

KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE

WHY RELATIONSHIPS & SEX EDUCATION (RSE) MATTERS IN PRIMARY SCHOOL



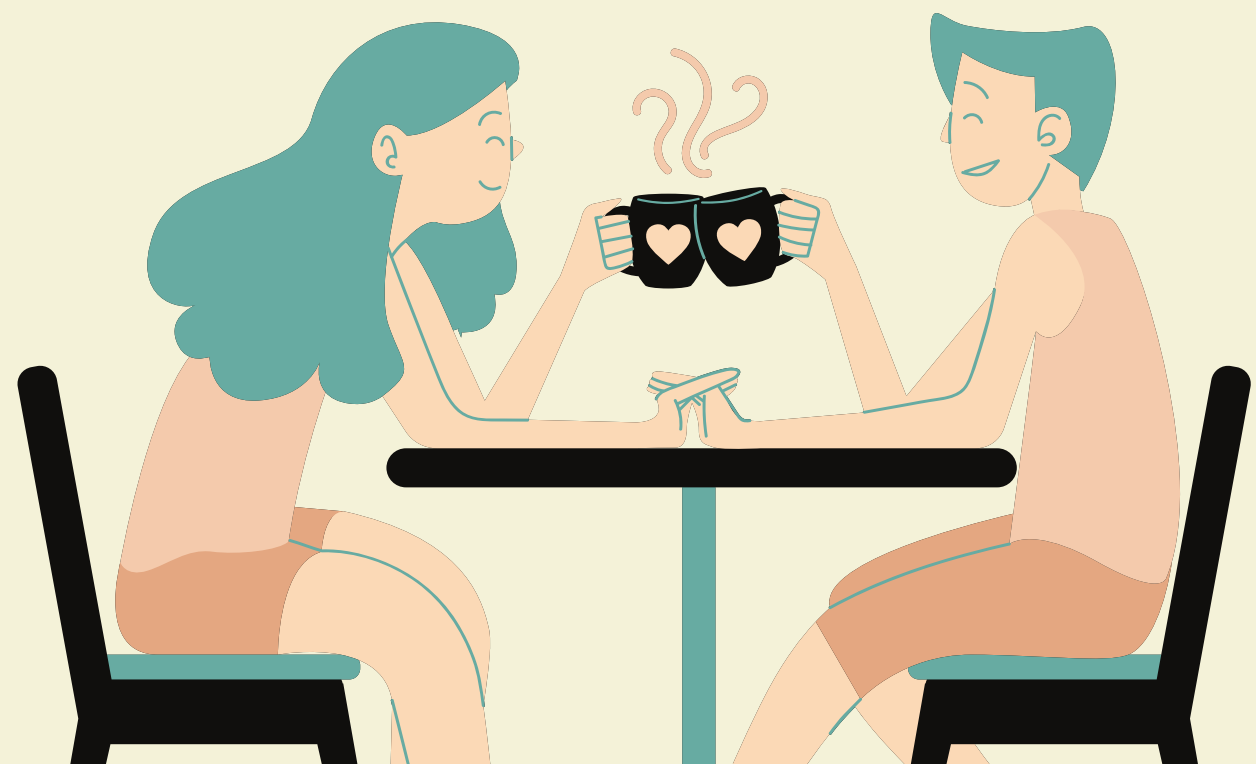
WHAT IS RSE?

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) is part of the national curriculum and focuses on teaching children about:

- Friendships and respectful relationships.
- Boundaries, consent and body privacy.
- Understanding their emotions and rights.
- The correct names for body parts, including private areas.

This education is delivered **age-appropriately** and is designed to **keep children safe**.

RSE IS A PROVEN SAFEGUARDING MEASURE



WHY RSE IN PRIMARY SCHOOL IS VITAL

It gives children the tools and confidence to:

- Understand what safe and unsafe behaviour looks like.
- Know that their body belongs to them.
- Speak up if something feels wrong.
- Identify trusted adults they can turn to.

UK government guidance, safeguarding experts, and child protection organisations all agree: **early RSE is one of the most protective strategies** to prevent abuse and exploitation.

WHY WE TEACH ANATOMICAL NAMES

Using correct words like *penis*, *vulva*, *vagina*, and *testicles* helps children:

- Develop body confidence and respect.
- Communicate clearly if something happens.
- Break down shame and secrecy around their bodies.

Experts agree: **Teaching anatomical names early is a key way to prevent sexual abuse**. It supports clear disclosure and enables adults to act.

WHAT THE EVIDENCE SAYS

1 in 20 UK children (5%) have experiences sexual abuse (NSCPP).

Many children **do not disclose until years later** due to fear or lack of language.

Over **1,600 primary schools in the UK** have had reports of sexual abuse and harassment.

Around **1 in 25 primary-ages children** have been shown sexual content by an adult.

Children as young as **age 9** have been exposed to pornography.

These numbers highlight the urgent need for children to have the **language, awareness, and confidence** to protect themselves and seek help.