

# Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) Policy

2023-2024



## UN Convention on the Rights of the Child - Article 29 (Goals of Education)

Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the fullest. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights as well as respect for themselves, their peers, their parents, their community, their own and other cultures and the environment.

At Berger Primary school we promote the core values of equality, dignity, respect and non-discrimination. These values of a Rights Respecting School are at the heart of our school community. We are committed to ensuring that all children are treated consistently and fairly by all staff.

## Berger Together

At Berger we are committed to promoting equality and inclusion and preventing discriminatory behaviour. We will ensure (in line with our statutory duties under the Equality Act) that no aspect of school life, including SRE lessons, discriminates against a member of the school community due to a protected characteristic. This includes, but is not limited to: socio-economic background, ethnicity, disability, religion, nationality, age, gender (including transgender), family structure or any other protected characteristic.

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Appendix 1: RSE and PSHE Curriculum

Appendix 2: Parent form: withdrawal from sex education within

### **1. Aims**

The aim of Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) at Berger is to:

- Provide a safe framework in which sensitive discussions can take place
- 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
- Prepare KS2 pupils for puberty, and give them an understanding of sexual development and the importance of health and hygiene
- To understand what is meant by consent; the importance of gaining, as well as giving, consent and that consent can be withdrawn at any time

## **2. Statutory requirements**

As a maintained primary school we must provide relationships education to all pupils as per section 34 of the [Children and Social work act 2017](#).

However, we are not required to provide sex education but we do need to teach the elements of sex education contained in the science curriculum.

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

At Berger we teach RSE as set out in this policy.

## **3. Policy development**

1. Review – Our PSHE Coordinator pulled together all relevant information including relevant national and local guidance
2. Phase consultation – all phase leaders reviewed their phase’s curriculum and resources to ensure there were not significant changes proposed.
3. Parent, staff and governor consultation – Berger’s parent and staff governor along with members of the curriculum committee reviewed and approved the revised policy.
4. Implementation – Revised policy was implemented from October 2023. Review and consultation – within one year the RSE policy will be reviewed including a wider consultation.

## **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 in line with the principles of Berger Primary School.

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

RSE is not about the promotion of sexual activity.

## **5. Curriculum**

Our RSE and PSHE curriculum is set out in Appendix 1 as per but we may need to adapt it as and when necessary.

We have developed the curriculum by taking into account the age, needs and feelings of pupils. If pupils ask questions outside the scope of this policy, teachers will respond in an appropriate manner so they are fully informed and don’t seek answers online.

RSE will focus on:

Preparing boys and girls for the changes that adolescence brings

Age appropriate information about how a baby is conceived and born For more information about our curriculum, see our curriculum map in Appendix 1.

## **6. Delivery of RSE**

At Berger RSE is taught within the personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education curriculum. Biological aspects of RSE are taught within the science curriculum.

Pupils also receive stand-alone RSE sessions delivered by a trained health professional.

Relationships 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
- Growing and changing

We believe that it is important that both genders are aware of what the other experiences. Therefore, main PSHE lessons, including sexual health, will be taught to mixed classes. When appropriate however, single gender groups may be allocated.

## **7. Roles and responsibilities**

### **7.1 The governing board**

The governing board will approve the RSE policy, and hold the headteacher to account for its implementation.

### **7.2 The headteacher**

The headteacher is responsible for ensuring that RSE is taught consistently across the school, and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from non-statutory and non-science components of RSE (see section 8).

### 7.3 Staff

Staff are responsible for:

- Delivering RSE in a sensitive way
- Modelling positive attitudes to RSE
- Responding to the needs of individual pupils

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

### 7.4 Pupils

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

## **8. Parents' right to withdraw**

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

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the non-statutory and non-science components of sex education within RSE.

When a RSE objective is about to be taught, teachers will send out a letter informing parents of the objective and of the date of delivery. If the lesson focuses on elements of RSE that are not within the Science curriculum, or the Relationships and Health Curriculum, parents will be able to request a withdrawal form.

Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing using the form found in Appendix 2 of this policy and addressed to the headteacher.

Alternative work will be given to pupils who are withdrawn from sex education.

## **9. Training**

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

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