

## Relationship and sex education policy

### Current RSE requirements

**It is good practice for academies, free schools, colleges and independent schools to have a policy on RSE.** To this end at Bickley Park School we have a policy that runs in conjunction with our PSHE policy to ensure we meet the needs of the young people in our setting.

### What is relationship and sex education? (RSE)

It is lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of marriage for family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. In older settings it is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality, and sexual health. At no point is it about the promotion of sexual orientation or sexual activity – this would be inappropriate teaching.

Within Bickley Park School there are three main elements within RSE education:

#### Attitudes and values

- learning the importance of values and individual conscience and moral considerations;
- learning the value of family life, marriage, and stable and loving relationships for the nurture of children;
- learning the value of respect, love and care; – exploring, considering and understanding moral dilemmas; and
- developing critical thinking as part of decision-making.

#### Personal and social skills

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

#### Knowledge and understanding

- learning and understanding physical development at appropriate stages;
- understanding human sexuality, reproduction, sexual health, emotions and relationships as age appropriate;

### How is RSE delivered in school?

In accordance with government recommendations, RSE forms an integral part of the PSHE curriculum and from Foundation Stage onwards this is delivered in weekly lessons. Details of the learning objectives by year group are detailed in the Bickley Park School PSHE policy which should be read in conjunction with this document. The lessons are delivered by the class teacher until Y4 when subject teachers take on responsibility for teaching PSHE.

Additionally, the National Curriculum for Science outlines age appropriate teaching of the Science of reproduction and puberty. In Bickley Park School this is covered during Year 5 and Year 7.

During Year 5 boys will study:

- Puberty - comparing changes that occur to boys and girls and why.
- How the foetus develops within the womb.
- Comparing internal and external fertilisation
- Comparing the gestation period for different animals.

During Year 7 boys will study these details once again and additionally:

- The journey of the sperm from development to fertilisation.
- The menstruation cycle.
- What happens at birth.
- How we get identical and non identical twins.
- Labelling the male and female reproductive organs.

### **Withdrawal from RSE lessons**

Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the Relationships and Sex Education provided at school except for those parts included in statutory National Curriculum Science.

Those parents/carers wishing to exercise this right are invited in to see the head teacher and/or RSE Co-ordinator who will explore any concerns and discuss any impact that withdrawal may have on the child.

Once a child has been withdrawn they cannot take part in the RSE programme until the request for withdrawal has been removed. Materials are available to parents/carers who wish to supplement the school RSE programme or who wish to deliver RSE to their children at home.

At Bickley Park School parents will be contacted by letter in advance of the teaching of RSE materials in either Science or PSHE. Whilst the school will always respect the parents' wishes on withdrawal of a pupil, sex and relationships topics can arise incidentally in other subjects, such as Science, and it is not possible to withdraw pupils from these relatively limited and often unplanned discussions.

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