

# Abbey Hulton Primary School



## RSE (Relationships and Sex Education) Policy

Written by: Mrs Heming (PSHE Lead)

Review date: August 2024

Signed by:	
Date:	

**Any areas in this policy marked with \* are required in this policy by law**

## **Policy rationale**

We believe it is imperative for our children to have the understanding and tools to develop positive relationships. Our curriculum allows us to teach the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships, this is developed through the school life and ethos where children can practice forming and developing positive friendships. It is our role and responsibility to ensure children are equipped with the knowledge of positive relationships before entering high school. We have invested in the Kapow Primary RSE and PSHE curriculum to ensure our children have access to high quality resources for teachers to teach high quality lessons related to specific themes and units.

## **Legal context**

The law was changed with effect from September 2020 so that primary schools in England must teach relationships education and health education (*The Children and Social Work Act 2017*).

- The relationships education part of the new curriculum teaches what children need to learn to build positive and safe relationships with family and friends and online.
- The health education part of the new curriculum covers both physical health and mental wellbeing and teaches children how to make good decisions about their own health and wellbeing; how to recognise issues in themselves and in others; and how to seek support as early as possible when issues arise.
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Sex education is not compulsory in primary schools, but:

- The new curriculum for relationships education and health education does include content on puberty.
- The national curriculum for science includes subject content in related areas, such as the main external body parts; the human body as it grows from birth to old age (including puberty); and reproduction in some plants and animals.

Following this change in the law, the Department for Education published *Statutory Guidance for Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education (2019)*. This guidance requires primary schools in England to have a written relationships education policy to cover the following:

- How relationships education is delivered
- What sex education (if any) a school chooses to cover that goes beyond the national curriculum for science and relationships education.

There is no equivalent requirement for a health education policy but, in line with best practice, this RSHE policy also covers health education.

This RSHE policy also supports legal requirements relating to the following:

- *The Equality Act 2010.*
- *The Education Act 1996.*
- *Statutory guidance, Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022*

The following policies are also relevant to this Relationships and Health Education policy:

- Anti-bullying
- Safeguarding

### **Definition\***

RSHE supports children and young people's personal development including their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Its aims are to help children and young people to deal with the real-life issues they face as they grow up and that they will encounter as adults. Their learning will support them both online and offline, to make informed choices about their safety, physical and mental health, enabling them to live positive and fulfilled lives.

RSHE is enhanced by a supportive school ethos where everyone is valued, positive relationships are promoted and there is a safe learning environment.

### **Aims**

The aims of our RSHE programme are:

- Provide accurate and age-appropriate information.
- Include all children.
- Help children make informed choices.
- Develop knowledge, skills and attitudes.
- Build confidence and self-esteem.
- Develop personal attributes.
- Prepare children for the next stage of education and adulthood.
- Develop positive and inclusive attitudes to everyone, particularly to those with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010.

### **Curriculum organisation\***

The school adopts the following approaches to organise the curriculum to ensure high quality delivery of RSHE:

- RSHE themes are woven throughout our curriculum and can be found in our programme of study. We have a weekly lesson slot to teach this subject.
- RSE is taught by class teachers. Due to the sensitive nature of RSE these units are to be taught by the class teacher with an additional member of staff present if possible and based on the lesson content.
- Lessons timings are as follows:

KS1 – lessons should be 40 - 45 minutes long;

KS2 – lessons should be 50 - 60 minutes long.

- We incorporate various opportunities across the year to celebrate RSHE across school using planning and resources from organisations such as LGBTQ+ History and Pride month, PANTS week resourced by the NSPCC and Anti-Bullying week.

- Throughout the year we have a variety of guest speakers and events which take place to raise the profile of RSHE, we have assembly themes planned which link with British Values, common themes from our programme of study and stand-alone events such as LGBTQ+ History and Pride month, PANTS week and Anti-Bullying week as mentioned above.
- Class teachers are expected to teach RSE lesson content however other PSHE units can be left to be taught by support staff covering PPA or management time. Class teachers allocate these units accordingly, carefully considering the lesson content. Any staff who are unsure of this are encouraged to speak to the PSHE lead for support.
- **Agreed language:** All staff and governors have agreed to a specific set of language; this has been shared with parents. As part of the RSE curriculum it is important that children understand the correct vocabulary for their body parts. For more information on this please contact Mrs Heming (PSHE lead).
- **Staffing:** Our PSHE lead is Mrs Heming, our designated safeguarding lead is Mrs Brookes (Head Teacher), the PSHE lead also works alongside our Pupil Support Office and Deputy Safeguarding lead to identify any trends in our locality which can be covered in PSHE lessons. We also have an RSE governor representative, Guy Lawton who is kept up to date with any changes to the PSHE curriculum in school and support with parents.

## Equality

Under the Equality Act 2010, the school is under a legal duty to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relationships between those with protected characteristics and those without. The protected characteristics are:

- Age.
- Marriage and Civil partnership.
- Disability.
- Race.
- Religion and belief.
- Sexual orientation.
- Sex.
- Pregnancy and maternity.
- Gender reassignment.

In addition, we also consider the needs of those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

The RSHE programme will meet the needs of all children. Lessons will include content that will tackle discrimination and foster good relationships.

## Safeguarding

RSHE includes sensitive topics. It is, therefore, possible that discussions will prompt safeguarding disclosures. Reference should be made to safeguarding policies and procedures to deal with these appropriately.

The subject leader or teacher should discuss with the designated safeguarding lead any potentially sensitive topics. Appropriate steps must be taken to provide additional support for children if required.

Staff should consider the timing of lessons to ensure that children have the opportunity to report any concerns they may have either that day or the following day. If staff have any concerns regarding lesson content they are encouraged to liaise with the PSHE lead who will support and guide them accordingly.

### **Support**

RSHE should not be a time for children to make disclosures. It is important, however, to inform children of the support that is available to them if they are worried about anything raised in a lesson. Children will be reminded of using TED, located in all classrooms for children to express worries or concerns or to alert staff that they need to speak to someone. Children can also request to speak to our Safeguarding lead if something is worrying them and they are taught about various external agencies that can help them. E.g. Child line, NSPCC.

### **Monitoring and evaluating\***

The head teacher and subject leader will be responsible for monitoring and evaluating RSHE in line with other subjects. We will do this by:

- Regular scrutiny of subject journals where work is recorded
- Drop ins throughout the year to monitor teaching and learning
- Feedback from staff and parents
- Parent consultations
- Pupil Voice

### **Policy Availability**

Parents and carers will be informed about the policy through text message, they can then access this on our school website. If you require this policy, please contact the school office on 01782 235551.

### **Withdrawal from RSE lessons**

Parents/careers have the right to request that their children be withdrawn from all or part of the sex education provided at school except for those which are statutory in the National Curriculum. RSE lessons you can withdraw your child from are:

**Year 6 Safety and the Changing Body Lesson 5- Conception**

**Year 6 Safety and the Changing Body Lesson 6- Pregnancy and birth**

Before granting any such request, the Head teacher, Mrs Brookes, will invite parents/carers to discuss the request and, as appropriate, with the child to ensure that their wishes are understood. It is important parents/carers understand the benefits of receiving this important education, we strongly advise against withdrawal. There is no right to withdraw from Relationships education.

**Should you wish to see any of the lesson content or resources prior to teaching please ask a member of staff or the PSHE Lead (Mrs Heming) who will be able to share these with you.**

***Please see our withdrawal request at the end of this document.***

**Review Date**

This policy will be reviewed in February 2024

**Parent form: withdrawal from sex education within RSE**

<b>TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENTS</b>			
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			

<b>TO BE COMPLETED BY SCHOOL</b>	
Agreed actions from discussion with parents	