



**Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Penderyn.**

Policy for: Relationships & Sexuality Education

**Approved by Governing Body: Autumn 2023**

Signed (Chair of Governors): Mrs P Oliver

Signed (Headteacher): Mr A Wood

Review Date: Updated as required.

# **Ysgol Gynradd Penderyn**

## **Policy on Relationships & Sexuality Education**

### **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 Our school's policy on relationships & sexuality education is based on Curriculum for Wales requirements based on the Curriculum and Assessment Wales act (2021). For the rest of this document it will be known as RSE.
- 1.2 RSE is defined as 'learning about physical, moral and emotional development'. This has been subdivided as:
- Relationships & Identity.
  - Sexual Health & Wellbeing.
  - Empowerment, Safety & Respect.
- 1.3 RSE is part of the personal, social and health education development in our school.

### **2 Aims and objectives**

- 2.1 We teach children about:
- the physical development of their bodies as they grow into adults;
  - the way humans reproduce;
  - respect for their own bodies and the importance of sexual activity as part of a committed, long-term, and loving relationship;
  - the importance of family life;
  - moral questions;
  - relationship issues;
  - respect for the views of other people;
  - sexual abuse, and what they should do if they are worried about any sexual matters.

### **3 Context**

- 3.1 We teach RSE in the context of the school's aims and values. Whilst RSE in our school means that we give children information, we do this with an awareness of the moral code, and of the values which underpin all our work. We teach RSE on the understanding that:
- it is taught in the context of family life;
  - it is part of a wider process of social, personal, spiritual and moral education;
  - children should be taught to have respect for their own bodies;
  - children should learn about their responsibilities to others, and be aware of the consequences;
  - it is important to build positive relationships with others, involving trust and respect;
  - children need to learn the importance of self-control.

### **4 Organisation**

- 4.1 We teach RSE through different aspects of the curriculum. While we carry out the main sex education in our RSE curriculum, we also do some sex education through other subject areas (e.g. science and Health & Wellbeing) which we believe contribute significantly to children's knowledge and understanding of their own bodies, and how they are changing and developing.

- 4.2 In RSE, we teach children about relationships, and we encourage children to discuss issues. We teach about the parts of the body, and how these work, and we explain to the children what will happen to their bodies during puberty. We encourage the children to ask for help if they need it.
- 4.2 In Year 6, we place a particular emphasis on health education, as many children experience puberty at this age. We liaise with the Local Health Authority about suitable teaching materials to use with our children in these lessons. Teachers do their best to answer all questions with sensitivity and care. We always teach this with due regard for the emotional development of the children.
- 4.3 All parents and carers of children in Year 6 are informed by letter when the nurse will discuss this particular programme of lessons.

## **5 The role of parents and carers**

- 5.1 The school is well aware that the primary role in children's RSE lies with parents and carers. We therefore wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents and carers of children at our school, through mutual understanding, trust and cooperation. To promote this objective, we:
- inform parents and carers about the school's RSE policy and practice;
  - answer any questions that parents or carers may have about the sex education of their child;
  - take seriously any issue that parents or carers raise with teachers or governors about this policy, or about the arrangements for sex education in the school;
  - encourage parents and carers to be involved in reviewing the school policy, and making modifications to it as necessary;
  - inform parents and carers about the best practice known with regard to 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 bodies and their increasing responsibilities.

- 5.2 Parents and carers do not have the right to withdraw their child from all or part of the RSE programme that we teach in our school. If a parent wishes their child to be withdrawn from sex education lessons, 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.

## **6 The role of other members of the community**

- 6.1 We encourage other valued members of the community to work with us to provide advice and support to the children with regard to health education. In particular, members of the Local Health Authority, such as the school nurse and other health professionals, give us valuable support with our RSE programme. Other people that we call on include local clergy, social workers and youth workers.

## **7 Confidentiality**

- 7.1 Teachers conduct RSE lessons in a sensitive manner, and in confidence. However, if a child makes a reference to being involved (or being likely to be involved) in sexual activity, then the teacher will take the reference seriously, and deal with it as a matter of child protection. Teachers will respond in a similar way if a child indicates that they may have been a victim of abuse. They will not try to investigate, but will immediately inform the named person for child protection issues about their concerns. The

headteacher will then deal with the matter in consultation with health care professionals.

## **9 The role of the headteacher**

- 9.1 It is the responsibility of the headteacher to ensure that both staff and parents/carers are informed about our RSE policy, and that the policy is implemented effectively. It is also the headteacher's responsibility to ensure that members of staff are given sufficient training, so that they can teach RSE effectively, and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity.
- 9.2 The headteacher liaises with external agencies regarding the school RSE programme, and ensures that all adults who work with our children on these issues are aware of the school policy, and work within its framework.
- 9.3 The headteacher monitors this policy on a regular basis, and reports to governors, when requested, on the effectiveness of the policy.

## **10 Monitoring and review**

- 10.1 The Curriculum Committee gives serious consideration to any comments from parents and carers about the sex education programme, and makes a record of all such comments. Governors require the headteacher to keep a written record, giving details of the content and delivery of our RSE programme.
- 10.2 This policy will be reviewed and updated as and when guidance from professionals becomes available.