

North Leigh CE Primary School
Frequently Asked Questions about Relationships and Sex Education

1 WHAT IS RSE?

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) is defined as a programme designed to give young people the information they need to help them develop healthy, nurturing relationships of all kinds. It should enable them to know what a healthy relationship looks like and what makes a good friend, a good colleague and a good long-term partner. It should teach what is acceptable and unacceptable behaviour in relationships. This will help pupils understand the positive effects that good relationships have on their mental wellbeing, identify when relationships are not right and understand how such situations can be managed.

2 WHY HAS THE GOVERNMENT MADE RSE STATUTORY?

Receiving high-quality Relationships and Sex Education is vital in preparing all children and young people for life in 21st Century Britain, and so it's important that it's a statutory subject. It gives children and young people the information they need to understand what happy, healthy and respectful relationships look like (including friendships and family relationships) and how to have them, and to make informed decisions about their wellbeing. It helps all young people grow up with respectful attitudes towards people who are different to them, and communicate the principles that prejudice, discrimination and bullying are harmful and unacceptable. RSE also supports children and young people to stay safe, including online, and know when to ask for help. Overall, it helps to foster a safe, supportive school environment for young people to grow up in.

3 WHO TEACHES RSE TOPICS TO MY CHILD?

PSHE / RSE is taught by North Leigh staff who have a relationship with the children using the [Jigsaw](#) scheme.

4 WHEN IS RSE DELIVERED?

RSE is taught within the context of PSHE lessons delivered regularly across the school year. RSE is also supported through curriculum subjects, such as science, computing and physical education. Each session uses a variety of learning opportunities which include age-appropriate film clips, written tasks, class discussions and self-reflection. Consideration of content from different religious and non-religious perspectives have been taken into account to ensure a balanced point of view with a clear emphasis on respect and tolerance for all.

5 IS SEX EDUCATION TAUGHT AT PRIMARY SCHOOL?

Sex Education is not compulsory at primary school however the information gathered during the Government consultation found that most older primary aged children had questions they wanted the opportunity to ask. Primary school provides a safe space for these to be answered by their teachers in an age appropriate way. If children don't get the correct or accurate information about sex and relationships from a reliable source, they will find the information from other sources (friends, older siblings, internet, TV) which may not be true or age appropriate. Children in Years 5 and 6 will receive some sex education (Year 5: conception explained in simple biological terms; Year 6: understanding conception to the birth of a baby). Before these lessons take place, parents will be informed of the content and materials used. Teaching about puberty and menstruation is introduced in Year 4 and revisited in more detail in Years 5 and 6, to include the social and emotional aspects of

becoming a teenager. Parents will be informed of this beforehand with links to resources facilitating discussion at home. All teaching uses correct terminology, child-friendly language and diagrams.

5 CAN PARENTS WITHDRAW THEIR CHILD FROM RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION?

In Primary School, parents have the right to withdraw from any sex education that goes beyond that of the science national curriculum. There is no right to withdraw from Relationships Education at Primary School as the contents of these subjects – such as family, friendship, safety (including online safety) and puberty (also taught within health education and science) are important for all children to receive.

6 DOES RSE TEACHING PROMOTE LGBT RELATIONSHIPS?

RSE teaching does not “promote” anything except respect for all. RSE seeks to teach about equality. Our school “Valuing all” vision says we at North Leigh “value and celebrate everyone”. Pupils should be taught about the society in which they are growing up. PSHE amongst other learning opportunities seek to foster respect for all regardless of difference. RSE should meet the needs of all pupils, whatever their developing sexuality or identity and this should include age –appropriate teaching about different types of relationship in the context of the law. At North Leigh, the teaching of LGBT is delivered through teaching about different types of family, including those with same sex parents. All our planned learning in an age appropriate way that is respectful of all.