

Relationships & Health Education (RHE)

Frequently Asked Questions

From Summer term 2021 there will be a new framework for RHE as taught through our PSHE curriculum. You may have heard about some of the new changes and have some questions regarding this.

Therefore, we have compiled a Q&A sheet which may help. If you have any further questions, please contact the school who will be happy to answer any further questions.

[What legal rights do parents have regarding Relationships and Sex Education and Relationships and Health Education? Do you have to teach my child about sex education or do I have a choice?](#)

Relationships and Health Education is now statutory which means that all schools must teach it. At Rowley Park Academy, we do not teach sex education other than what is already part of the science curriculum and therefore already taught in school. In science, children will learn about life cycles and the processes from conception, through birth and death. This includes changes that happen during puberty (from Year 5 onwards).

[Can I see the content of the curriculum and resources being used?](#)

An overview of our PSHE curriculum will be available on our website which will provide an outline of the lessons taught in that particular theme. The learning area will also be outlined in parent's termly newsletters so parents. A book list used to support PSHE is also available to parents.

Parents will be told when the children will be learning about puberty – this takes place in years 5 and 6 and covers:

- Identifying changes in the body that happens in puberty (including naming intimate body parts, menstruation and personal hygiene).
- Recognising emotions and feelings may also change in relation to the changing body.

Although parents are not able to withdraw their children from these lessons, there will be an opportunity for parents to view the materials which be used in the lessons should they wish to do so. We recognise that many parents will want to have these conversations with their child too and this is encouraged.

[Is puberty taught to boys and girls separately?](#)

Yes, boys and girls are taught about puberty separately and, where possible, will be taught by a teacher of the same sex. This enables our pupils to feel more comfortable within their peer group and they may feel more confident to ask questions. We also use an 'Ask-it Basket' if pupils wish to write a question for a teacher to respond to rather than asking the question in front of the class.

[What exactly is my child being taught in 'Relationships' Education?](#)

The content and context of relationships education is based around the concept of 'my family' and 'my friends'. Our curriculum teaches children about safe, positive and happy relationships with families and friends both in the real world and online. This also includes mental health and bullying.

When will my child see images of same sex relationships in RHE?

At RPA we don't teach explicitly about same sex relationships; however, in our 'Relationships' strand the learning centres around different types of families. There are some picture books which we will share with the children. These depict diversity in their illustrations including people of different faiths, disabilities and same sex couples. Our rationale is purely to ensure that all of our families feel included and valued and the books we use merely celebrate diversity in all its forms.

How will the school answer any questions raised by children regarding same sex relationships?

If a question did arise, we would simply explain that it's another type of family, it may not be the same as their family but lots of families are different. If that was the family set-up of one of our pupils, we would encourage them to talk about their family experiences, as we would with any child. It is important for every child to feel valued and included.

What are the children being taught in terms of transgender and are the children told that people can change sex?

Currently, our curriculum does not include any lessons regarding transgender. If any questions were to be raised by children, they would be dealt with in an individual age appropriate manner.

At RPA we strongly believe that tolerance and acceptance are vital skills for the children to learn and develop in order to become good citizens in our ever- changing society.

Thank you