

# Canvey Island Infant School



## Policy for Relationships and Sex Education

**Author: Sandra Dorrington March 2021**

### **Introduction**

This document is a statement of the aims, principles and strategies for Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) at Canvey Island Infant School.

It has been developed in consultation with all members of staff and parents, approved by the Governing Board and will be reviewed in three years' time or earlier.

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

### **Rationale**

DfE guidance (07/2019) outlines the rationale for teaching Relationships Education as follows:

To embrace the challenges of creating a happy and successful adult life, pupils need knowledge that will enable them to make informed decisions about their wellbeing, health and relationships and to build their self-efficacy. Pupils can also put this knowledge into practice as they develop the capacity to make sound decisions when facing risks, challenges and complex contexts. Everyone faces difficult situations in their lives. These subjects can support young people to develop resilience, to know how and when to ask for help and to know where to access support.

### **Aims**

At Canvey Island Infant School, Relationships and Sex 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

These areas of learning are taught within the context of family life, taking care to ensure that there is no stigmatisation of children based on their home circumstances (families can include single parent families, LGBT parents, families headed by grandparents, adoptive parents, foster parents/carers amongst other structures) along with reflecting sensitively that some children may have a different structure of support around them (for example: looked after children or young carers).

### **Teaching and Learning**

Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED) is a prime area of learning in the Early Years and is taught alongside all other aspects of the Early Years Curriculum.

*See Appendix 1 EYFS Prime areas of learning*

In Key Stage One, Relationships Education is taught within the personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education curriculum. Additionally, the science curriculum teaches children how animals, including humans, move, feed, grow and reproduce. Children learn to appreciate the fact that people are not all the same and that we need to respect each other. We encourage other valued members of the community to work with us to provide advice and support to the children with regard to personal

and health education; in particular, members of the Local Health Authority, such as the school nurse and other health professionals.

*See Appendix 2 Key Stage One PSHE Curriculum Plans*

### ***The role of the Headteacher***

The Headteacher will ensure that members of staff are given sufficient training in order that Relationships Education is taught effectively across the school and they are well equipped to handle any difficult issues with sensitivity.

### ***The role of Teaching and Learning Support Staff***

All members of the Teaching and Learning Support staff are responsible for:

- Delivering Relationships Education in a sensitive way
- Modelling positive attitudes to Relationships and Sex Education
- Monitoring progress
- Responding to the needs of individual pupils

### ***Parents' right to withdraw***

Parents do not have the right to withdraw their children from Relationships Education, but can withdraw their child from any non-statutory or non-science components within RSE.

*See Appendix 3 A guide for parents*

At Canvey Island Infant School our guiding principles are that all of the compulsory subject content must be age appropriate and developmentally appropriate. It must be taught sensitively and inclusively, with respect to the backgrounds and beliefs of pupils and parents.

### ***Confidentiality***

Teachers conduct 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 must take the reference seriously and deal with it as a matter of child protection. Teachers must respond in a similar way if a child indicates that they may have been a victim of abuse. They must not try to investigate, but immediately inform the Designated Lead (HT) for child protection issues, about their concerns. The Designated Lead will then deal with the matter in consultation with health care professionals. This is in accordance to our Child Protection Policy.