

Blaengwrach Primary School



Relationships & Sex Education (RSE) Policy

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Date agreed

Review Date

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Relationships & Sex Education (RSE) Policy

Mission Statement

Our aim is to create, through the school ethos, an environment where young people are able to acquire knowledge and develop essential social skills and gain emotional confidence in a safe and caring environment, to enable them to engage in meaningful and rewarding relationships with others.

Relationships and sexuality education is a positive and protective part of the Curriculum for Wales. It plays a central role in supporting learners to enjoy fulfilling, healthy and safe relationships throughout their lives

Rationale

Young people should have the right to access information that keeps them safe from harm. This includes learning about healthy relationships, keeping safe, online and offline, and being confident to raise issues with responsible adults.

RSE is designed to safeguard all our children and young people, supporting them to develop knowledge, skills and behaviours that will assist in protecting them throughout their lives. This is critical to building a society which treats others with understanding and empathy, whatever their ethnicity, social economic background, disability, sex, gender or sexuality.

Great care has been taken to ensure that all learning within RSE will be developmentally appropriate, and the teachers, stakeholders and professionals involved in its development have ensured that this is reflected within the RSE Code.

There are legal requirements for RSE to be developmentally appropriate, including the resources schools use in implementing RSE.

Topics like online safety, consent and sexual health are all included in the Code, but at developmentally appropriate phases so learners aren't exposed to things that aren't appropriate to their age and development.

At a younger age, for example, they will be taught about treating each other with kindness and empathy. As children grow older, they will gain an understanding of topics such as online safety, consent and sexual health – all of which will be handled in a sensitive way.

Learning in RSE will also include recognising, understanding and speaking out about all forms of discrimination, violence, abuse and neglect and to seek support and advice on a range of issues from trusted sources.

RSE is also legally required to be objective, critical and pluralistic: meaning schools and settings must provide factual information and on questions of values, a range of views on a given subject, commonly held within society.

School Culture

Schools should keep parents and carers fully aware of what is being learned and why, with opportunity for questions and clarification. The RSE Code has been published to give parents and carers clarity and transparency about what their children will learn and when. Parents/carers are informed by the school in advance of any learning that is due to take place which may lead to their child asking some sensitive questions at home.

Additional Learning Needs

Blaengwrach Primary has a duty to ensure that all pupils are properly included in relationships and sex education. Therefore, pupils should not be withdrawn from this aspect of the curriculum in order to focus on other areas of the curriculum, however, consideration must be given to delivering information in an age/stage appropriate way.

Child Protection

Pupils cannot learn effectively if they are concerned or frightened about being harmed or are the victims of abuse. The school provides a safe and structured environment for pupils where they can receive advice and guidance on matters which are troubling them and on which they need help and support. These can include matters relating to sexual abuse or exploitation.

Relationships and Sex Education, which brings a greater understanding of what is and what is NOT acceptable in relationships, can lead to a child protection disclosure. If a member of staff suspects that a child or young person is at risk of or is suffering harm from abuse, then the 'All Wales Child Protection Procedures- Keeping Learners Safe' will be followed and the matter will be referred to the designated teacher responsibility for child protection.

The designated teacher will advise members of staff on child protection procedures and will be responsible for making contact with Social Services. School staff will not investigate a child protection case and will not discuss the matter other than with the designated teacher.

The designated teacher at Blaengwrach Primary is Mrs Louise Williams, Head Teacher.

The deputy designated teachers are Mrs Lian Lewis, Deputy Head Teacher and Mrs Ann Alexis, School Clerk. The designated Governor is Mrs Sharon Davies, Vice Chair of Governors. (See the Child Protection Policy for more information)

Confidentiality

Pupils within school should be reassured that their best interests will be maintained at all times. It is not possible for teachers or any member of staff within school to provide pupils with an unconditional guarantee of confidentiality. Where confidentiality is to be breached by a teacher then the pupil will be advised before it happens, by the teacher, who will arrange support as appropriate. Where abuse is suspected then child protection procedures will be followed. (See the Child Protection Policy for more information)

Education Programme and Teachers notes.

Blaengwrach Primary is committed to educating all pupils in responsible and healthy personal relationships. Sex education will be placed within a clear framework of values, attitudes and skills. Features such as family life in all its different forms, parenthood, and sensitive areas need to be presented in a balanced way so that ethical issues are discussed objectively.

Parents and pupils should be assured that personal beliefs and attitudes of teachers will not influence the teaching of relationships and sex education within the school's curriculum. All those contributing to the relationships and sex education programme within school are required to work within school's agreed values. Appropriate training and support in delivering the programme sensitively and effectively will be provided via the Local Education Authority.

Ground rules to support relationships and sex education within the PSE curriculum.

Clear ground rules will be set to allow the establishment of a safe environment, eliminating embarrassment and anxiety. Blaengwrach Primary will review these rules on a class/year group basis.

Such ground rules include:

- No one (teacher or pupil) will be expected to answer a personal question
- No one will be forced to take part in a discussion.
- Meanings of words will be explained in a sensible, age appropriate and factual way.

Dealing with questions

Teachers will establish clear parameters of what is appropriate and inappropriate. Having clear ground rules will support them in doing this.

Where unexpected questions are raised by pupils then teachers will respond by:

- Where a question is too personal, reminding pupils of agreed ground rules. If particular support is required, then the pupil can be referred to an appropriate person e.g. school-based counsellor, nurse, helpline, or outside agency.

Puberty and changing body talk is delivered by the school nurse to year 5 and year 6 pupils.

If the question is too explicit, feels too old for a pupil, is inappropriate for the whole class, or raises concern of sexual abuse, the teacher should acknowledge it and deal with it on an individual basis.

Teachers will provide information that is appropriate to the child's question, taking into account their age, existing level of knowledge, emotional, physical, psychological development needs, and the nature of the question that has been asked.

If there is concern over sexual abuse the teacher must follow the school child protection procedures (All Wales Child Protection Procedures 2008).

Teaching Strategies to support Relationships and Sex Education

Discussion will form an important part of the delivery strategy for this programme allowing pupils to draw on previous knowledge, to consider their beliefs and attitudes to different topic areas, whilst practising a range of social skills.

We have a responsibility to educate our pupils so that their actions are based on knowledge, understanding and accurate information to enable them to make informed choices about their health and emotional well-being.

We need to inform staff, governors and pupils of the appropriate action to be taken where situations of a sensitive, sexual nature arise. (See the Child Protection Policy for more information).

Responding to Incidents

- The school has identified a designated child protection leader (Mrs Louise Williams, Headteacher), who has responsibility for dealing with sexually related incidents.
- If the teacher or TA believes that a pupil is at moral risk, at risk of physical or significant harm or in breach of the law, the teacher has a duty to make the pupil aware of the implication and urge him/her to seek advice. The designated leader/ teacher must also be informed of the incident and the documentation needs to be completed (See Child Protection Policy).
- Teachers should be careful not to guarantee or offer unconditional confidentiality to pupils, but reassure the pupil that only a limited number of staff will be made aware of any incident.
- An undertaking to follow the school's child protection policy if there is a possibility of abuse.

All staff and governors working at Blaengwrach Primary have received child protection training. All teachers and teaching assistants are aware of the child protection policy. This has resulted in staff having a consistent approach in dealing with these sensitive matters.