

# West Felton CofE Primary School



## RSE Policy Spring 2025

Written	February 2025
Ratified	March 2025
Reviewed	February 2027

Rationale, ethos and definitions:

At West Felton CofE Primary School, all policy formation begins with our Vision and Values:

### **Preparing for Life in all its Fullness**

*Through*

**Aspiration**

**Community**

**Dignity**

**Kindness**

Relationship and sex education (RSE) is fundamental to that vision because it can equip our young people with the knowledge and skills to develop healthy, respectful relationships, make informed decisions about their sexual health, recognise and avoid abusive behaviours, and ultimately contribute to a safer and more positive society by understanding consent, boundaries, and healthy communication practices. As a primary school, we aim to help create the building blocks for good decision making, now and in the future.

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

As a maintained primary school, we must provide relationships education to all pupils under section 34 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017.

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.

We must also have regard to our 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 West Felton CofE Primary School, we teach RSE as set out in this policy.

- ✓ 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.

### **Roles and responsibilities**

- a) *Governing body*

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

#### *The headteacher*

The headteacher is responsible for ensuring that RSE is taught consistently across the school, for sharing resources and materials with parents and carers, and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from [non-statutory/non-science] components of RSE (see section 9).

#### *b) Staff*

Staff are responsible for:

- Delivering RSE in a sensitive way
- Modelling positive attitudes to RSE
- Monitoring progress
- Responding to the needs of individual pupils
- Responding appropriately to pupils whose parents/carers wish them to be withdrawn from the [non-statutory/non-science] components of RSE

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.

Mrs. Helen Hughes is subject lead for RSE.

#### *c) Pupils*

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

### **Curriculum design**

We teach RSE through our PSHE curriculum and where appropriate through our science curriculum.

In PSHE we use PSHE Association programme of study to build our curriculum. This includes:

- Families, how they are all different and all are to be valued.
- Positive relationships and friendships.
- Respecting ourselves and others-exploring how our behaviour can impact on others.
- Being safe, online and in the outside world.
- Appropriate relationships, how bodies belong to the individual and to how identify appropriate physical contact and where to go if they feel unsafe.
- How males and females are different and scientifically correct names for body parts.
- How bodies grow and change and what happens to bodies during puberty.

We aim to support children's emotional development, and the children are encouraged to ask questions and are taught where to go if help is needed. Through our Science Curriculum, teachers inform children about males and females and how a baby is born. In Key Stage 1, we teach children that animals, including humans, produce offspring, which grow into adults, and we also teach them about the main parts of the body. In Key Stage 2, we teach about life processes including reproduction and the main stages of the human life

cycle, in greater depth.

Further details about our Curriculum can be found on our website:

<https://westfelton.westcliffefederation.co.uk/pshe/> or on request from your child's class teacher or RSE lead, Mrs. Hughes.

### **Engaging parents and other stakeholders**

The school recognises the importance of parent's/carers involvement in RSE and encourage parent carers to understand what is taught to their child. We encourage parents to engage with our newsletters and regularly Seesaw updates to inform their understanding. Further information can be found on our website:

<https://westfelton.westcliffefederation.co.uk/pshe/>

Parent carers are also invited to view resources either at school or at home.

### **Right to withdraw**

Parents have the right to request that their child be withdrawn from some or all of sex education delivered as part of statutory RSE. Before granting any such request we request that parents meet with our RSE lead, Mrs. Helen Hughes, to discuss the nature of their concerns. We will formally document this process and review requests on an individual basis.

### **Monitoring, reporting and evaluation**

PSHE and RSE are subject to the same rigorous monitoring, reporting and evaluation system as all foundation subjects. This is outlined in our Picture Building process and can be discussed on request.

Our RSE lead, Mrs. Hughes, keeps abreast of local, regional and national updates and adapts policies and procedures where necessary.