



The Meadows Montessori School

RSE Policy Primary School

Applies to:

Primary School, out-of-school care, the after-school clubs, and all other activities provided by the High school, inclusive of those outside of normal school hours.

All staff (teaching and support staff), any students, the Proprietor and volunteers working in the school.

Availability

This policy is made available to parents, staff, and pupils by request from the Head of School or school office.

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be subject to continuous monitoring, refinement, and audit by the Head of School.

The SENCO (Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators) undertakes an annual review of this policy and of the efficiency with which the related duties have been discharged, by no later than one year from the date shown below, or earlier if changes in legislation, regulatory requirements or best practice guidelines so require.

Approved Date – May 2023	Lisa Elvish
Review Date – May 2024	SENCO

Aims

The Meadows Montessori School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. It is our aim that all pupils fulfil their potential.

The aims of relationships and sex education (RSE) at our school are to:

- › Provide a framework in which sensitive discussions can take place
- › Prepare pupils for puberty, and give them an understanding of sexual development and the importance of health and hygiene
- › Help pupils develop feelings of self-respect, confidence, and empathy
- › Create a positive culture around issues of sexuality and relationships
- › Teach pupils the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies

Statutory Requirements

As an independent school we provide relationships education to all pupils as per section 34 of the Children and Social work act 2017.

We do not have to follow the National Curriculum, but we are expected to offer all pupils a curriculum that is similar to the National Curriculum including requirements to teach science which would include the elements of sex education contained in the science curriculum.

In teaching RSE, we are required to have regard to guidance issued by the secretary of state as outlined in section 403 of the Education Act 1996.

At The Meadows Montessori we teach RSE as set out in this policy.

Policy Development

This policy has been developed in consultation with staff, pupils, and parents. The consultation and policy development process involved the following steps:

1. Review – a member of staff or working group pulled together all relevant information including relevant national and local guidance
2. Staff consultation – all school staff were given the opportunity to look at the policy and make recommendations
3. Parent/stakeholder consultation – parents and any interested parties were invited to attend a meeting about the policy
4. Pupil consultation – we investigated what exactly pupils want from their RSE
5. Ratification – once amendments were made, the policy was shared via our website, and I school communication system.

Definition

RSE is about the emotional, social, and cultural development of pupils, and involves learning about relationships, sexual health, sexuality, healthy lifestyles, diversity, and personal identity.

RSE involves a combination of sharing information and exploring issues and values.

RSE is not about the promotion of sexual activity.

Curriculum

Our curriculum is set out as per Appendix 1, but we may need to adapt it as and when necessary.

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We have developed the curriculum in consultation with parents, pupils, and staff, taking into account the age, needs and feelings of pupils. If pupils ask questions outside the scope of this policy, teachers will respond in an appropriate manner, so they are fully informed and do not seek answers online.

Primary sex education at The Meadows Montessori will focus on:

- Preparing children for the changes that adolescence brings, emotionally and physically.
- How a baby is conceived and born

For more information about our curriculum, see our curriculum map in Appendix 1.

Delivery of RSE

RSE is taught within the personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education curriculum. Biological aspects of RSE are also taught within the science curriculum which is covered in Great Lesson 2 The Coming of Life, Great Lesson 3 The Coming of Humans and Great Lesson 6, The River of Life.

At The Meadows Montessori:

Relationships 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

For more information about our RSE curriculum, see Appendix 1

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).

Roles and responsibilities

The Headteacher

The headteacher is responsible for ensuring that RSE is taught consistently across the school, and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from components of RSE (section 8).

Staff

Staff are responsible for:

- Delivering RSE in a sensitive way
- Modelling positive attitudes to RSE
- Monitoring progress
- Responding to the needs of individual pupils
- Responding appropriately to pupils whose parents wish them to be withdrawn from the components of RSE

Staff who have concerns about teaching RSE are encouraged to discuss this with the headteacher.

As Pastoral Lead Lisa Elvish is responsible for delivering the RSE curriculum, and for ensuring that staff are suitably trained to deliver aspects of the curriculum where necessary.

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Pupils

Pupils are expected to engage fully in RSE and, when discussing issues related to RSE, treat others with respect and sensitivity.

Parents' Right to Withdraw

Parents are advised not to withdraw their children from relationships education however, parents do have the right to withdraw their children from the components of sex education within RSE.

Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing using the form found in Appendix 2 of this policy and addressed to the headteacher.

Alternative work will be given to pupils who are withdrawn from sex education.

Training

Staff are trained on the delivery of RSE, and it is included in our continuing professional development calendar.

The headteacher will also invite visitors from outside the school, such as school nurses or sexual health professionals, to provide support and training to staff teaching RSE.

Monitoring Arrangements

The delivery of RSE is monitored by Kristie Manser, Headteacher through updates of RSE/PSHE lesson plans and evaluation and termly staff appraisals.

Pupils' development in RSE is monitored by class teachers as part of our internal communication systems.

This policy will be reviewed by Lisa Elvish, SENCO and Pastoral Lead, annually. At every review, the policy will be approved by Sam Sims, Head of School.

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Appendix 1: Curriculum map

PSHE and Relationships and Sex Education Curriculum Map for Primary

YEAR GROUP	TERM	TOPIC/THEME DETAILS	RESOURCES
Year 1 - 6	Autumn 1	British Values. Rules, respect, democracy, pride, tolerance, responsibility. Weekly sessions covering one topic per week. 6-week programme. Groups divided into year 1, then year 2, 3 and 4 together and then year 5 and 6 together.	Twinkl.com Badger Citizenship and PSHE by Sue Graves. British values books by Deborah Chancellor and Elif Balta Parks.
Year 1-6	Autumn 2	Children's rights, in the UK and worldwide, law and staying safe.	Twinkl.com https://www.humanium.org/en/fundamental-rights/ https://www.unicef.org.uk/what-we-do/un-convention-child-rights/
Year 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 All year groups	Spring 1	Online safety. Digital citizenship, six sessions lesson plans. Assembly script and 4 primary lesson plans. Anti cyber bullying game https://www.esafetytraining.org/about-us	TES, Children's commissioner. UK safer internet centre Twinkl.com Esafety.com
Year 1	Spring 1	Online safety. Assembly script and five primary lesson plans. Digi Duck story/activity pack.	UK safer internet centre ChildNet international

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YEAR GROUP	TERM	TOPIC/THEME DETAILS	RESOURCES
Years 1	Spring 2	Friendship: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Things that cause conflict between me and my friends • What I do when my friend makes me upset • How to be a good friend. 	Twinkl.com
Years 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.	Spring 2	Friendship: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Problem solving scenarios. What is the problem? How can it be solved? How many solutions can you think of? How does the problem make you feel? Emotion and dialogue scenarios. • How to be a good friend 	Twinkl.com Licensed to S<, Child Health Centre, Bury St Edmunds, BSP 16496
Years 1	Summer 1	Relationships, families, lifestyles and celebrating diversity.	
Years 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.	Summer 1	Relationships, families, lifestyles and celebrating diversity.	https://www.amnesty.org.uk/resources/lgbti-rights-activity-pack
Years 1	Summer 2	Changes, environmentally and personally.	
Years 2, 3, 4	Summer 2	Changes, environmentally and personally.	
Years 5 and 6	Summer 2	Changes, environmentally, physically, and emotional.	

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Appendix 2a: By the end of Primary school pupils should know

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Families and people who care about me	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That families are important for children growing up because they can give love, security, and stability • The characteristics of healthy family life, commitment to each other, including in times of difficulty, protection and care for children and other family members, the importance of spending time together and sharing each other’s lives • That others’ families, either in school or in the wider world, sometimes look different from their family, but that they should respect those differences and know that other children’s families are also characterised by love and care <p>That stable, caring relationships, which may be of different types, are at the heart of happy families, and are important for children’s security as they grow up</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That marriage represents a formal and legally recognised commitment of two people to each other which is intended to be lifelong • How to recognise if family relationships are making them feel unhappy or unsafe, and how to seek help or advice from others if needed
Caring friendships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How important friendships are in making us feel happy and secure, and how people choose and make friends • The characteristics of friendships, including mutual respect, truthfulness, trustworthiness, loyalty, kindness, generosity, trust, sharing interests and experiences and support with problems and difficulties • That healthy friendships are positive and welcoming towards others, and do not make others feel lonely or excluded <p>That most friendships have ups and downs, and that these can often be worked through so that the friendship is repaired or even strengthened, and that resorting to violence is never right</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to recognise who to trust and who not to trust, how to judge when a friendship is making them feel unhappy or uncomfortable, managing conflict, how to manage these situations and how to seek help or advice from others, if needed

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TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Respectful relationships	<p>The importance of respecting others, even when they are very different from them (for example, physically, in character, personality or backgrounds), or make different choices or have different preferences or beliefs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practical steps they can take in a range of different contexts to improve or support respectful relationships • The conventions of courtesy and manners • The importance of self-respect and how this links to their own happiness • That in school and in wider society they can expect to be treated with respect by others, and that in turn they should show due respect to others, including those in positions of authority <p>About different types of bullying (including cyberbullying), the impact of bullying, responsibilities of bystanders (primarily reporting bullying to an adult) and how to get help</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What a stereotype is, and how stereotypes can be unfair, negative, or destructive • The importance of permission-seeking and giving in relationships with friends, peers, and adults
Online relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That people sometimes behave differently online, including by pretending to be someone they are not • That the same principles apply to online relationships as to face-to face relationships, including the importance of respect for others online including when we are anonymous • The rules and principles for keeping safe online, how to recognise risks, harmful content, and contact, and how to report them • How to critically consider their online friendships and sources of information including awareness of the risks associated with people they have never met • How information and data is shared and used online

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TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Being safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What sorts of boundaries are appropriate in friendships with peers and others (including in a digital context)? • About the concept of privacy and the implications of it for both children and adults; including that it is not always right to keep secrets if they relate to being safe • That each person's body belongs to them, and the differences between appropriate and inappropriate or unsafe physical, and other, contact • How to respond safely and appropriately to adults they may encounter (in all contexts, including online) whom they do not know • How to recognise and report feelings of being unsafe or feeling bad about any adult • How to ask for advice or help for themselves or others, and to keep trying until they are heard • How to report concerns or abuse, and the vocabulary and confidence needed to do so • Where to get advice e.g., family, school and/or other sources

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Appendix 2: Parent form: Withdrawal from Sex Education within RSE

TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENTS			
Name of child		Class	
Name of parent		Date	
Reason for withdrawing from sex education within relationships and sex education			
Any other information you would like the school to consider			
Parent signature			

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE SCHOOL	
Agreed actions from discussion with parents	