



## RSE – Policy Statement

The Department for Education announced changes to relationships and sex education (RSE).

These changes came into effect from September 2020 and all schools are required to comply with the updated requirements. You may be aware through the media that in some places parents have been unhappy about the changes or the changes they perceive will be taking place as a result of new policy. Having thoroughly scrutinized our curriculum I am confident that we already comply with the new requirements and there are no significant changes to what we already deliver to our pupils at Simon Marks.

I wanted to share the expectations with you. For primary schools they come under 5 categories and are as follows:

### Families and people who care for me

- > 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 to their family, but that they should respect those differences and know that other children's families are also characterized by love and care
- > 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
- > That marriage represents a formal and legally recognized 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

- > 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, honesty, trustworthiness, loyalty, kindness, generosity, 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
- > 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

› 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 managing these situations and how to seek help or advice from others if needed

## Respectful relationships

- › The importance of respecting others, even when they're very different from them (for example, physically, in character, personality or backgrounds), or make different choices or have different preferences or beliefs
- › 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 the wider world they can expect to be treated with respect by others, and that in turn they should show respect to others, including those in positions of authority
- › 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
- › 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

- › That people sometimes behave differently online, including by pretending to be someone they're not
- › That the same principles apply to online relationships as face-to-face relationships, including the importance of respect for other online (even when we're 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've never met
- › How information and data is shared and used online

## Being safe

- › 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's 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/unsafe physical and other contact
- › How to respond safely and appropriately to adults they may encounter (in all contexts, including online) who they don't 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're heard
- › How to report concerns or abuse, and the vocabulary and confidence needed to do so
- › Where to get advice (e.g. family, school, other sources)