



NEW BARN SCHOOL



New Barn School

RELATIONSHIPS, SEX AND HEALTH EDUCATION POLICY

ACADEMIC YEAR 2024 - 2025

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

At New Barn School, we recognise that we have a legal responsibility under The Relationships Education, Relationship & Sex Education and Health Education (England) Regulations 2019, made under sections 34 & 35 of the Children & Social Work Act 2017, to provide comprehensive Relationship Education and Health Education for all pupils receiving primary and secondary education.

We acknowledge that in order for children to embrace the challenges of creating a happy and successful adult life, pupils need knowledge that will enable them to make informed decisions about their wellbeing, health and relationships and to build their self-efficacy. We understand that high quality, evidence-based and age-appropriate teaching of these subjects can help prepare pupils to develop resilience and to know how and when to ask for help.

We provide RSE to all pupils as per the Children and Social Work Act 2017. 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

We recognise that we have a responsibility under the Equality Act 2010 to ensure the best for all pupils, irrespective of disability, educational needs, race, nationality, ethnic or national origin, sex, gender identity, pregnancy, maternity, religion, sexual orientation or whether they are looked after children. As a result, RSE needs to be sensitive to the different needs of individual pupils and may need to adapt and change as the pupils of the school change. Not only does the teaching need to be sensitive of these needs, but also to help the pupils realise the nature and consequences of discrimination, teasing, bullying and aggressive behaviours or prejudice-based language.

Whilst as a school we are aware we need to be mindful of and respectful to a variety of faith and cultural beliefs, and we will make every attempt to be appropriately sensitive, it is equally essential that young people still have access to the learning they need to stay safe, healthy and understand their rights as individuals. This must include clear, impartial, scientific and factual information on matters such as: naming their body parts, puberty, menstruation, the variety of family structures, gender identity, and gender equality. Furthermore, all teaching should reflect the law as it applies to relationships, marriage, adoption and care.

We acknowledge that all young people deserve the right to honest, open and factual information to help better form their own beliefs and values, free from bias, judgement or the subjective personal beliefs of those who teach them.

2.0 PRINCIPLES AND VALUES

In addition, New Barn School believes that RSE should:

- Be an integral part of the lifelong learning process, beginning in early childhood and continue into adult life.
- Be an entitlement for all students
- Encourage every student to contribute to make our community and aims to support each individual as they grow and learn.
- Be set within this wider school context and supports family commitment and love, respect and affection, knowledge and openness. Family is a broad concept; not just one model, e.g. nuclear family.
- It includes a variety of types of family structure, and acceptance of different approaches.
- Encourage students and teachers to share and respect each other's views. We are aware of different approaches to sexual orientation, without promotion of any particular family structure. The important values are love, respect and care for each other.
- Generate an atmosphere where questions and discussion on sexual matters can take place without any stigma or embarrassment.
- Recognise that parents are the key people in teaching their children about sex, relationships and growing up. We aim to work in partnership with parents and students, consulting them about the content of programmes.
- Recognise that the wider community has much to offer and we aim to work in partnership with health professionals, social workers, peer educators and other mentors or advisers.

Sex and Relationship Education in this school has three main elements:

Attitudes and Values

- learning the importance of values, individual conscience and moral choices;
- learning the value of family life, stable and loving relationships, and marriage;
- learning about the nurture of children;
- learning the value of respect, love and care;
- exploring, considering and understanding moral dilemmas;
- developing critical thinking as part of decision-making
- Challenging myths, misconceptions and false assumptions about normal behaviour.

Personal and Social Skills

- learning to manage emotions and relationships confidently and sensitively;
- developing self-respect and empathy for others;
- learning to make choices with an absence of prejudice;
- developing an appreciation of the consequences of choices made;
- managing conflict;
- empower students with the skills to be able to avoid inappropriate pressures or advances (both as exploited or exploiter)

Knowledge and Understanding

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

3.0 AIMS

The aim of RSE is to provide balanced factual information about human reproduction, together with consideration of the broader emotional, ethical, religious, and moral dimensions of sexual health. Our RSE programme aims to prepare students for an adult life in which they can:

- develop positive values and a moral framework that will guide their decisions, judgements and behaviour; have the confidence and self-esteem to value themselves and others and respect for individual conscience and the skills to judge what kind of relationship they want.
- understand the consequences of their actions and behave responsibly within sexual and pastoral relationships.
- avoid being exploited or exploiting others or being pressured into unwanted or unprotected sex.
- communicate effectively by developing appropriate terminology for sex and relationship issues.
- develop awareness of their sexuality and understand human sexuality; challenge sexism and prejudice, and promote equality and diversity
- understand the arguments for delaying sexual activity.
- understand the reasons for having protected sex.
- have sufficient information and skills to protect themselves and, where they have one, their partner from uninvited/unwanted conceptions and sexually transmitted infections including HIV.
- be aware of sources of help and acquire the skills and confidence to access confidential health advice, support and treatment if necessary.
- know how the law applies to sexual relationships.

Health Education aims to give children the information they need to make good decisions about their own health and wellbeing, to recognise issues in themselves and others, and to seek support as early as possible when issues arise. The important lessons that parents and carers teach their children about healthy relationships, looking after themselves and staying safe are respected and valued under this new curriculum. Teaching at school will complement and reinforce the lessons parents and carers teach their children as they grow up. Some of the objectives are also covered in PE and science lessons

Schools are required to ensure their teaching is age-appropriate and sensitive to the background of their pupils. Parents/carers will be informed in advance of sex education teaching and offered the opportunity to discuss content with the teacher.

We recognise that for children who may be vulnerable due to past or present abuse or changes in family situations, this type of work, whilst it may be sensitive, there may be needs to adapt the programme or offer additional support. It is also a protective factor in preventing further abuse, to help them make sense of their experiences and essential to help them develop skills and resilience to keep them safe in future.

New Barn School lead RSE sessions for children who are sensitive to the fact that in every classroom, there will be many young people who have experienced significant adverse, traumatising experiences. Our practice is sensitive to the effects of trauma, and we promote a relational space where students are most likely to feel safe, grounded and in control. Their programmes are informed by the research and evidence base in developing practices, knowledge and understanding of what makes high quality RSE.

4.0 ORGANISATION AND CONTENT OF SEX AND RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION

New Barn School specifically delivers Sex and Relationship Education through PSHE lessons and Science

Lessons.

Much of the Sex and Relationship Education at New Barn School takes place within PSHE lessons. RSE lessons are set within the wider context of the PSHE curriculum and focus more on the emotional aspects of development and relationships, although the physical aspects of puberty and reproduction are also included. The Science National Curriculum is delivered by staff in the science department. These lessons are more concerned with the physical aspects of development and reproduction, although the importance of relationships is not forgotten.

The PSHE Programme and Science National Curriculum are taught in every year.

Any RSE lesson may consider questions or issues that some students will find sensitive. Before embarking on these lessons ground rules are established which prohibit inappropriate personal information being requested or disclosed by those taking part in the lesson. When students ask questions, we aim to answer them honestly, within the ground rules established at the start of the sessions. When it is felt that answering a specific question would involve information at a level inappropriate to the development of the rest of the students, the question may be dealt with individually at another time.

5.0 INCLUSION

Ethnic and Cultural Groups

We intend our policy to be sensitive to the needs of different ethnic groups. For some students it is not culturally appropriate for them to be taught particular items in mixed groups. We will respond to parental requests and concerns.

Students with Special Needs

We will ensure that all students receive sex and relationship education, and we will offer provision appropriate to the particular needs of all our students, taking specialist advice where necessary.

Sexual Identity and Sexual Orientation

We aim to deal sensitively and honestly with issues of sexual orientation, answer appropriate question and offer support. Students, whatever their developing sexuality need to feel that sex and relationship education is relevant to them.

6.0 RIGHT OF WITHDRAWAL OF STUDENTS FROM SEX AND RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION

Some parents prefer to take the responsibility for aspects of this element of education. They have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the sex and relationship education except for those parts included in the statutory National Curriculum (i.e. in Science lessons). We would make alternative arrangements in such cases. Where applicable, parents are encouraged to discuss their decisions with staff at the earliest opportunity. Parents/carers are welcome to review any RSE resources the school uses.

7.0 CONFIDENTIALITY, CONTROVERSIAL AND SENSITIVE ISSUES

Teachers cannot offer unconditional confidentiality. Teachers are not legally bound to inform parents or Head

teacher of any disclosure unless the Head teacher has specifically requested them to do so.

In a case where a teacher learns from an under 16-year-old that they are having or contemplating sexual intercourse:

- the young person will be persuaded, wherever possible, to talk to parent/carer and if necessary to seek medical advice.
- child protection issues will be considered and referred if necessary to the teacher responsible for Child Protection under the school's procedures.
- the young person will be properly counselled about contraception, including precise information about where students can access contraception and advice services.

In any case where child protection procedures are followed, the teacher will ensure that the young person understands that if confidentiality has to be broken, they will be informed first.

8.0 MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF SEX AND RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION

it is the responsibility of the PSHE Lead and the Deputy Headteacher to oversee and organise the monitoring and evaluation of PSHE, in the context of the overall school plans for monitoring the quality of teaching and learning. The PSHE programme will be treated as a subject department in this exercise, under which all departments undertake yearly self-evaluation.

Ofsted is required to evaluate and report on spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of students. This includes evaluating and commenting on the school's sex and relationship education local procedure, and on support and staff development, training and delivery.