



# **Roman Road Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) Policy**

Policy date: November 2022

Policy to be reviewed: November 2024

## **Policy statement- Aims and objectives of RSHE**

It is the intention of Roman Road to teach high quality, age appropriate, pupil-sensitive, evidence based RSHE, which demonstrates a respect for the law and all communities that call Newham home. It is expected that RSHE in Roman Road will help pupils to learn about themselves, and the world they live in, giving them the skills, understanding and information they need for life. This will help them to stay safer and to flourish, not just in childhood, but into adulthood and for the rest of their lives. This is why RSHE is such an important part of the curriculum.

## **Statutory content: RSHE**

By law, primary schools are required to teach relationships and health education, alongside national curriculum science with-in the context of safeguarding. Here at Roman Road we acknowledge that parents are a child's first and most effective teacher and so will ensure that we have annual meetings with parents or carers to present our RSHE curriculum as well as hear from them about any concerns or questions they have. We are clear that our aim is to educate pupils about these important subjects alongside parents and carers.

## **National Curriculum Science**

At key stages 1 and 2, the national curriculum for science includes teaching about the main external parts of the body and the changes to the human body as it grows from birth to old age, including puberty, and sexual and asexual reproduction in mammals and plants.

**There continues to be no right to withdraw from national curriculum science.**

## **Non-Statutory RSHE**

Sex education that goes beyond the national curriculum science

The Government and local advisors strongly recommend and Roman Road have decided after consultation with parents to teach Sex Education, beyond that taught within the science Curriculum. The school will be teaching about naming body parts, and how puberty effects children both physically and mentally (in year 5/6). Trained staff will teach sex education at Roman Road in an age appropriate and sensitive way and we believe will help to ready children for their move to secondary school.

**Parents have a right to withdraw their children from non-statutory RSHE. This can be authorised following a meeting with John Gordon or Natasha Searle. This process will be documented.**

## **Health Education (Physical Health and Mental Wellbeing)**

The aim is to give pupils the information that they need to make good decisions about their physical and mental health and wellbeing. Pupils' will recognise what is normal and what is an issue in themselves and others, and how to seek support at the earliest stage from appropriate sources.

Puberty, including menstruation, will be covered in Health Education and should, as far as possible, be addressed before children begin puberty.

See appendices for full list of content.

**There is no right to withdraw from health education.**

## **Relationships Education**

The focus in primary schools should be on teaching the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships, with family members, other children and adults. Lessons will be evidence based, age and culturally appropriate, based in the law and sensitive to the needs of pupils. Teaching and learning will be underpinned by tolerance and acceptance of all relationships and sexual orientation in accordance with the Equalities Act

Subject content (see Scheme of Work)

**There is no right to withdraw from Relationships Education**

## **Safeguarding**

Safeguarding is an important aspect of all of the lessons taught as part of RSHE in our school. Our safeguarding policy will be applied to and supported by all aspects of RSHE and any disclosures or issues arising as part of RSHE, will be dealt with in line with our safeguarding policy.

## **Equality**

- The school will comply with the relevant requirements of the Equality Act 2010 and the public Sector Equalities Duty (2014): schools must not unlawfully discriminate against pupils/families or allow children to be bullied because of their age, sex, race, disability, religion or belief, gender reassignment, pregnancy or maternity, marriage or civil partnership, or sexual orientation (Protected Characteristics)
- The delivery of the content of RSHE will be made accessible to all pupils, including those with SEND
- Our school celebrates difference and diversity and bullying of anyone for any reason is not acceptable. It is expected that our relationships education curriculum will lead to a stronger sense of community, mutual respect and give pupils a sense of responsibility, alongside the staff, to keep Roman Road a safe, inclusive and caring place for all, upholding the core values and ethos of the school.

## **Monitoring evaluation and assessment.**

- To ensure that the teaching and learning in RSHE in our school is of the highest standard, it will be monitored by our RSHE curriculum leader Natasha Searle.
- The school will identify pupils' prior knowledge through consultation with prior teacher.
- The school will assess pupils' learning and progress through end of unit questioning and answering opportunities/informal assessment.
- The school will evidence pupils' learning and progress end of unit questioning and answering opportunities/informal assessment.
- This is important because we need to ascertain if children have understood and made progress in each unit

## **Resources**

The school will draw from a number of educational resources, for example:

Scheme of Work

Jigsaw

BBC

PSHE Association.

It is the role of the RSHE subject leader to ensure that resources are appropriate and up to date for the school's use in teaching RSHE

## **RSHE curriculum lead teacher**

Any queries about this policy should be addressed to Natasha Searle

### **Information about how and why RSHE will be taught at Roman Road**

- Why are we teaching RSHE?

Our children are growing up in an increasingly complex world with new opportunities, but also new challenges. We as a school want our pupils to flourish in the world they find themselves and to work hard throughout all curriculum areas to give our pupils the skills and knowledge they need to do that. RSHE teaching is an important part of equipping our pupils for life in 21<sup>st</sup> century Britain, enabling them to embrace diversity, make the most of technology; understand the importance of, and develop the skills which lead to them being able to sustain healthy and strong relationships.

- Relationships and health education is a statutory requirement for all primary schools in England. The government, Ofsted and local advisors recommend that sex education (how a baby is conceived and born) is also taught in primary school.
- The decision to teach sex education was taken following consultation with parents/carers and governors.
- The teaching of RSHE at Roman Road is informed by the law, national RSHE guidance and the national curriculum set out by the DfE as well as, the school ethos and policies already developed. Below is a list of some of the documents that have been taken into consideration when preparing this policy.
  - Statutory Guidance on RSHE 2019  
*Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education Statutory Guidance for governing bodies, proprietors, head teachers, principals, senior leadership teams, teachers*
  - Equality Act 2010 and The Public Sector Equality Duty 2014
  - School ethos and educational aims.
  - The teaching of RSHE in Roman Road is delivered within and influenced by all relating school policies
    - Behaviour policy
    - Antibullying policy
    - Science Policy
    - PSHE Policy
    - SEN Policy

- Equality policy or statement
  - Safeguarding policy
- How will we ensure lessons are taught sensitively?
    - Puberty and menstruation are seen as sensitive topics to teach in RSHE and therefore we will put in special measures to make sure that pupils feel at ease when talking about these topics.
    - Single sex classes for years five and six so that children feel less self-conscious and students may be more relaxed and feel able to ask questions
    - Same sex teachers for single sex groups
  - When will RSHE will be taught?
    - All RSHE will be taught in Summer 1 in class by a trained teacher.
  - How will we ensure communication with parents/carers?
    - Roman Road work with parents/carers and want to communicate what is going on in RSHE. Initially, our aim is to invite parents in to explore the Policy and Scheme of work in Spring term 2021. This will allow parents the opportunity to look at the lessons to be taught. Following this we will send a consultation questionnaire. If then required we will answer concerns on a one to one basis.
    - Yearly, we send a letter to parents informing that the policy (including the context and rationale) and the scheme of work are on the school website. Before lessons start we contact parents that have expressed a wish to withdraw their parents from Sex Education. In this we aim to have an open discussion with parents about the rationale, the process to date and the subject content (for those who do wish to discuss further). This is designed to alleviate concerns, and to express that we do respect parents individual decisions around this.
    - Another important aspect of speaking to parents in is to provide an insight into the resources and materials being used with a view to encouraging them to consider carefully whether to withdraw their children from RSHE.
    - This will allow parents/carers to be ready for any questions that their child may have concerning what they have learnt in school. Our intention is to make these lessons as sensitive to the background of all our pupils as possible and our hope is that they will all remain in the lesson so that they learn facts from a teacher rather than second-hand in the playground.
    - However, the school respects the right of parents/carers to remove their children from sex education if they wish. Parents/carers who wish to remove their children from sex education need to inform the school in writing. For those withdrawn alternative provision will be made for your child.
  - Who will be teaching RSHE and what training will be provided

Lead teachers (Mr Gordon and Ms Searle) have received training in delivering the curriculum and have taught it for the last few years. Other teachers have observed Mr Gordon and Ms Searle teaching this subject and can also deliver the lessons, with the two leads in attendance.

## **Scheme of work**

It is the aim of Roman Road to provide all our pupils with high quality, pupils sensitive, evidence based and age and developmentally appropriate RSHE that is sensitive to our pupils background

and needs. If there are any questions about what we teach and why then please contact the Deputy Head Teacher Mr Gordon/Ms Searle.

Date of consultation with Parents:

Ratified by School Governors:

Date for Review: November 2024