



## **Caldecote Primary School**

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

## 1. Introduction

This policy reflects the approach to teaching and learning at Caldecote Primary School in relation to Relationships and Sex Education (RSHE).

As a maintained primary school we must provide relationships education to all pupils as per section 34 & 35 of the [Children and Social work act 2017](#). It will have due regard for the DfE's statutory [Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education Guidance](#) and guidance issued by the secretary of state as outlined in section 403 of the [Education Act 1996](#).

Although it is not compulsory to provide sex education, it is a requirement to teach the biological aspects of RSHE contained in the science curriculum.

Our school's policy for Science is based on the Primary National Curriculum 2014 Framework and provides guidance on planning, teaching and assessment.

Our RSHE policy and curriculum were written following consultation with our stakeholders: parents, pupils and governors. We also sought advice and guidance from the Local Authority PSHE service and the national PSHE Association. We will be adhering to the teaching sequence advised by the PSHE Association which is based on extensive research and reflects the recommendations from the DfE statutory guidance for RSE and Health Education (February 2019) which states that teaching must be '*age appropriate and developmentally appropriate (page 4)*'. We will also be using the resources that are recommended by the PSHE Association.

## 2. Aims

The aims of relationships and sex education (RSHE) 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

## 3. Curriculum

Our RSHE programme is an integral part of our whole school PSHE education provision and it will focus on:

- Preparing boys and girls for the changes that adolescence brings
- How a baby is conceived and born

We have delivered the curriculum in consultation with the parents, pupils and staff, taking into account the age, needs and feelings of pupils.

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## 4. Parental right to withdraw

As outlined within the Statutory Guidance, parents/carers have the right to request their child be withdrawn from all or part of the non-statutory components of sex education that are delivered as part of RSHE.

Parents/carers do not have the right to withdraw their child from Relationships Education, Health Education and any sex education delivered as part of the Science curriculum.

It is our aim to encourage parents/carers to see the value of RSHE learning and its contribution to keeping pupils safe, developing their emotion, social and physical wellbeing and for promoting equality and social justice. Should a parent/carer decide to withdraw their child, we would ask that they speak to the Headteacher first to discuss their concerns. Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing addressed to the Headteacher and alternative work will be provided.

## 5. Inclusion

We believe that RSHE is a key vehicle for promoting equality, inclusion and social justice. At Caldecote, we seek to challenge all forms of discrimination and prejudice and promote understanding and respect as outlined under the Equality Act 2010.

Our RSHE is designed to promote gender equality through challenging gender stereotypes, sexism and sexual harassment in schools. We take these issues seriously and ensure that we embed content on gender equality throughout the curriculum.

We are also committed to an RSHE that makes every pupil feel valued, included and is relevant to them. This means that we are dedicated to an LGBT+ inclusive and SEND inclusive curriculum and are mindful of the [SEND Code of Practice 2015](#) when planning for this subject. Furthermore, we take into account the religious and cultural background of all pupils when teaching RSHE.

## 6. Safeguarding and Child Protection

We recognise that when discussing some of the issues RSHE covers, it may prompt a pupil to disclose related incidents such as FGM, forced marriage, child exploitation or abuse. If pupils disclose abuse or other harmful experiences or a member of staff believes that a child is at risk, she/he will follow the school's safeguarding policy and procedures. All staff are familiar with the policy and procedures and know the identity of a Designated Safeguarding Leads.

We also understand that some people may be vulnerable to some of the content delivered in RSHE due to a previous safeguarding concern, ongoing concerns or changes to their personal life. For those pupils, additional support will be given to prevent them being affected by the scenarios or topics in their planned lessons.

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While Caldecote Primary School wants to create a learning space that feels safe for the pupils and young people to disclose, we also want to protect pupils' privacy. This is to ensure we create a supportive environment for discussions that can be sensitive or difficult. We do this by using a number of teaching techniques including the use of a working agreement, where rights respecting ground rules are created with pupils on what makes a safe and welcoming environment for all.

## **7. Answering pupil questions**

As much as possible, where a question is relevant to the whole class, it will be answered as a whole group. There may occasionally be the need to deal with a question outside of the classroom if it is not suitable for the entire class.

Questions will always be answered in an age and developmentally appropriate way and take into account whether a parent/carer has requested their child to be removed from sex education lessons. When questions are not deemed age appropriate, teachers to refer to Answer Children's Questions Related to Sex and Relationships Education in the Primary School, Cambridgeshire PSHE Toolkit.

School staff will not be expected to answer personal questions about themselves or to ask first personal questions of their students that could make either party vulnerable.

We believe that an open approach to answering questions prevents pupils from learning inaccurate or harmful information online or from peers and older students. We believe exploring issues with the whole class helps reduce the stigma and shame that can surround some of the issues explored in RSHE. Importantly, we believe that pupils are better protected from harm and abuse when they are able to discuss issues openly with trained professionals in a safe environment.

## **8. Monitoring arrangements**

The delivery of RSHE is monitored by the Headteacher to ensure the quality of teaching is consistent, that the curriculum is meeting the revised national requirements under the Relationships Education, RSHE and Health Education guidance.

Monitoring will be carried out through:

- Pupil voice
- Discussion amongst staff
- Classroom observation
- External inspection and advice
- Planning scrutinies

## **9. Policy Review**

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The Policy statement will be reviewed in line with the rolling programme of Policy reviews.

Headteacher: .....

Date: .....

Chair of Governors: .....

Date: .....