



Phoenix Infant Academy
Together We Soar

Name of Policy	Relationships and Sex Education Policy
Scope of Policy	The teaching of RSE at Phoenix Infant Academy
Approved by	Principal
Date of Approval	September 2023
Review period	Two Years
Review Date	September 2025

GROWING STRONGER TOGETHER



**THAMES LEARNING
TRUST**

Contents

1. Aims	2
2. Statutory requirements	2
3. Policy development	3
4. Definition	3
5. Curriculum	3
6. Delivery of RSE	3
7. Use of external organisations and materials.....	6
8. Roles and responsibilities	7
9. Parents’ right to withdraw	7
10. Training.....	7
11. Monitoring arrangements.....	7

1. Aims

The aims of relationships and sex education (RSE) at our school are to:

- › Provide a framework in which sensitive discussions can take place
- › Prepare pupils for puberty, and give them an understanding of sexual development and the importance of health and hygiene
- › Help pupils develop feelings of self-respect, confidence and empathy
- › Create a positive culture around issues of sexuality and relationships
- › Teach pupils the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies

SRE is taught as part of our PSHE, RE and Science Curriculum and embodies our philosophy that everyone is equal regardless of their background or beliefs. The RSE Curriculum aims to foster children with wisdom and open-mindedness to prepare them for later life, promoting self-esteem, emotional literacy and well-being.

2. Statutory requirements

As a primary academy, we must provide relationships education to all pupils under section 34 of the [Children and Social Work Act 2017](#).

We don’t have to follow the National Curriculum, but we are expected to offer all pupils a curriculum that is similar to the National Curriculum including requirements to teach science. This would include the elements of sex education contained in the science curriculum.

In teaching RSE, we’re required by our funding agreements to have regard to [guidance](#) issued by the secretary of state, as outlined in section 403 of the [Education Act 1996](#).

We also have regard to legal duties set out in:

- Sections 406 and 407 of the Education Act 1996
- Part 6, chapter 1 of the [Equality Act 2010](#)
- The Public Sector Equality Duty (as set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010). This duty requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities

At PIA, we teach SRE as set out in this policy.

3. Policy development

This policy has been developed in consultation with staff, pupils and parents. The consultation and policy development process involved the following steps:

1. Review – a member of staff or working group pulled together all relevant information including relevant national and local guidance
2. Staff consultation – all school staff were given the opportunity to look at the policy and make recommendations
3. Parent/stakeholder consultation – parents and any interested parties were invited to attend a meeting about the policy
4. Pupil consultation – we investigated what exactly pupils want from their RSE
5. Ratification – once amendments were made, the policy was shared with governors and ratified

4. Definition

RSE is about the emotional, social and cultural development of pupils, and involves learning about relationships, sexual health, sexuality, healthy lifestyles, diversity and personal identity.

RSE involves a combination of sharing information, and exploring issues and values.

RSE is not about the promotion of sexual activity.

5. Curriculum

Our SRE curriculum is set out below, but we may need to adapt it as and when necessary.

We have developed the curriculum in consultation with parents, pupils and staff, and taking into account the age, developmental stage, needs and feelings of our pupils. If pupils ask questions outside the scope of this policy, teachers will respond in an appropriate manner so that pupils are fully informed and don't seek answers online.

Intent

SRE aims to develop children's physical, emotional and spiritual education so they can make the best possible choices, now and in the future, for themselves and the community. The purpose is to equip children with knowledge, understanding and empathy to become well-rounded individuals. Skills taught throughout PSHE, RE and Science are linked and referred to throughout the year.

The key aims are to:

- Have a safe space for children to learn about relationships
- Provide an age-appropriate curriculum that informs children
- Ensure the curriculum explicitly links and refers to our school values and British Values
- Support children through change and understanding of possible new feelings of respect and empathy
- Teach children the correct vocabulary to describe their bodies
- Ensure inclusivity by differentiating inputs and resources when applicable

Implementation

At PIA, SRE is taught:

- Through PSHE, RE and Science
- For PSHE, Zippy's Friends is used
- By trained teachers
- Using a range of resources, including discussions, ICT and role-play

Impact

The curriculum units across each year group are progressive. Ongoing assessment is used to gauge children's understanding and topics are revisited if necessary.

6. Delivery of RSE

Relationship's education focuses on teaching the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships including:

- Families and people who care for me
- Caring friendships
- Respectful relationships
- Online relationships
- Being safe

These areas of learning are taught within the context of family life, taking care to make sure that there is no stigmatisation of children based on their home circumstances (families can include single parent families, LGBT parents, families headed by grandparents, adoptive parents and foster parents/carers, amongst other structures), along with reflecting sensitively that some children may have a different structure of support around them (for example, looked-after children or young carers).

We will also be mindful of the law and legal requirements, taking care not to condone or encourage illegal political activity, such as violent action against people, criminal damage to property, hate crime, terrorism or the illegal use of drugs.

In Reception, the following topics are covered:

- Show an understanding of their own feelings and those of others, and begin to regulate their behaviour accordingly.
- Set and work towards simple goals, being able to wait for what they want and control their immediate impulses when appropriate.
- Give focused attention to what the teacher says, responding appropriately even when engaged in activity, and show an ability to follow instructions involving several ideas or actions.
- Be confident to try new activities and show independence, resilience and perseverance in the face of challenge.
- Explain the reasons for rules, know right from wrong and try to behave accordingly.
- Manage their own basic hygiene and personal needs, including dressing, going to the toilet and understanding the importance of healthy food choices.
- Work and play cooperatively and take turns with others.
- Form positive attachments to adults and friendships with peers.

- Show sensitivity to their own and to others' needs.

In Key Stage 1, the following topics are covered:

- Growing from young to old
- How my body has changed since I was a baby
- Friendship and family life
- Safeguarding
- Family stereotypes
- How boys and girl's bodies are different
- Scientific vocabulary for identifying body parts
- Transition to new Year group

6.1 Inclusivity

We will teach about these topics in a manner that:

- Consider how a diverse range of pupils will relate to them
- Is sensitive to all pupils' experiences

During lessons, makes pupils feel:

- Safe and supported
- Able to engage with the key messages

We will also:

- Make sure that pupils learn about these topics in an environment that's appropriate for them, for example in:
 - A whole-class setting
 - Small groups or targeted sessions
 - 1-to-1 discussions
 - Digital formats
- Give careful consideration to the level of differentiation needed

6.2 Use of resources

We will consider whether any resources we plan to use:

- Are aligned with the teaching requirements set out in the statutory RSE guidance
- Would support pupils in applying their knowledge in different contexts and settings
- Are age-appropriate, given the age, developmental stage and background of our pupils
- Are evidence-based and contain robust facts and statistics
- Fit into our curriculum plan
- Are from credible sources
- Are compatible with effective teaching approaches

- Are sensitive to pupils' experiences and won't provoke distress

7. Use of external organisations and materials

We will make sure that an agency and any materials used are appropriate and in line with our legal duties around political impartiality.

The school remains responsible for what is said to pupils. This includes making sure that any speakers, tools and resources used don't undermine the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

We will:

- Make appropriate checks and engage with external agencies to make sure that their approach to teaching about SRE is balanced, and it and the resources they intend to use:
 - Are age-appropriate
 - Are in line with pupils' developmental stage
 - Comply with:
 - This policy
 - The [Teachers' Standards](#)
 - The [Equality Act 2010](#)
 - The [Human Rights Act 1998](#)
 - The [Education Act 1996](#)
- Only work with external agencies where we have full confidence in the agency, its approach and the resources it uses
- Make sure that any speakers and resources meet the intended outcome of the relevant part of the curriculum
- Review any case study materials and look for feedback from other people the agency has worked with
- Be clear on:
 - What they're going to say
 - Their position on the issues to be discussed
- Ask to see in advance any materials that the agency may use
- Know the named individuals who will be there, and follow our usual safeguarding procedures for these people
- Conduct a basic online search and address anything that may be of concern to us, or to parents and carers
- Check the agency's protocol for taking pictures or using any personal data they might get from a session
- Remind teachers that they can say "no" or, in extreme cases, stop a session
- Make sure that the teacher is in the room during any sessions with external speakers

We won't, under any circumstances:

- Work with external agencies that take or promote extreme political positions
- Use materials produced by such agencies, even if the material itself is not extreme

8. Roles and responsibilities

8.1 The Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees will approve the RSE policy, and hold the Principal to account for its implementation.

8.2 The Principal

The Principal is responsible for ensuring that RSE is taught consistently across the school.

8.3 Staff

Staff are responsible for:

- Delivering RSE in a sensitive way
- Modelling positive attitudes to SRE
- Monitoring progress
- Responding to the needs of individual pupils
- Responding appropriately to parent queries

Staff do not have the right to opt out of teaching SRE. Staff who have concerns about teaching SRE are encouraged to discuss this with the Principal.

Class teachers are responsible for teaching SRE.

The Vice Principal leads SRE.

8.4 Pupils

Pupils are expected to engage fully in SRE and, when discussing issues related to SRE, treat others with respect and sensitivity.

9. Parents' right to withdraw

Parents do not have the right to withdraw their children from relationships education.

10. Training

Staff are trained on the delivery of SRE as part of their induction and it is included in our continuing professional development calendar.

The Principal/Vice Principal will also invite visitors from outside the school, such as school nurses or sexual health professionals, to provide support and training to staff teaching SRE.

11. Monitoring arrangements

The delivery of SRE is monitored by Becky Austin, Vice Principal, through:

- Planning reviews
- Learning walks
- Feedback from staff, children and parents

Pupils' development in SRE is monitored by class teachers as part of our internal assessment systems.

This policy will be reviewed by the Principal annually. At every review, the policy will be approved by the Board of Trustees.

