

# Blakeney, Pillowell and Walmore Hill Community Schools' Federation



## Relationships and Health Education Policy

Updated March 2021

Signed by:

Headteacher

Date:

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Chair of governors

Date:

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Review Date: September 2021

# Relationships and Health Education Policy

Relationships and health education in primary schools became compulsory in September 2020 as planned; however, due to the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, schools have been offered flexibility on when to begin delivering these subjects within the 2020/2021 academic year.

Schools that are prepared to deliver teaching in these subjects and have assessed that they meet the requirements in the DfE's '[Relationships education, relationships and sex education \(RSE\) and health education](#)' guidance are encouraged to begin delivering teaching as soon as practically possible, and no later than the start of the Summer term in 2021.. In these cases, a phased approach should be used (if needed) when introducing the subjects.

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## **1. Statement of intent**

The **Blakeney, Pillowell and Walmore Hill Community Schools' Federation**, understand that pupils must be provided with an education that prepares them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life. A key part of this relates to relationships education, which must be delivered to every primary-aged pupil. Primary schools also have the option to decide whether pupils are taught sex education. State-funded primary schools are also required to teach health education.

Relationships education focusses on giving pupils the knowledge they need to make informed decisions about their wellbeing, health and relationships, and to build their self-efficacy. Health education focusses on equipping pupils with the knowledge they need to make good decisions about their own health and wellbeing.

We understand our responsibility to deliver a high-quality, age-appropriate and evidence-based relationships and health curriculum for all our pupils. This policy sets out the framework for our relationships and health curriculum, providing clarity on how it is informed, organised and delivered.

## 1. **[Updated] Legal framework**

1.1. This policy has due regard to legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Section 80A of the Education Act 2002
- Children and Social Work Act 2017
- The Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education (England) Regulations 2019
- Equality Act 2010
- DfE (2019) 'Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education'
- DfE (2013) 'Science programmes of study: key stages 1 and 2'
- DfE (2020) 'Teaching about relationships, sex and health'
- **[Updated]** DfE (2021) 'Teaching about relationships, sex and health'

1.2. This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Behavioural Policy
- SEND Policy
- Inclusion Policy
- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Pupil Confidentiality Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy: Pupils
- E-safety Policy

## 2. **Roles and responsibilities**

2.1. The governing board is responsible for:

- Ensuring all pupils make progress in achieving the expected educational outcomes.
- Ensuring the curriculum is well led, effectively managed and well planned.
- Evaluating the quality of provision through regular and effective self-evaluation.
- Ensuring teaching is delivered in ways that are accessible to all pupils with SEND.
- Providing clear information for parents on subject content and their rights to request that their children are withdrawn.

- Making sure the subjects are resourced, staffed and timetabled in a way that ensures the school can fulfil its legal obligations.

2.2. The headteacher is responsible for:

- The overall implementation of this policy.
- Ensuring staff are suitably trained to deliver the subjects.
- Ensuring that parents are fully informed of this policy.
- Reviewing requests from parents to withdraw their children from the subjects.
- Discussing requests for withdrawal with parents.
- Organising alternative education for pupils, where necessary, that is appropriate and purposeful.
- Reporting to the governing board on the effectiveness of this policy.
- Reviewing this policy on an **annual** basis.

2.3. The relationships and health education subject leader in each school is responsible for:

- Overseeing the delivery of the subjects.
- Ensuring the subjects are age-appropriate and high-quality.
- Ensuring teachers are provided with adequate resources to support teaching of the subjects.
- Ensuring the school meets its statutory requirements in relation to the relationships and health curriculum.
- Ensuring the relationships and health curriculum is inclusive and accessible for all pupils.
- Working with other subject leaders to ensure the relationships and health curriculum complements, but does not duplicate, the content covered in the national curriculum.
- Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the subjects and providing reports to the headteacher.

2.4. Class teachers are responsible for:

- Delivering a high-quality and age-appropriate relationships and health curriculum in line with statutory requirements.
- Using a variety of teaching methods and resources to provide an engaging curriculum that meets the needs of all pupils.
- Ensuring they do not express personal views or beliefs when delivering the programme.
- Modelling positive attitudes to relationships and health education.
- Responding to any safeguarding concerns in line with the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.
- Acting in accordance with planning, monitoring and assessment requirements for the subjects.

- Liaising with the SENCO to identify and respond to individual needs of pupils with SEND.
- Working with the relationships and health education subject leader to evaluate the quality of provision.

2.5. The lead teachers in each school are:

Name	School
Sarah Tomkins	Blakeney Primary School
Alexis Haagen	Pillowell Primary School
Kirsty Evans	Walmore Hill Primary School

2.6. The SENCO (Mrs Nicola Dowle) is responsible for:

- Advising teaching staff how best to identify and support pupils' individual needs.
- Advising staff on the use of TAs in order to meet pupils' individual needs.

### 3. Organisation of the curriculum

- 3.1. Every primary school is required to deliver statutory relationships education and health education.
- 3.2. For the purpose of this policy, "**relationships and health education**" is defined as teaching pupils about healthy, respectful relationships, focussing on family and friendships, in all contexts, including online.
- 3.3. For the purpose of this policy, "**health education**" is defined as teaching pupils about physical health and mental wellbeing, focussing on recognising the link between the two and being able to make healthy lifestyle choices.
- 3.4. The delivery of the relationships education and of health education coincide with one another and will be delivered as part of the federation's Science and PSHE curriculum.
- 3.5. The relationships and health curriculum has been organised in line with the statutory requirements outlined in the DfE (2019) 'Relationships, Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education' [guidance](#).
- 3.6. The relationships and health curriculum takes into account the views of teachers, pupils and parents. We are dedicated to ensuring our curriculum meets the needs of the whole-school community. We recognise that this differs at each of the three schools in the federation.

- 3.7. The relationships and health curriculum is informed by issues in the schools and wider community to ensure it is tailored to pupils' needs.
- 3.8. We consult with parents, pupils and staff in the following ways:
- Questionnaires and surveys
  - Meetings
  - Training sessions
  - Newsletters and letters
- 3.9. Any parent, teacher or pupil wishing to provide feedback about the curriculum can do so at any time during the academic year by:
- Organising a meeting with the headteacher.
  - Emailing the headteacher or dedicated teacher at each school:  
[federation.head@blakeney.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:federation.head@blakeney.gloucs.sch.uk)  
[mrstomkins@blakeney.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:mrstomkins@blakeney.gloucs.sch.uk)  
[misshaagen@pillowell.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:misshaagen@pillowell.gloucs.sch.uk)  
[mrsevans@walmorehill.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:mrsevans@walmorehill.gloucs.sch.uk)
- 3.10. The schools have organised a curriculum that is age-appropriate for pupils within each year group, based on the views of teachers, parents and pupils.
- 3.11. When organising the curriculum, the backgrounds of all pupils will be considered, so that the topics that are covered are taught appropriately.

#### **4. Consultation with parents**

- 4.1. The schools understand the important role parents play in enhancing their children's understanding of relationships and health. Similarly, we also understand how important parents' views are in shaping the curriculum.
- 4.2. The schools work closely with parents by establishing open communication – all parents are consulted in the development and delivery of the curriculum, as outlined in [section 3](#) of this policy.
- 4.3. Parents are provided with the following information:
- The content of the relationships and health curriculum
  - The delivery of the relationships and health curriculum, including what is taught in each year group
  - The legalities surrounding withdrawing their child from the subjects
  - The resources that will be used to support the curriculum
- 4.4. The schools aim to build positive relationships with parents by inviting them into school to discuss what will be taught, address any concerns and help parents in managing conversations with their children on the issues covered by the curriculum.

- 4.5. Parents are consulted in the review of the curriculum and this policy, and are encouraged to provide their views at any time.

## **5. Relationships education overview**

### **Families and people who care for me**

- 5.1. By the end of primary school, pupils will know:

- That families are important for them 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.
- 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 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**

- 5.2. By the end of primary school, pupils will know:

- 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.
- That most friendships have ups and downs, but 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.
- How to manage conflict.

- How to manage different situations and how to seek help from others if needed.

### **Respectful relationships**

5.3. By the end of primary school, pupils will know:

- The importance of respecting others, even when they are very different from them (for example, physically, in character, personality or backgrounds), make different choices, or have different preferences or beliefs.
- Which 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 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.
- About the different types of bullying (including cyberbullying), the impact of bullying, responsibilities of bystanders to report bullying to an adult, and how to seek help.
- What a stereotype is, and how they can be unfair, negative or destructive.
- The importance of permission-seeking and giving in relationships with friends, peers and adults.

### **Online relationships**

5.4. By the end of primary school, pupils will know:

- That people sometimes behave differently online, including 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, even when we are anonymous.
- The rules and principles for keeping safe online.
- How to recognise harmful content and contact online, and how to report these.
- How to critically consider their online friendships and sources of information.
- The risks associated with people they have never met.
- How information and data is shared and used online.

### **Being safe**

5.5. By the end of primary school, pupils will know:

- 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.
- 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, including online, who 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 and 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 seek advice, for example, from their family, their school and other sources.

## 6. Relationships education per year group

- 6.1. The schools are free to determine, within the statutory curriculum content outlined in [section 5](#), what pupils are taught during each year group.
- 6.2. The schools always consider the age and development of pupils when deciding what will be taught in each year group.
- 6.3. The schools plan a progressive curriculum in which topics are built upon prior knowledge taught in previous years as the pupils progress through school, with a view to providing a smooth transition to secondary school.
- 6.4. Due to the nature of our mixed age classes we operate a rolling programme of 2 or 4 years. (See overview below).

## 7. Health education overview

**Health education is compulsory for all state-funded primary schools.**

- 7.1. The focus at primary level is teaching the characteristics of good physical health and mental wellbeing.

### **Mental wellbeing**

7.2. By the end of primary school pupils will know:

- That mental wellbeing is a normal part of daily life, in the same way as physical health.

- That there is a normal range of emotions, e.g. happiness, sadness, anger, fear, surprise and nervousness.
- The scale of emotions that humans experience in response to different experiences and situations.
- How to recognise and talk about their emotions, including having a varied vocabulary of words to use when talking about their own and others' feelings.
- How to judge whether what they are feeling and how they are behaving are appropriate and proportionate.
- The benefits of physical exercise, time outdoors, community participation, and voluntary and service-based activity on mental wellbeing and happiness.
- Simple self-care techniques, including the importance of rest, time spent with friends and family, and the benefits of hobbies and interests.
- How isolation and loneliness can affect children, and that it is very important they seek support and discuss their feelings with an adult.
- That bullying (including cyberbullying) has a negative and often lasting impact on mental wellbeing.
- Where and how to seek support (including recognising the triggers for seeking support), extending to who in school they should speak to if they are worried about themselves or others.
- That it is common to experience mental ill health and, for the many people who do, the problems can be resolved if the right support is made available, especially if accessed early enough.

### **Internet safety and harms**

7.3. By the end of primary school, pupils will know:

- That for most people, the internet is an integral part of life and has many benefits.
- About the benefits of rationing time spent online.
- The risks of excessive time spent on electronic devices.
- The impact of positive and negative content online on their own and others' mental and physical wellbeing.
- How to consider the effect of their online actions on others.
- How to recognise and display respectful behaviour online.
- The importance of keeping personal information private.
- Why some social media, some computer games and online gaming are age-restricted.
- That the internet can also be a negative place where online abuse, trolling, bullying and harassment can take place, which can have a negative impact on mental health.
- How to be a discerning consumer of information online, including understanding that information, inclusive of that from search engines, is ranked, selected and targeted.

- Where and how to report concerns and get support with issues online.

### **Physical health and fitness**

7.4. By the end of primary school, pupils will know:

- The characteristics and mental and physical benefits of an active lifestyle.
- The importance of building regular exercise into daily and weekly routines and how to achieve this, for example by walking or cycling to school, a daily active mile, or other forms of regular, vigorous exercise.
- The risks associated with an inactive lifestyle, including obesity.
- How and when to seek support, including which adults to speak to in school, if they are worried about their health.

### **Healthy eating**

7.5. By the end of primary school, pupils will know:

- What constitutes a healthy diet, including an understanding of calories and other nutritional content.
- The principles of planning and preparing a range of healthy meals.
- The characteristics of a poor diet and risks associated with unhealthy eating, including obesity, and other behaviours, e.g. the impact of alcohol on health.

### **Drugs alcohol and tobacco**

7.6. By the end of primary school, pupils will know:

The facts about legal and illegal harmful substances and associated risks, including smoking, alcohol use, vaping and drug-taking.

### **Health and prevention**

7.7. By the end of primary school, pupils will know:

- How to recognise early signs of physical illness, such as weight loss or unexplained changes to the body.
- About safe and unsafe exposure to the sun, and how to reduce the risk of sun damage, including skin cancer.
- The importance of sufficient good-quality sleep for good health, and that a lack of sleep can affect weight, mood and ability to learn.
- About dental health and the benefits of good oral hygiene and dental flossing, including regular check-ups at the dentist.
- About personal hygiene and germs, including bacteria and viruses, how they are spread and treated, and the importance of hand washing.

- The facts and science relating to immunisation and vaccination.

### **Basic first aid**

7.8. By the end of primary school, pupils will know:

- How to make a clear and efficient call to emergency services if necessary.
- Concepts of basic first-aid, for example dealing with common injuries, including head injuries.

### **Changing adolescent body**

7.9. By the end of primary school, pupils will know:

- Key facts about puberty and the changing adolescent body, particularly from age 9 through to age 11, including physical and emotional changes.
- About menstrual wellbeing and key facts relating to the menstrual cycle.

## **8. Health education per year group**

- 8.1. The schools are free to determine, within the statutory curriculum content outlined in [section 7](#), what pupils are taught during each year group.
- 8.2. The schools always consider the age and development of pupils when deciding what will be taught in each year group.
- 8.3. The schools plan a progressive curriculum, in which topics are built upon prior knowledge taught in previous years as pupils progress through school, with a view to providing a smooth transition to secondary school.

## **9. Sex education**

Although it is not statutory to deliver sex education outside of the science curriculum at primary level, the DfE recommends that *all* primary schools should have a sex education programme in place. This should be tailored to the age, and physical and emotional maturity of pupils, and should ensure that boys and girls are prepared for the changes that adolescence brings, drawing on knowledge of the human life cycle.

- 9.1. All pupils must be taught about the main external parts of the human body, how it changes as it grows from birth to old age, including puberty, and the reproductive process in some plants and animals.
- 9.2. Parents are given the opportunity to comment on what should be taught.

9.3. The age and development of pupils is always considered when delivering any lessons.

9.4. Sex and relationship education is usually delivered in mixed gender groups however, there may be occasions where single gender groups are more appropriate and relevant. On these occasions, other staff members may deliver the SRE to allow for the pupils to be taught by a member of the same sex.

### KS1 PSHE 2 year overview

	Autumn: Relationships			Spring: Living in the wider world			Summer: Health and well being		
	Families and friendships	Safe relationships	Respecting ourselves and others	Belonging to a community	Media literacy and digital resilience	Money and work	Physical health and mental wellbeing	Growing and changing	Keeping safe
Cycle A	Roles of different people; families; feeling cared for	Recognising privacy; staying safe; seeking permission	How behaviour affects others; being polite and respectful	What rules are, caring for others' <u>needs</u> ; looking after the environment	Using the internet and digital devices; communicating online	Strengths and interests; jobs in the community	Keeping healthy; food and exercise; hygiene routines; sun safety	Recognising what makes them unique and special; feelings; managing when things go wrong	How rules and age restrictions help <u>us</u> ; keeping safe online
Cycle B	Making friends; <u>feeling lonely</u> and getting help	Managing secrets; resisting pressure and getting help; recognising hurtful behaviour	Recognising things in common and differences; playing and working cooperatively; sharing opinions	Belonging to a group; roles and responsibilities; being the same and different in a community	The internet in everyday life; online content and information	What money is; needs and wants; looking after money	Why sleep is important; medicines and keeping healthy; keeping teeth healthy; managing feelings and asking for help	Growing older; naming body parts; moving class or year	Safety in different environments; risk and safety at home; emergencies

### KS2 PSHE 4 year overview

	Autumn: Relationships			Spring: Living in the wider world			Summer: Health and well being		
	Families and friendships	Safe relationships	Respecting ourselves and others	Belonging to a community	Media literacy and digital resilience	Money and work	Physical health and mental wellbeing	Growing and changing	Keeping safe
Cycle A	What makes a family; features of family life	Personal <u>boundaries</u> ; safely responding to others; the impact of hurtful behaviour	Recognising respectful <u>boundaries</u> ; the importance of self-respect; courtesy and being polite	The value of rules and laws; rights, freedoms and responsibilities	How the internet is <u>used</u> ; assessing information online	Different jobs and skills; job <u>stereotypes</u> ; setting personal goals	Health choices and habits; what affects feelings; expressing feelings	Personal strengths and <u>achievements</u> ; managing and reframing setbacks	Risks and <u>hazards</u> ; safety in the local environment and unfamiliar places
Cycle B	Positive friendships, including online	Responding to hurtful <u>behaviour</u> ; managing <u>boundaries</u> ; recognising risks online	Respecting differences and <u>boundaries</u> ; discussing difference sensitively	What makes a community; shared responsibilities	How data is shared and used	Making decisions about money; using and keeping money safe	Maintaining a balanced lifestyle; oral hygiene and dental care	<u>Y5/6 only</u> Physical and emotional changes in puberty; external genitalia; personal hygiene <u>realities</u> ; support with puberty	Medicines and household products; drugs common to everyday life
Cycle C	Managing friendships and peer influence	Physical contact and feeling safe	Responding respectfully to a wide range of people; recognising prejudice and discrimination	Protecting the <u>environment</u> ; compassion towards others	How information online is <u>targeted</u> ; different media types, their role and impact	Identifying job interests and <u>aspirations</u> ; what influences career <u>choices</u> ; workplace stereotypes	Healthy sleep habits; sun <u>safety</u> ; medicines, vaccinations, immunisations and allergies	Personal <u>identity</u> ; recognising individuality and different qualities; mental wellbeing	Keeping safe in different situations, including responding in emergencies, first aid
Cycle D	<u>Y5/6 only</u> Attraction to others; romantic <u>relationships</u> ; civil partnership and marriage	Recognising and managing pressure; consent in different situations	Expressing opinions and respecting other points of view, including discussing topical issues	Valuing <u>diversity</u> ; challenging discrimination and stereotypes	Evaluating media sources; sharing things online	Influences and attitudes to money; money and financial risks	What affects mental health and ways to take care of it; managing change, loss and <u>boundaries</u> ; managing time online	<u>Y5/6 only</u> Human reproduction and birth; increasing <u>boundaries</u> ; managing transition	Keeping personal information <u>safe</u> ; regulations and choices; drug use and the law; drug use and the media

## 10. Delivery of the curriculum

- 10.1. The relationships and health curriculum will be delivered as part of our science and PSHE curriculum.
- 10.2. Through effective organisation and delivery of the subject, we will ensure that:
  - Core knowledge is sectioned into units of manageable size.
  - The required content is communicated to pupils clearly, in a carefully sequenced way, within a planned scheme of work.
  - Teaching includes sufficient and well-chosen opportunities and contexts for pupils to embed new knowledge so that it can be used confidently in real-life situations.
- 10.3. The curriculum is delivered proactively, such that it addresses issues in a timely way in line with current evidence on children's physical, emotional and sexual development.
- 10.4. Teaching of the curriculum reflects requirements set out in law, particularly the Equality Act 2010, so that pupils understand what the law does and does not allow, and the wider legal implications of the decisions they make.
- 10.5. Pupils will be taught the facts and the law about sex, sexuality, sexual health and gender identity in an age-appropriate, inclusive and respectful way. We will endeavour to support all pupils to feel that the content is relevant to them and their developing sexuality.
- 10.6. Teachers should be able to deal honestly and sensitively with sexual orientation, answer appropriate questions and offer support. A range of fiction books are available to teachers and pupils, through the library, which tackle gender stereotypes. A document from the Department for Health (DfH) highlights that many young people know they are lesbian, gay or bisexual (LGB) during primary school. Young lesbian, gay and bisexual (LGB) people, DfH [http://www.schools-out.org.uk/policy/docs/DH\\_078355.pdf](http://www.schools-out.org.uk/policy/docs/DH_078355.pdf) Learning materials updated by Ofsted in February 2012 notes that schools have a legal responsibility to educate pupils who are lesbian, gay, bisexual and/or transgender (LGBT) in the same way as their peers who are heterosexual and/or cisgender. The document says that teachers should discuss different types of families and should not dismiss primary pupils as too young to learn about the existence of people who are LGBT.
- 10.7. At the point we consider it appropriate to teach pupils about sexual relationships, we will ensure that all viewpoints are fully integrated into the

relationships, sex and health curriculum, rather than delivered as a standalone unit or lesson.

- 10.8. The school will ensure that all teaching and materials are appropriate for the ages of the pupils, their religious backgrounds, their developmental stages and any additional needs, such as SEND.
- 10.9. Lesson plans will provide appropriate challenge for pupils and be differentiated for pupils' needs.
- 10.10. Classes may be taught in smaller groups, dependent upon the nature of the topic being delivered at the time, and the cultural background of pupils where it is appropriate to deal with these issues with heightened sensitivity.
- 10.11. Throughout every year group, appropriate diagrams, videos, books, games, discussion and practical activities will be used to assist learning.
- 10.12. Inappropriate images, videos, etc., will not be used, and resources will be selected with sensitivity given to the age, developmental stage and cultural background of pupils.
- 10.13. Pupils will be prevented from accessing inappropriate materials on the internet when using such to assist with their learning. The prevention measures taken to ensure this are outlined in the federation's **E-safety Policy**.
- 10.14. Teachers will establish what is appropriate for one-to-one and whole-class settings, and alter their teaching of the programme accordingly.
- 10.15. Teachers will ensure that pupils' views are listened to and will encourage them to ask questions and engage in discussion. Teachers will answer questions sensitively, honestly and in a manner appropriate to the pupil's age.
- 10.16. Teachers will ensure pupils are aware of the expectation of them to participate sensitively and respectfully in class discussions of sensitive issues.
- 10.17. Teachers will stop full class discussions where pupils begin to reveal personal, private information related to sensitive issues. If teachers feel concerned about anything shared by a pupil, they will follow the appropriate response as laid out in the **Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy**. The programme will be designed to incorporate all pupils, and activities will be planned to ensure all are actively involved.
- 10.18. Teachers will focus heavily on the importance of healthy relationships, though sensitivity will always be given as to not stigmatise pupils based on their home circumstances.
- 10.19. Teachers will ensure that lesson plans are centred around reducing stigma, particularly in relation to mental wellbeing, and encouraging openness through discussion activities and group work.

- 10.20. Teachers will ensure lesson plans focus on challenging perceived views of pupils based on protected characteristics, through exploration of, and developing mutual respect for, those different to themselves.
- 10.21. Any resources or materials used to support learning will be formally assessed by teachers before use to ensure they are appropriate for the age and maturity of pupils, and sensitive to their needs.
- 10.22. In teaching the curriculum, teachers will be aware that pupils may raise topics such as self-harm and suicide. When talking about these topics in lessons, teachers will be aware of the risks of encouraging these behaviours and will avoid any resources or material that appear as instructive rather than preventative.
- 10.23. At all points of delivery of this programme, parents will be consulted, and their views will be valued. What will be taught and how, will be planned in conjunction with parents.

## **11. Working with external experts**

- 11.1. External experts may be invited to assist from time-to-time with the delivery of the programme and will be expected to comply with the provisions of this policy.
- 11.2. The schools will ensure all visitor credentials are checked before they are able to participate in delivery of the curriculum, in line with the federation guidelines.
- 11.3. The schools will ensure that the teaching delivered by the external expert fits with the planned curriculum and this policy.
- 11.4. Before delivering the session, the schools will discuss the details of the expert's lesson plan and ensure that the content is age-appropriate and accessible for the pupils.
- 11.5. The schools will also ask to see the materials the expert intends to use, as well as a copy of the lesson plan, to ensure it meets all pupils' needs, including those with SEND.
- 11.6. The schools will agree with the expert the procedures for confidentiality, ensuring that the expert understands how safeguarding reports should be dealt with in line with the **Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy**.
- 11.7. The intended use of external experts is to enhance the curriculum delivered by teachers, rather than as a replacement for teachers.

## **12. Equality and accessibility**

- 12.1. The school understands its responsibilities in relation to the Equality Act 2010, specifically that it must not unlawfully discriminate against any pupil because of their protected characteristics. These include:
- Age
  - Sex or sexual orientation
  - Race
  - Disability
  - Religion or belief
  - Gender reassignment
  - Pregnancy or maternity
  - Marriage or civil partnership
- 12.2. The school is committed to making reasonable adjustments wherever possible to promote accessibility and inclusivity of the curriculum.
- 12.3. The school understands that pupils with SEND or other needs, such as those with social, emotional or mental health needs, are entitled to learn about relationships and health education, and the programme will be designed to be inclusive of all pupils.
- 12.4. Teachers will understand that they may need to be more explicit and adapt their planning of work and teaching methods in order to appropriately deliver the programme to pupils with SEND or other needs.
- 12.5. Provisions under the Equality Act 2010 allow our schools to take positive action, where it can be evidenced to be proportionate, to respond to particular disadvantages affecting a group because of a protected characteristic.
- 12.6. When deciding whether support is necessary to support pupils with a particular protected characteristic, we will consider our pupils' needs, including the gender and age range of our pupils.
- 12.7. In order to foster healthy and respectful peer-to-peer communication and behaviour between all pupils, the schools implement a robust **Behavioural Policy**, as well as a **Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy**, which set out expectations of pupils.
- 12.8. The schools understand that relationships and health education may include topics which are triggers for teaching staff, and could relate to historic, recent, or current trauma. If this is the case, the school encourages staff to approach their line manager or the schools' designated wellbeing lead to discuss this.

### 13. Curriculum links

- 13.1. The schools seek opportunities to draw links between relationships and health education and other curriculum subjects wherever possible to enhance pupils' learning.

13.2. Relationships and health education will be linked to the following subjects in particular:

- **Science** – pupils learn about the main external parts of the body and changes to the body as it grows from birth to old age, including puberty.
- **Computing and ICT** – pupils learn about e-safety, including how to use technology safely, responsibly, respectfully and securely, how to keep personal information private and how to access help and support.
- **PE** – pupils explore various physical activities, are physically active for sustained periods of time, engage in competitive sport and understand how exercise can lead to healthier lifestyles.
- **Citizenship** – pupils learn about the requirements of the law, their responsibilities and the possible consequences of their actions.
- **PSHE** – pupils learn about respect and difference, values and characteristics of individuals.

## **14. Withdrawing from the subjects**

14.1. Relationships and health education are statutory at primary and parents do not have the right to withdraw their child from the subjects.

14.2. As sex education is not statutory at primary level, other than what must be taught as part of the science curriculum, parents have the right to request to withdraw their child from all or part of the sex education curriculum.

14.3. The headteacher will automatically grant withdrawal requests in accordance with point 14.2; however, the headteacher will discuss the request with the parent and, if appropriate, their child, to ensure that their wishes are understood and to clarify the nature and purpose of the curriculum.

14.4. The headteacher will discuss with the parent, the benefits of receiving this important education and any adverse effects that withdrawal may have on the pupil – this could include, for example, social and emotional effects of being excluded.

14.5. The headteacher will keep a record of the discussion between themselves, the pupil and the parent.

14.6. The headteacher will grant a parent's request to withdraw their child from sex education, other than the content that must be taught as part of the science curriculum.

14.7. The parent will be informed in writing of the headteacher's decision.

14.8. Where a pupil is withdrawn from sex education, the headteacher will ensure that the pupil receives appropriate alternative education.

## **15. Behaviour**

- 15.1. The schools have a zero-tolerance approach to bullying. We aim to foster a culture based on mutual respect and understanding for one another.
- 15.2. Any bullying incidents caused as a result of the relationships, sex and health education programme, such as those relating to sexual orientation, will be dealt with as seriously as other bullying incidents within the school.
- 15.3. Any occurrence of these incidents will be reported to a member of school staff, who will then discipline the pupil once they are on school premises.
- 15.4. These incidents will be dealt with following the processes in our **Behavioural Policy** and **Anti-Bullying Policy**.
- 15.5. The headteacher will decide whether it is appropriate to notify the police or an anti-social behaviour coordinator in their LA of the action taken against a pupil.

## **16. Staff training**

- 16.1. All staff members at the school will undergo training regularly to ensure they are up-to-date with the relationship and health education programme and associated issues.
- 16.2. Members of staff responsible for teaching the subjects will undergo further training, to ensure they are fully equipped to teach the subjects effectively.
- 16.3. Training of staff will also be scheduled around any updated guidance on the programme and any new developments, such as 'sexting', which may need to be addressed in relation to the programme.

## **17. Confidentiality**

- 17.1. Confidentiality within the classroom is an important component of relationships and health education, and teachers are expected to respect the confidentiality of their pupils as far as is possible.
- 17.2. Teachers will, however, alert the headteacher about any suspicions of inappropriate behaviour or potential abuse as per the federation's **Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy**.
- 17.3. Pupils will be fully informed of the schools' responsibilities in terms of confidentiality and will be aware of what action may be taken if they choose to report a concern or make a disclosure.
- 17.4. Any reports made during lessons, or as a result of the content taught through the curriculum, will be reported to the DSL and handled in accordance with the **Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy**.

## **18. Monitoring quality**

- 18.1. The relationships and health education subject leaders are responsible for monitoring the quality of teaching and learning for the subjects.
- 18.2. The relationships and health education subject leaders will conduct subject assessments which will include a mixture of the following:
  - Self-evaluations
  - Lesson observations
  - Topic feedback forms
  - Learning walks
  - Work scrutiny
  - Lesson planning scrutiny
- 18.3. The relationships and health education subject leaders will create annual subject reports for the headteacher and governing board to report on the quality of the subjects.

## **19. Monitoring and review**

- 19.1. This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis by the relationships and health education subject leaders and headteacher. The next scheduled review date for this policy is September 2021.
- 19.2. This policy will also be reviewed in light of any changes to statutory guidance, feedback from parents, staff or pupils, and issues in the school or local area that may need addressing.
- 19.3. The governing board is responsible for approving this policy.
- 19.4. Any changes made to this policy will be communicated to all staff, parents and, where necessary, pupils.