Castle View Primary School: Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) Policy

Date Implemented: January 2026

Date of Review: October 2026

Approved by: Governing Body

1. Introduction and Purpose

This policy outlines Castle View Primary School's approach to Relationships and Sex Education (RSE). It is written in accordance with the statutory guidance "Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education" (July 2025) and reflects the school's commitment to providing a safe, inclusive, and high-quality education for all pupils. This policy is part of a whole school approach to promoting pupil wellbeing.

2. Aims and Objectives

The aims of RSE at Castle View Primary School are to:

- Provide pupils with the knowledge and understanding necessary to develop healthy, respectful, and safe relationships.
- Equip pupils with the skills to navigate the challenges and opportunities of growing up in a complex world.
- Promote pupils' personal and social development, including their emotional wellbeing, self-esteem, and confidence.
- Ensure pupils understand the importance of equality, diversity, and inclusion in all relationships.
- Prepare pupils for the transition to secondary school and the wider world.
- Teach pupils about staying safe online and offline.
- Help pupils understand how to seek help and support if they have concerns about their relationships or wellbeing.
- Ensure pupils understand the correct terms for different parts of the body and to be able to confidently use these terms.

3. Legal Framework and Guidance

This policy is compliant with the following legislation and guidance:

- Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education (Statutory Guidance, July 2025).
- Equality Act 2010.
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (latest version).

4. Policy Development and Consultation

This policy has been developed in consultation with:

- School staff (teaching and non-teaching).
- Parents/carers.
- Pupils (through age-appropriate methods).
- Governing Body.

The consultation process has involved:

- Staff consultation meeting
- Letter shared with parents inviting them to a consultation meeting
- Consultation meeting with parents, followed by a period for response
- Discussion with children
- Consideration of feedback from all stakeholders.

5. Curriculum Content

The RSE curriculum at Castle View Primary School will cover the following topics, appropriate to pupils' age and developmental stage:

- **Relationships Education:**
    - Families and people who care for me.
    - Caring friendships.
    - Respectful relationships.
    - Online relationships.
    - Being safe.
    - Appropriate touch.
- **Health Education:**
    - Mental wellbeing.
    - Internet safety and harms.
    - Physical health and fitness.
    - Healthy eating.
    - Drugs, alcohol, and tobacco.
    - Basic First Aid.
    - Changing adolescent body
- **Sex Education**

    - Taught in Year 6 in line with content about conception and birth, which forms part of the national curriculum for science.

    - The national curriculum for science includes main external body parts, the human body as it grows from birth to old age (including puberty) and reproduction in some plants and animals.
    - We also cover human reproduction in the science curriculum, but this is in line with the factual description of conception in the science curriculum.

The curriculum will be delivered through:

- Whole class teaching
- Small group teaching
- Sessions with the school nurse
- Use of age-appropriate resources.
- Opportunities for pupils to ask questions in a safe and supportive environment.

6. Roles and Responsibilities

- **Governing Body:**
    - Approving the RSE policy.
    - Ensuring the school complies with statutory guidance.
    - Monitoring the implementation and effectiveness of the policy.
- **Headteacher:**
    - Overall responsibility for the implementation of the RSE policy.
    - Ensuring that staff are appropriately trained and supported.
    - Dealing with any concerns or complaints relating to RSE.
- **RSE Coordinator:**
    - Developing and reviewing the RSE curriculum.
    - Providing training and support to staff.
    - Liaising with external agencies.
- **Teachers:**
    - Delivering the RSE curriculum in a sensitive and age-appropriate manner.
    - Creating a safe and supportive learning environment.
    - Responding to pupils' questions and concerns.
    - Following the school's safeguarding procedures.
- **Parents/Carers:**
    - Being informed about the RSE curriculum.
    - Having the right to request that their child is withdrawn from sex education (where it is taught).
    - Supporting their child's learning at home.
- **Pupils:**
    - Engaging in RSE lessons respectfully.
    - Asking questions and sharing their views.
    - Treating others with respect.

7. Training and Support for Staff

- All staff involved in delivering RSE will receive appropriate training.

- Training will cover:
    - The statutory guidance on RSE.
    - The school's RSE policy.
    - Effective teaching strategies.
    - Safeguarding procedures.
    - How to respond to sensitive questions.

Staff will also have access to ongoing support and guidance from the RSE coordinator.

8. Safeguarding

- The safety and wellbeing of pupils is paramount.
- All staff will follow the school's safeguarding policy and procedures.
- Any concerns about a pupil's safety or wellbeing will be reported to the designated safeguarding lead.

RSE lessons will provide opportunities for pupils to learn about:
- Different forms of abuse.
- How to stay safe online and offline.
- How to seek help and support.

9. Inclusion and Accessibility
- The RSE curriculum will be inclusive of all pupils, regardless of their:
    - Gender.
    - Sexual orientation.
    - Disability.
    - Ethnicity.
    - Religion or belief.
- The curriculum will be adapted to meet the needs of pupils with SEND.
- Resources will be used that reflect the diversity of the school community.

10. Parents' Right to Withdraw

- Parents have the right to request that their child is withdrawn from sex education, where this is beyond the national curriculum expectations.
- As a school, following consultation with parents, we have decided NOT to teach elements beyond the national curriculum, that are not a statutory requirement.
- The headteacher will discuss any requests for withdrawal with parents and, where appropriate, with the pupil, as the content taught is in line with national curriculum expectations.
- The headteacher will explain the benefits of sex education where this is the necessary in the curriculum.
- In primary schools, head teachers must automatically grant a request to withdraw a pupil from it, other than content that is taught as part of the science curriculum.

- Pupils cannot be withdrawn from relationships education or health education.
- If a future decision is made to teach beyond the national curriculum, this will be discussed with parents and an appropriate consultation period held. The school will ensure that pupils who are withdrawn from sex education receive appropriate, purposeful education during the period of withdrawal.

11. Monitoring and Evaluation

- The RSE curriculum will be monitored and evaluated regularly to ensure that it is effective and meeting the needs of pupils.
- Monitoring and evaluation will involve:
    - Lesson observations.
    - Pupil feedback.
    - Parent feedback.
    - Review of pupil outcomes.
- The findings of the monitoring and evaluation will be used to inform future curriculum development.

12. Complaints Procedure

- Any complaints about the RSE policy or its implementation will be dealt with in accordance with the school's complaints policy.

13. Review

- This policy will be reviewed annually in consultation with relevant stakeholders.
- The review will take into account:
    - Changes in legislation or guidance.
    - Feedback from staff, pupils, and parents.
    - The findings of monitoring and evaluation.

14. Openness with Parents

We will engage with parents on the content of RSHE and be transparent with parents about all materials used in RSHE. All materials are available to parents.