



HARMONY
Primary School

Relationships and Sex Education Policy

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INTRODUCTION

In this policy the governors and teachers of **Harmony Primary School**, in partnership with pupils and their parents, set out our intentions about relationships and sex education (RSE). We set out our rationale for and approach to relationships and sex education in the school.

Implementation and Review of Policy

This policy will be implemented with immediate effect and will be reviewed every 2 years by the Headteacher. The next review date is **Spring 2023**.

Dissemination

The draft policy will be given to all members of the SLT, and all teaching and non-teaching members of staff. Copies of the document will be available to all parents through the school's website and a copy is available in the school office.

DEFINING RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION

The DfE guidance states that, "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"¹. This means that they should know what it means to be fully human, to be equipped to manage relationships so that they are healthy and successful and to be enabled to make moral decisions in conscience. The teaching of RSE will aid the development of their knowledge and understanding of themselves.

We will focus on, "teaching the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships, with particular reference to friendships, family relationships, and relationships with other children and with adults."² This includes the topics of families and of the people who care for me, caring friendships, respectful relationships, online relationships and being safe.

RATIONALE

Islam is a complete way of life for Muslims. Its guidance is comprehensive and includes the personal, social, moral, and spiritual aspects of our lives. Our involvement in educating our children about relationships and sex education is precisely because of this; we as Muslims must know how to have healthy, loving, and enriching relationships.

The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) was the best of all in character and he presented to us a practical example of how to conduct ourselves and live our lives. RSE at our school is centred on the example set by the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) and will be positive and prudent, showing the potential for development, whilst enabling the dangers and risks involved to be understood and appreciated.

¹ Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education: Statutory guidance for governing bodies, proprietors, Head Teachers, principals, senior leadership teams, teachers Page 4

² Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education: Statutory guidance for governing bodies, proprietors, Head Teachers, principals, senior leadership teams, teachers Page 19

VALUES AND VIRTUES

Our programme enshrines Islamic values relating to the importance of stable relationships, marriage and family life. It also promotes those virtues which are essential in fulfilling the rights of others with a proper respect for their dignity and the dignity of the human body. The following virtues will be explicitly explored and promoted: faithfulness, chastity, integrity, prudence, mercy, and compassion.

AIMS OF RSE

Our Mission Statement commits us to the education of the whole child (spiritual, physical, intellectual, moral, social, cultural, emotional) and we believe that RSE is an integral part of this education. Furthermore, we will endeavour to raise pupils' self-esteem, help them to grow in knowledge and understanding, recognise the value of all persons and develop caring and sensitive attitudes. It is in this context that we commit ourselves:

In partnership with parents, to provide children and young people with a positive and prudent relationships and sexual education which is compatible with their physical, cognitive, psychological, and spiritual maturity, and rooted in the Islamic vision of education.

Objectives

To develop in pupils, the following **attitudes and virtues**:

- joy in the goodness of the created world and their own bodily natures;
- responsibility for their own actions and a recognition of the impact of these on others;
- recognising the importance of marriage and family life;
- recognising and valuing their own sexual identity and that of others; • reverence for the gift of human sexuality and fertility;
- fidelity in relationships.

To develop in pupils, the following **personal and social skills**:

- making sound judgements and good choices which have integrity, and which are respectful of each individual's personal commitments;
- loving and being loved, and the ability to form friendships and loving, stable relationships free from exploitation, abuse, and bullying;
- managing emotions within relationships, and when relationships break down, managing these with confidence, sensitivity, and dignity;
- managing conflict positively and recognising the value of difference;
- cultivating humility, mercy, and compassion;
- learning to forgive and be forgiven;
- developing self-esteem and confidence, demonstrating self-respect and empathy for others;
- building resilience and the ability to resist unwanted pressures, recognising the influence and impact of the media, internet, and peer groups, and thus developing the ability to assess pressures and respond appropriately;
- being patient, delaying gratification and learning to recognise the appropriate stages in the development of relationships, and how to love chastely;
- assessing risks and managing behaviours in order to minimise the risk to health and personal integrity.

To know and understand:

- Islamic teaching on relationships and the nature and meaning of sexual love;
- Islamic teaching on marriage and the importance of marriage and family life;
- the centrality and importance of virtue in guiding human living and loving;
- the physical and psychological changes that accompany puberty;
- the facts about human reproduction, how love is expressed sexually and how sexual love plays an essential and sacred role in procreation;
- how to manage fertility in a way which is compatible with their stage of life, their own values, and commitments, including an understanding of the difference between natural family planning and artificial contraception;
- how to keep themselves safe from sexually transmitted infections and how to avoid unintended pregnancy, including where to go for advice.

INCLUSION AND DIFFERENTIATED LEARNING

We will ensure RSE is sensitive to the needs of individual pupils in respect to their different abilities, levels of maturity and personal circumstances and is taught in a way that does not subject pupils to discrimination. Lessons will also help children to realise the nature and consequences of discrimination, teasing, bullying and aggressive behaviours (including cyber-bullying), use of prejudice-based language and how to respond and ask for help.

BROAD CONTENT OF RSE

Three aspects of RSE - attitudes and values, knowledge and understanding, and personal and social skills will be provided in three inter-related ways: the whole school / ethos dimension; a cross-curricular dimension and a specific relationships and sex curriculum.

See attached 'RSE Curriculum Overview'

DELIVERY

Teaching strategies will include:

- establishing ground rules
- distancing techniques
- discussion
- project learning
- reflection
- brainstorming
- film & video
- group work
- role-play
- trigger drawings
- values clarification

PARENTS AND CARERS

We recognise that we will be able to deliver successful outcomes for our children when collaboration is strong, particularly between pupils, parents, and the school. We as a school, will therefore support parents and carers by providing material to be shared with their children at home. We will deliver workshops to help parents/carers to find out more. Additionally, parents/carers will be informed by letter when the more sensitive aspects of RSE will be covered, to allay concern and to enable them to be prepared to talk to and answer questions from children about their learning. Our aim is that, at the end of the consultation process, every parent and carer will have full confidence in the school's RSE programme to meet their child's needs.

Parents continue to have ***the right to withdraw*** their children from Sex Education except in those elements which are required by the National Curriculum science orders. Should parents wish to withdraw their children they are asked to notify the school by contacting the headteacher. The school will provide support by providing material for parents to help their children with their learning.

We believe that the controlled environment of the classroom is the safest place for this curriculum to be followed. Please refer to the DfE guidance below for further details on the right to be excused from sex education (commonly referred to as, 'the right to withdraw').

BALANCED CURRICULUM

Whilst promoting Islamic values and virtues, and teaching in accordance with Islamic principles, we will ensure that pupils are offered a balanced programme by providing an RSE curriculum that offers a range of viewpoints on issues. Pupils will receive clear scientific information and they will cover aspects of the law pertaining to RSE. Knowing about facts and enabling young people to explore differing viewpoints is not the same as promoting behaviour and is not incompatible with our school's promotion of Islamic values and principles. We will ensure that pupils have access to the learning they need to stay safe, healthy and understand their rights as individuals.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR TEACHING THE PROGRAMME

Responsibility for the teaching of relationships and sex education programme lies with the following staff: RSE Lead, Class teachers and Teaching Assistants.

However, all staff will contribute to the development of pupils' personal and social skills and will be involved in developing the attitudes and values aspect of the RSE programme. They will be role models for pupils demonstrating good, healthy, wholesome relationships between each other, other adults and pupils.

External Visitors

Our school will sometimes call upon help and guidance from outside agencies and health specialists to deliver aspects of RSE. Such visits will always compliment the current programme and never substitute or replace teacher led sessions. All external visitors will be fully vetted and clearly informed about their role and responsibility whilst they are in school delivering a session.

Health professionals will follow the school's policies using negotiated ground rules and distancing techniques as other teachers would. They will ensure that all teaching is rooted in Islamic principles and practice.

OTHER ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES REGARDING RSE

Head teacher

- draw up the RSE policy, in consultation with parents and teachers;
- ensure that the policy is available to parents;
- ensure that the policy is in accordance with other whole school policies, e.g. SEN, the ethos of the school and our Islamic beliefs;
- ensure that parents know of their right to withdraw their children;
- ensure that the policy provides proper and adequate coverage of relevant National Curriculum science topics and the setting of RSE within PSHE.

The Head teacher takes overall delegated responsibility for the implementation of this policy and for liaison with the Governing Body, parents, the Local Education Authority, and appropriate agencies.

PSHE/RSE Lead

The PSHE/RSE Lead with the Head teacher has a general responsibility for supporting other members of staff in the implementation of this policy and will provide a lead in the dissemination of the information relating to RSE and the provision of in-service training.

All Staff

RSE is a whole school issue. All teachers have a responsibility of care; as well as fostering academic progress they should actively contribute to the guardianship and guidance of the physical, moral, and spiritual well-being of their pupils. Teachers will be expected to teach RSE in accordance with the Islamic ethos of the school. Appropriate training will be made available for all staff teaching RSE.

RELATIONSHIPS TO OTHER POLICIES AND CURRICULUM SUBJECTS

This RSE policy is to be delivered as part of the PSHE framework. It includes guidelines about pupil safety and is compatible with the school's other policy documents (e.g. Anti-Bullying Policy, Safeguarding Policy etc).

Pupils with additional needs will receive appropriately differentiated support to enable them to achieve desired outcomes. Teaching methods will be adapted to meet the varying needs of all of pupils.

CONTROVERSIAL AND SENSITIVE QUESTIONS

Harmony Primary School seeks to promote a healthy, positive atmosphere in which RSE can take place. We want to ensure that pupils can ask questions freely, be confident that their questions will be answered and be sure that they will be free from bullying or harassment from other children and young people.

There may be sensitive or controversial issues raised by pupils when discussing certain topics in RSE. These may be due to their own experiences or because of the values that they hold. The school identifies that there is need to have open discussions around sensitive topics in a way to educate and protect the children in our care. The use of ground rules, negotiated between teachers and pupils, will help to create a supportive climate for this discussion.

SUPPORTING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE AT RISK

Children will need to feel safe and secure in the environment in which RSE takes place. Effective RSE will provide opportunities for discussion of what is and is not appropriate in relationships. Such discussion may well lead to disclosure of a safeguarding issue. Teachers will need to be aware of the needs of their pupils and not let any fears and worries go unnoticed. Where a teacher suspects that a child or young person is a victim of or is at risk of abuse, they are required to follow the school's Safeguarding Policy and immediately inform the designated senior member of staff responsible.

CONFIDENTIALITY AND ADVICE

All teachers, all support staff, all parents, and all pupils must be made aware of this policy, particularly as it relates to issues of advice and confidentiality.

All lessons, especially those in the RSE programme, will have the best interests of pupils at heart, enabling them to grow in knowledge and understanding of relationships and sex, developing appropriate personal and social skills and becoming appreciative of the values and attitudes which underpin the Islamic understanding of what it means to be fully human.

Pupils will be encouraged to talk to their parents/carers about the issues which are discussed in the RSE programme. Teachers will always help pupils facing personal difficulties. Teachers should explain to pupils that they cannot offer unconditional confidentiality.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The RSE Lead will monitor the provision of the various dimensions of the programme by examining plans, schemes of work and samples of pupils work at regular intervals. The programme will be evaluated biannually by means of questionnaires / response sheets / needs assessment given to pupils, and/or by discussion with pupils, staff and parents. The results of the evaluation will be reported to these groups of interested parties and their suggestions sought for improvements. The Headteacher will consider all such evaluations and suggestions before amending the policy.