference and with an absence of prejudice
develop an appreciation of the consequences of choices made
manage conflict
learn how to recognise and avoid exploitation and abuse

Knowledge and understanding:

learn and understand physical development at appropriate stages
understand human sexuality, reproduction, sexual health, emotions and relationships
learn about contraception and the range of local and national sexual health advice, contraception and support services
learn the reasons for delaying sexual activity, and the benefits to be gained from such delay, including the avoidance of unplanned pregnancy

STATUTORY RSE REQUIREMENTS

As a primary school we must provide relationships education to all pupils as per section 34 of the Children and Social work act 2017.

However, we are not required to provide sex education, but we do need to teach the elements of sex education contained in the science curriculum. These core skills are detailed on the next page.

In teaching RSE, we must have regard to guidance issued by the secretary of state as outlined in section 403 of the Education Act 1996.

High quality Relationships Education and RSE help create a safe school community in which our pupils can grow, learn and develop positive, healthy behaviours for life. Therefore providing our children at West Coker with an enriched RSE curriculum is essential for the following reasons:

RSE plays a vital part in meeting the schools' safeguarding obligations as outlined in the updated Keeping children safe in education – Statutory guidance for schools and colleges (September 2019). ****Please also view our Safe Guarding and Child Protection Policy which is available on our school website.***

The DfE, 2019, statutory guidance states that, from September 2020, all schools providing primary education must teach Relationships Education.

Ofsted is clear that schools must have a preventative programme that enables pupils to learn about safety and risks in relationships which is a predominant feature of our Relationships Education at West Coker.

Children want to be prepared for the physical and emotional changes they undergo at puberty, and young people want to learn about relationships. Older pupils frequently say that Relationships and Sex Education was 'too little, too late and too biological'. Ofsted reinforced this in their 2013 'Not Yet Good Enough report.'

National Curriculum: RSE plays an important part in fulfilling the statutory duties the school has to meet as section 2 of the National Curriculum framework (DfE, 2013).

These duties are set out in the 2002 Education Act and the 2010 Academies Act. Whole school (Section 5) Ofsted inspections consider the extent to which a school provides such a curriculum: Schools maintain a statutory obligation under the Children Act (2004) to promote their pupils' emotional wellbeing, and improving their ability to achieve in school and under the Education Act (1996) to prepare children for the challenges, opportunities and responsibilities of adult 3 life.

A comprehensive RSE programme can have a positive impact on pupils' health and wellbeing and their ability to achieve, and can play a crucial part in meeting these obligations.

Definition of Relationships and Sex Education

Relationship and Sex Education is learning about the emotional, social and physical aspects of growing up, relationships, sex, human sexuality and sexual health. Some aspects are taught in science, and others are taught as part of personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE).

A comprehensive programme of RSE provides accurate information about the body, reproduction, sex, and sexual health.

It also gives children and young people essential skills for building positive, enjoyable, respectful and non-exploitative relationships and staying safe both on and offline.

Sex and relationships education (SRE) for the 21st century (2014)

Delivery of RSE at West Coker

All elements of our Health Education programme will be delivered in an age-appropriate and sensitive manner as part of our regular weekly timetabled SMSC education programme. RSE is delivered predominantly by class teachers in mixed gender groups, other than when it is deemed more appropriate for topics to be covered in single sex groups; this will be decided by the class teacher after discussion with the subject lead and SLT members (see Appendix 2 for further details).

However we also teach RSE through other subject areas including our Science, PE and RE topics throughout the year, where we feel that they contribute significantly to a child's knowledge and understanding of his or her own body, and how it is changing and developing. Linked with RE, children reflect on family relationships, different family groups and friendship. They learn about rituals and traditions associated with birth, marriage and death and talk about the emotions involved. Linked with PE, children learn about healthy lifestyles and the importance of exercise.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND LEARNING DIFFERENCES

At West Coker, we recognise that our pupils have different needs based on their emotional and physical development, life experiences, and learning differences, but we aim to ensure that all pupils are properly included in RSE and so all children will be given opportunities to fully participate in our SMSC and RSE curriculum. Teachers will plan and deliver work in a variety of ways, in order to meet the needs of individual pupils with SEN or learning differences within their classes, with particular focus on activities that increase a pupil's assertiveness, communication and relationship skills, their self-esteem and understanding.

EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY

In our school we seek to recognise and embrace the diverse nature of our community. We aim to value and celebrate religious, ethnic and cultural diversity as part of modern Britain. We will explore different cultural beliefs and values and encourage activities that challenge stereotypes and discrimination and present children with accurate information based on the law. We will use a range of teaching materials and resources that reflect the diversity of our community and encourage a sense of inclusiveness. We do not use RSE as a means of promoting any form of sexual orientation.

RSE will be given to ensure quality of access for all pupils, regardless of gender, race or disability, so giving equal opportunities and avoiding discrimination. Planning and resources are reviewed to ensure they comply with equalities legislation and the school's equal opportunities policy. All SMSC and RSE curriculum skills are taught without bias and in line with legal responsibilities such as those contained within the Equality Act (2010).

Parental rights:

RSE has become a statutory element of a child's Curriculum from September 2020, therefore children cannot be withdrawn from the statutory elements of the sex education content included in National Curriculum for Science which includes content on human development, including reproduction. In addition to this, children cannot be withdrawn from Relationships Education or Health Education because it is important that all children receive this content, covering topics such as friendships, how to stay safe and puberty. However, parents/carers do have the right to request that their child be withdrawn from some or all of sex education delivered as part of the non-statutory RSE, delivered as part of our SMSC curriculum.

RSE is a vital part of the school curriculum and supports child development and we strongly advise parents/carers to carefully consider their decision before withdrawing their child from this aspect of school life. To support parents/carers understanding of Relationships and Sex Education, the DFE has published a parental guide which can be found following the link below:

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

Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing using the form found in Appendix 2 of this policy and addressed to Mr P Hyland, where we can then arrange for appropriate members of staff to discuss the request with parents/carers and the child to ensure that their wishes are understood and to clarify the nature and purpose of the curriculum. Within this discussion we will raise with the parents/carers the importance of the education and any detrimental effects withdrawing a child may have, as well as the effects of child hearing the contents of the sessions missed second hand via their peers. It is also important to note at this point, the seriousness of a child researching their own information via the internet, which initially puts them into an unsafe situation and in turn may increase their vulnerability to be being exposed to incorrect information.

West Coker C of E VC Primary School

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Tel: 01935 862568

E-mail: sch.408@educ.somerset.gov.uk

Website: www.westcoker.somerset.sch.uk

Head Teacher: Mr Philip Hyland

Date:

Dear Parent / Carer

We believe that promoting the health and well-being of our pupils is an important part of their overall education. We do this through our PSHE programme of study. This looks at many topics including all kinds of relationships, physical / emotional health and living in the wider world. The aim of PSHE is to help our pupils make safe and informed decisions during their school years and beyond and Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) is an important part of this programme – becoming compulsory from September 2020.

Here at West Coker, we will be teaching lessons about RSE in the Summer term which will include topics such as (puberty; relationships and communication skills; body imaging; sexting and social media; domestic violence, consent.) During the course, pupils will be able to ask questions, which will be answered factually and, in an age, appropriate manner. Each child's privacy will be respected, and no one will be asked to reveal personal information.

It is important to note that, there are some compulsory elements of our RSE curriculum that are covered throughout our Science programme of study and therefore, no child can be withdrawn from these sessions. However, parents/carers can withdraw their children from all other parts of RSE if they wish to do so by completing the withdrawal form attached. Having said this, we would like you to recognise that it is important for your child to discuss social pressures, dispel media myths and check factual information within a safe environment; so, rather than hear about the content of these sessions second-hand, we hope that all children will have the opportunity to take part in our carefully planned lessons.

In addition to this, we appreciate that parents/carers are the most important educators of young people in personal issues and many welcome the support that school can offer to supplement their home teaching. You may find that your child starts asking questions about the topic at home, or you might want to take the opportunity to talk to your child about issues before the work is covered in school. If you have any queries about the content of the

programme or resources used, please do not hesitate in contacting the Year 6 team, at school. All materials used are available for you to browse through should you so wish.

Yours sincerely,

Philip Hyland

Head Teacher

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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			