

RELATIONSHIP AND SEX EDUCATION POLICY (RSE)

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Introduction

Milestone Academy has pupils from age 3-19 years of both sexes. All pupils have special needs i.e. severe learning difficulties, profound and multiple learning difficulties and/or complex needs. Relationship and Sex education is taught within the Personal, Health and Social Education curriculum.

Definition

The Governors and staff of Milestone Academy believe that RSE is an essential part of a balanced and broadly based curriculum helping pupils learn about their present and future selves and their relationship with others.

Philosophy

We believe that whilst a basic knowledge of the facts of human reproduction is an important part of any RSE programme, it is also important to understand that many of our pupils find it difficult to identify personally with such information.

We intend to teach RSE in discrete lessons and also, where appropriate, as an integral part of the learning processes beginning with childhood and continuing into adult life. We will encourage exploration of values, moral issues, consideration of sexuality and personal relationships, and the development of communication and decision-making skills. The pupils develop an understanding of their changing bodies and learn how to deal with these changes as they occur.

We aim to foster self-esteem, self awareness, a sense of moral responsibility and skills to enable pupils to avoid and resist unwanted sexual experiences. We recognise that working in partnership with parents and carers is vital to the effectiveness of teaching sex education.

Statement of Intent

At Milestone Academy our aim is to teach our pupils about physical, moral and emotional development. RSE is about understanding the importance of building positive relationships, marriage and family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. It is also about teaching of sex, sexuality and sexual health. It is not about the promotion or judgement of sexual orientation or sexual activity.

Partnership with Parents and Carers

We believe that effective education is a partnership between parents, carers and school, and our aim is to work closely with parents and carers to provide RSE as part of the Personal, Health and Social Education curriculum.

Parents and carers have an especially important role to play in RSE as they need to feel confident that our school's programme complements and supports their role. To enable this an information session is held to discuss the RSE programme and sharing of teaching materials to be used. Materials are available to parents/carers who wish to supplement the school RSE programme or who wish to deliver RSE to their children at home, this is accessible on our school website as well as discrete lessons being shared via the class teacher. We also hold termly coffee mornings for parents to access curriculum content as well as guidance to transfer this to home.

Our school will inform parents/carers about their right to withdraw their child from RSE lessons, and pupils who are withdrawn from RSE will be able to participate in lessons within another class.

Confidentiality

A child's confidentiality will always be maintained by the teacher or member of staff concerned. If this person believes that the child is at risk or in danger, they will talk to the child protection coordinator who may or may not confer with the head teacher who would use their discretion as to whether parents or carers should be informed. In the case of child abuse the normal procedures would be set in action.

Equal Opportunities

At Milestone Academy, Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) is underpinned by the ethos and values of our school and we uphold it as an entitlement for all our pupils. We recognise the need to work as a whole school community to ensure a shared understanding of RSE and the values under-pinning it and to deliver an effective programme that meets the needs of our pupils.

Our school teaches RSE within the following moral and values framework based on the following principles:

- Self respect
- Respect and tolerance towards others who may have different backgrounds, cultures, feelings, views and sexuality
- An awareness of the way others feel
- British values such as mutual respect, individual liberty and the rule of law
- Mutual support and co-operation
- Honesty and openness
- The acceptance of the responsibility for and the consequences of personal actions
- The right of people to hold their own views within the boundaries of respect for the rights of others
- The right not to be abused by or taken advantage of by other people
- The right to protection from drug and alcohol abuse, eating disorders, gang culture, child sexual exploitation, extremism, female genital mutilation and forced marriage

- The right to accurate information about relationship
- The value of stable loving relationships.

Organisation

Milestone Academy delivers RSE by:

- SEAL (social and emotional aspects of learning)
- All teachers supported by class teams
- School nurse and medical staff
- Quality assured external agencies/visitors, who are used to enhance the RSE programme

Milestone Academy teaches RSE through:

- A wide range of teaching methods to enable pupils to actively participate in their own learning.
- Using a variety of active learning methods: quizzes, case studies, research, role play, video and small group discussion.
- RSE is assessed alongside our PSHE summative assessment framework in alternate terms by the class lead.
- RSE is assessed and recorded daily as part of a formative assessment questioning, praise, feedback forms and evidence of learning.

RSE Programme of Study

Milestone Academy aims to provide young people with an understanding of the physical, biological, emotional, social, spiritual, legal and moral aspects of sex and sexuality. We teach RSE within the wider context of building self-esteem, emotional well-being, relationships and healthy lives beginning in the early years through to year 14. This prepares our pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

Exemplar learning outcomes in relation to pupil maturity and age:

Attitudes and Values

- to learn the value of respect, love and care.
- to learn to value and respect ourselves and others.
- to develop and understand the valuing of diversity.
- to promote a positive attitude to healthy lifestyle and keeping safe.
- to develop an understanding of the value of family life and an appreciation of the many different types of family.

Personal and Social Skills

- to learn how to identify and manage emotions confidently and sensitively.
- to develop self-respect and empathy for others.
- to develop communication skills with peers, school and family.
- to learn how to assess risk and to develop strategies for keeping safe.
- to develop the ability to give and secure help.

- to develop an understanding of difference and an absence of prejudice.

Knowledge and Understanding

- to recognise and name the main external parts of the body including agreed names for sexual parts.
- to know the basic rules for keeping themselves safe and healthy.
- to know about human life processes such as conception, birth and puberty.
- to develop an understanding of the physical and emotional aspects of puberty.
- to learn that safe routines can stop the spread of viruses such as HIV.
- to know who can provide help and support.

Health and Safety

Pupils should develop awareness and a real understanding of Health and Safety issues as an integral part of Milestone Academy's PHSE 3 year rolling programme, Curriculum Pathway and age specific. Other aspects will be covered within all other policies i.e. School Journeys, Curricular Policies, Health and Safety Policy.

Legal Aspects of Sex and Social Relationship Education

Milestone Academy will ensure that the governing body of the school keeps an up to date RSE Policy that describes the organisation of RSE provided outside the National Curriculum science order. They will also allow parents/carers to withdraw their children from RSE lessons in accordance with statutory guidance.

Policy updated by Jessica Street

Signed: J Street
PSPD Leader
Date: October 2023

Approved by Sarah Goosani