



## *Relationships & Sex Education Policy*

At Cromwell Academy, Relationships & Sex Education (RSE) reflects the school's vision and values which demonstrate and teach the skills, knowledge and understanding pupils need to lead confident, healthy lives to become informed, active and responsible citizens. RSE is taught in the context of relationships and promotes self-esteem and emotional health and wellbeing to help children form healthy meaningful relationships, based on respect for themselves and for others. We believe that RSE must include information about physical, moral and emotional development and the school will ensure that pupils are given information appropriate to their age and stage of development.

The Department for Education is introducing compulsory Relationships Education for primary pupils and Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) for secondary pupils from September 2020. Also, from September 2020 it will be compulsory for all schools to teach Health Education. Through these subjects, we want to support all young people to be happy, healthy and safe – we want to equip them for adult life and to make a positive contribution to society. At Cromwell Academy we have committed to retain our current choice to continue to teach age-appropriate sex education alongside relationships education.

### **Aims**

At our school, RSE will always be taught within the broader Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE) education programme. Some aspects will also be taught within the Science curriculum. The aims of RSE at Cromwell Academy are to:

- Promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of all pupils.
- Encourage pupils to value themselves and others.
- Provide a framework in which sensitive discussions can take place.
- Promote safety in forming and maintaining relationships.
- Provide pupils with a toolkit for understanding and managing their emotions.
- Provide pupils with the opportunities to consider issues which may affect their own lives and/or the lives of others.
- Help pupils to identify the characteristics of healthy relationships, how relationships may affect mental and physical health; and how to stay safe online.
- 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.

### **Delivery of Relationships and Sex Education**

RSE is taught within the personal, social and health (PSHCE) education curriculum. Some biological aspects of sex education are taught within the science curriculum. At Cromwell Academy, we follow the Cambridgeshire Primary Personal Development Programme for Years Reception – Year 6 for PSHCE, and lessons are delivered weekly. The topics covered in PSHCE are designed to foster respect for others and their differences and educate pupils about healthy relationships.

We believe that RSE should meet the needs of all pupils, whatever their developing sexuality or identity – this should include age-appropriate teaching about different types of relationships in the context of the law. Pupils should receive teaching on LGBT relationships, through teaching about different types of family, including those with same-sex parents.

Whilst many aspects of RSE are taught throughout the year, some specific age-related aspects are delivered at a pre-planned point during the year, in order that parents/carers are informed and can be involved in supporting their child.

The content of our Sex Education programme will be gradually developed in an age appropriate way. The children will not learn about human sexual reproduction until Y5/6. It will be taught as a discrete subject to these year groups:

- In Year 5, children learn about physical changes in the body (puberty), personal hygiene and relationships, including emotions and feelings. The science curriculum will cover reproduction of plants and other animals (excluding humans) through the study of lifecycles.
- In Year 6, children will revisit the topics that were covered in year 5 regarding physical changes in the body. In addition, human reproduction will be covered within the context of healthy and loving relationships.

### **Staff**

Teaching Relationships Education can be very rewarding, but we understand that, in order to feel confident, staff need opportunities to develop their own knowledge, skills and attitudes. We recognise that all adults have different personal beliefs and attitudes, but that all teachers must understand and comply with their duties connected with safeguarding, equality and inclusion.

Teachers have a duty to deliver statutory areas of the curriculum and all teachers will be supported to develop their skills in delivering non-statutory areas such as sex education objectively. We will discuss relevant issues and staff concerns and, where appropriate, arrange training to enable staff members to feel confident in delivering the various aspects of Relationships Education. We will also encourage the sharing of good practice. We may also use team teaching to develop confidence.

### **Questions**

We acknowledge that sensitive and complex issues will arise in Relationships Education, as pupils will naturally ask questions. When spontaneous discussion arises, it will be guided in a way which reflects the stated school aims and curriculum content. As a first principle, we will answer questions relating to the planned curriculum for that age group or below to the whole class. We will answer questions relating to areas beyond the planned curriculum for that age group, in a sensitive and age appropriate way, only to the pupil/s who have asked the question. If a member of staff is uncertain about the answer to a question, or indeed whether they wish to answer it, they will seek guidance from the PSHCE Lead or Designated Safeguarding Lead.

When answering questions, we shall ensure that sharing personal information by adults, pupils or their families is discouraged. Where the question indicates the need for pastoral support, the conversation will be deferred to a time outside the teaching session and other colleagues may be involved. Where a question or comment from a pupil in the classroom indicates the possibility of abuse, coercion or exploitation, teachers will pass this information to the DSL in line with school Safeguarding policy.

### **Equal Opportunities**

The RSE programme at Cromwell Academy reflects our ethos and demonstrates and promotes the following:

- Learning the value of respect, care and love;
- Valuing family life within stable, loving and committed relationships;
- Acceptance of same sex unions as also offering stable, loving and committed relationships to nurture children;
- Respecting yourself and others;
- Respecting rights and responsibilities within relationships;
- Appreciating that different, successful family structures exist;
- Understanding diversity regarding religion, gender, culture and sexual orientation;
- Striving to reduce intolerance and discrimination based on sexual orientation, disability, ethnicity, religion and gender;
- Accepting difference and diversity;
- Promoting gender equality and equality in relationships;
- Challenging stereotypes and inequality;
- Developing spiritual, moral, social and cultural awareness in line with the 2010 Equality Act and the schools' Safeguarding and child protection protocols, and Equality policy.

### **Right to Withdraw**

Our school strives to build positive and supportive relationships with the parents of children through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation. In promoting this objective, we:

- make available online, via the school's website, this RSE Policy;
- are happy to answer any questions that parents may have about RSE and their child;
- take seriously any issue that parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy or the arrangements for RSE in the school;
- support parents with information regarding RSE, so that the teaching in school supports the key messages that parents and carers give to children at home.

We believe that, through this mutual exchange of knowledge and information, children will benefit from being given consistent messages about their changing body and their increasing responsibilities. Our school will inform parents when aspects of the Sex Education programme are taught and are happy to answer any questions or queries parents may have. We have committed to retain a parent's right to withdraw their child from non-statutory sex education within RSE (other than reproduction within the Science curriculum). There is no right to withdraw from Relationships Education, as it is a statutory element.

If a parent wishes for their child to be withdrawn from the sex education elements of RSE, they should discuss this with the headteacher, and make it clear which aspects of the programme they do not wish their child to participate in. In such cases, alternative work will be given to pupils who are withdrawn from these lessons.

### **Monitoring, Review and Evaluation**

Monitoring, review and evaluation of this policy is the responsibility of the PSHCE Lead and Headteacher. The governing body will ask for information relating to the effectiveness of the policy when it is monitored every year. Information will be gathered from the Headteacher and the PSHCE Lead to inform judgements about effectiveness.

This policy is reviewed at least every 2 years and in respect of any related issue that may occur such as any new findings arising from educational research, local or national guidance.

## **Links to Other Policies**

Due to the nature of the subject, this policy should be read and implemented in conjunction with other policies. It is supported by, but not limited to:

Safeguarding Policy  
Anti-Bullying Policy  
Equality Policy  
Positive Behaviour Policy  
SEND Policy

All the above policies can be found on the school website:

<https://www.cromwellacademy.com/page/?title=Policies&pid=26>

Relationship and Sex Education Guidance – DfE

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/805781/Relationships Education Relationships and Sex Education RSE and Health Education.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/805781/Relationships_Education_Relationships_and_Sex_Education_RSE_and_Health_Education.pdf)