

St Bridget's CE Primary School



Relationships and Health Education Policy

Date policy last reviewed: June 2024

Signed by: Lyndsay Ashton

_____ Headteacher Date: _____

_____ Chair of governors Date: _____

Last updated: June 2024 By Kelly Sadler-Jones

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Statement of intent

At St Bridget's CE Primary, we 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.

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

Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant 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 (2021) 'Teaching about relationships, sex and health'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- SEND Policy
- Inclusion Policy
- Pupil Equality, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Policy
- Staff Equality, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Policy
- Child-on-child Abuse Policy
- Pupil Confidentiality Policy
- Anti-bullying Policy
- Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) Policy
- Online Safety Policy
- Visitor Policy

Roles and responsibilities

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.
- Ensuring the religious ethos of the school is maintained and developed through the subjects.
- Creating and keeping up-to-date a separate written statement of this policy and ensuring the statement is published on the school's website and provided free of charge to anyone who requests it.

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.

The RSHE subject leader 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, as well as any optional sex education, 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.

The appropriate 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, sex and health.
- 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 RSHE subject leader to evaluate the quality of provision.

The SENCO 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.

Organisation of the curriculum

Every primary school is required to deliver statutory relationships education and health education. The delivery of the relationships education and of health education coincide with one another and will be delivered as part of the school's PSHE curriculum.

For the purpose of this policy:

- **"Relationships education"** is defined as teaching pupils about healthy, respectful relationships, focussing on family and friendships, in all contexts, including online.
- **"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.
- **"Sex education"** is defined as teaching pupils about developing healthy sexuality, and will cover issues, beyond those covered in the science and health curricular, that will be determined in response to the needs of the relevant cohort.

The relationships and health curriculum takes into account the views of teachers, pupils and parents. The school has organised a curriculum that is appropriate for the age and developmental stages of pupils within each year group. When organising the curriculum, the religious backgrounds of all pupils will be considered, so that the topics that are covered are taught appropriately.

We are dedicated to ensuring our curriculum meets the needs of the whole-school community; therefore, the curriculum is informed by issues in the school and wider community to ensure it is tailored to pupils' needs.

We consult with parents, pupils and staff in the following ways:

- Meetings
- Questionnaires (pupil and staff voice)
- Training sessions and sharing of resources
- Newsletters and letters

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 RSHE lead or headteacher.
- Emailing school office@stbridgets.wirral.sch.uk
- Emailing class teachers through our year group comms address
- Submitting written feedback.

Consultation with parents

The school understands 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. This will include providing parents with frequent opportunities to understand and ask questions about the school's approach to relationships and health education.

The school will consult closely with parents when reviewing the content of the school's relationships, sex education and health education curriculum, and will be given regular opportunities to voice their opinions and concerns. The school will use the views of parents to inform decisions made about the curriculum content and delivery; however, parents will not be granted a 'veto' on curriculum content, and all final decisions will be the schools to make.

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.

The school aims to build positive relationships with parents by providing them with the resources that will be used to teach Health and Sex education. This helps us as professionals to address any concerns and help parents in managing conversations with their children on the issues covered by the curriculum. Parents are also consulted in the review of this policy, and are encouraged to provide their views at any time.

Relationships education overview

Families and people who care for me

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

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

By the end of primary school, pupils will know:

- The importance of respecting others, even when they are very different from them, 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

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

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.

Relationships education per year group

The school is free to determine, within the statutory curriculum content outlined in [section 5](#), what pupils are taught during each year group.

The school always considers the age and development of pupils when deciding what will be taught in each year group. The school implements 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.

Reception

Friendships, family, people in our community, personal space, care and affection-what this looks like and linking to consent, moving forward from our mistakes, truthfulness, learning about one another, being/showing thankfulness, using soft words not hard words- kindness, Smartie the penguin online safety.

Year 1

Being grateful for those in our lives, being aware of surrounding people/community, use of words- builder or wrecker, friendships, family, forgiveness-learning to let go. The best me-behaviour, Pants- appropriate and inappropriate touch-linking to consent, helping Boris keep safe online, safety in the community i.e. park, beach, who we love, secrets-who we can trust, truthfulness.

Year 2

Friendship, families, kindness, forgiveness, negative emotions, who we love, truthfulness, we all fit together but are unique, special people in our lives (every day heroes), having a reputation, Crumpled hearts and consequences, rules for online, Pants- appropriate and inappropriate touch- deeper level using correct genital language introduced at the end of year 1- linking to consent, rules for online.

Year 3

Family, friends, being positive, feelings, grateful for- what love is. Appropriate and inappropriate contact-circle of trust-linking to consent, managing change, recognising and challenging stereotypes, people we are grateful for and why. Trust- built and betrayed, Padlocked privacy- keep info private, Thumbs Up- positive relationships; thinking about our actions and words towards others.

Year 4

Friendships, family, fixing broken friendships, forgiving, feeling loved, Personal boundaries-linking to consent, Healthy family life, surrounding people around us, unseen heroes, online abuse, consequences of the words we use, speak the truth, who we can trust, use of mobile and tablets responsibly, online abuse-be kind online.

Year 5

Family, friends, community, resolving conflict, forgiveness, handling emotions, - who we can be vulnerable and open up with; linking to consent, making the right choices when listening to words about ourselves, understanding how powerful people lead others, pressure from friends, bullying in all forms, no need to hide what's inside, building trust, what we should/shouldn't watch, online images being fake.

Year 6

Family, friends, community, marriage, being a good friend, resolving conflict and disputes, boundaries for respect-linking to consent, forgiveness, true thoughts and feelings, handling disappointment, secrets, significant events and people who have been in our lives, Impact of bullying, secret scenarios-keeping and sharing, benefits and dangers of social media.

Health education overview

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

Mental wellbeing

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, is 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

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

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

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

By the end of primary school, pupils will know the facts about legal and illegal harmful substances and associated risks, including smoking, alcohol use and drug-taking.

Health and prevention

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

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

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.

Health education per year group

The school is free to determine, within the statutory curriculum content outlined in [section 7](#), what pupils are taught during each year group.

The school always considers the age and development of pupils when deciding what will be taught in each year group. The school implements 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.

Whole school First Aid (outside specialist), two 1-hour lessons of PE per week.

Reception

Understanding and demonstrating feelings and emotions. Healthy food, brushing of teeth, Developing independent skills; dressing, washing, Healthy lifestyle choices, PE link; Start to develop basic fundamental skills such as running, catching, jumping. Safely use space and equipment following instructions.

Year 1

Healthy choices, taking care of me, oral hygiene, feelings and emotions, true thoughts and feelings, handling disappointment, secrets and things we have lost. Basic needs of animals and humans (food, water, air). PE link; Consolidate and develop additional fundamental skills. Applying skills appropriately. Why is it important to be active? Making positive choices for learning.

Year 2

Healthy food, heartbeat (PE), safety in the sun, thoughts about me- positive, negative emotions, find out about and describe the basic needs of animals, including humans, for survival (water, food and air). Describe the importance for humans of exercise, eating the right amounts of different types of food, and hygiene. PE link; Mastery of fundamental skills. Improved decision making. Warming up and how the heart works. Working effectively as part of a team.

Year 3

Living a healthy life style, love yourself, healthy heart, allergies, having a good heart, First Aid emergencies, managing change, feelings, getting nutrition from what you eat. PE link; Developing variations of different skills and applying on new contexts. Understand how the body changes when active. Developing greater resilience.

Year 4

Healthy family life, healthy minds, handwashing, managing stress, First Aid, risk of smoking, good and bad stress. Cleanliness with change in me. BO, spots, oily hair, showering daily, clean underwear. Kapow Lesson 6: Growing up. To recognise that change is part of growing up. Kapow Lesson 7: Introducing puberty. To recognise the physical differences between children and adults. Kapow Lesson 4: Menstruation, taken from Year 5 planning. To understand the menstrual cycle.

PE link- Improved stamina, strength and general physical fitness. Self-reflection and improving. What is respect in PE and sport? Knowledge of links between nutrition and exercise.

Year 5

Sleep health, asking for help, alcohol, making the right choices when listening to words about ourselves, handling emotions, online images being fake. Cleanliness with change in me. BO, spots, oily hair, showering daily, clean underwear. Kapow Lesson 3: Puberty- To understand physical changes during puberty. Kapow Lesson 4: Menstruation. To understand the menstrual cycle. Kapow Lesson 5: Emotional changes in puberty. To understand emotional changes during puberty.

PE link; Ability to transfer skills to new games and sports. The links between physical activity and mental well-being. What does equality look like in PE and sport?

Year 6

Eating well, early signs of illness, legal and illegal substances, vaccines, positive self-talk, forgiveness, true thoughts and feelings, handling disappointment, secrets, things we have lost, healthy food-food groups, identify and name the main parts of the human circulatory system, and describe the functions of the heart, blood vessels and blood. Recognise the impact of diet, exercise, drugs and lifestyle on the way their bodies function. Describe the ways in which nutrients and water are transported within animals, including humans. Adolescence-brain remodelling, feelings. Kapow Lesson 4: Physical and emotional changes of puberty. To understand the biology of conception. Kapow Lesson 5: Conception (Parents can withdraw their child from part of this lesson). To understand the development of the baby during pregnancy. Kapow Lesson 6: Pregnancy and birth (Parents have the right to withdraw their child from this lesson) To understand the development of the baby during pregnancy.

PE link- Responsibility and different roles within a team/lesson. Role of physical activity in leading a healthy life style. Awareness of others and communicating.

Sex education

All pupils must be taught the aspects of sex education outlined in the primary science curriculum – this includes teaching 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.

The school is free to determine whether pupils should be taught sex education beyond what is required of the national curriculum. The Department for Education does however recommend that children are taught about how a baby is conceived, prior to leaving primary school and therefore most schools will include conception in the Upper Key Stage 2 curriculum, usually in Year 6. In St Bridget's this is linked to science when learning about reproduction of plants and animals. We look at how DNA from a male and female produce a baby. It is also talked about during the Lil lets video about periods occurring due to sperm not meeting/fertilising an egg. PSHE/RSHE lead attended a Chris Quigley course where advice was given as to how much detail was required to teach this.

Parents are fully consulted in the organisation and delivery of our sex education curriculum, in accordance with [section 3](#) and [section 4](#) of this policy. Parents are given the opportunity to advise on what should be taught through sex education.

The age and development of pupils is always considered when delivering sex education.

All year groups learn about sexuality/LGBTQ+ at a basic level. The use of 'The Great Big Book of Families' highlights family differences where teachers and pupils can discuss how the families are different i.e. two mummies, two daddies. All classes have access to stories that have been recommended by 'No Outsiders' and teachers have plans to use alongside these.

Year 4

Kapow Lesson 6: Growing up To recognise that change is part of growing up. Kapow Lesson 7: Introducing puberty To recognise the physical differences between children and adults. Kapow Lesson 4: Menstruation, taken from Year 5 planning To understand the menstrual cycle.

Year 5

How a baby is made- DNA from a male and a female makes a baby- linking to the reproduction cycle of plants and animals. LGBTQ+ news round, understanding and accepting others.

Kapow Lesson 3: Puberty- To understand physical changes during puberty. Kapow Lesson 4: Menstruation (revisit)- To understand the menstrual cycle. Lesson 5: Emotional changes in puberty. To understand emotional changes during puberty

Year 6

LGBTQ+ All the same, all different, News round; understanding and accepting others, discuss the meaning of the abbreviation.

Kapow Lesson 4; Physical and emotional changes in puberty.To understand the changes that happen during puberty. Kapow Lesson 5: Conception (Parents can withdraw their child from part of this lesson). To understand the development of the baby during pregnancy. Kapow Lesson 6: Pregnancy and birth (Parents have the right to withdraw their child from this lesson) To understand the development of the baby during pregnancy.

The relationships and health curriculum will be delivered as part of our PSHE curriculum.

Sex education will be delivered through the science curriculum and the PSHE curriculum.

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.

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. 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. Lesson plans will provide appropriate challenge for pupils and be differentiated for pupils' needs.

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.

Pupils will be taught the facts and the law about sexuality 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.

We will ensure that LGBTQ+ content is fully integrated into the relationships and health curriculum and through our themes throughout the year, rather than delivered as a standalone unit or lesson. The school will ensure it is communicated to parents and stakeholders that LGBTQ+ relationships and content are not inherently sexual in nature, and parents do not have the right to withdraw their children specifically from lessons regarding LGBTQ+ issues.

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.

The PSHE and Science lead have worked closely to incorporate RSHE into Science lessons, so that these are no longer a stand-alone lesson and children can view this as a natural development in their Science learning; humans. In line with Safeguarding, Year 1 children will name genital parts when labelling basic body parts in Science. Also, all children from age 9 are expected to be knowledgeable about menstruation. Children are now developing at a younger age, with some children starting their periods earlier than previously anticipated. We are therefore teaching our menstruation unit to Year 4 girls at the end of the academic year and this will also be used as part of our spiral curriculum with the menstruation unit being retaught in Year 5 and 6.

Any resources or materials used to support learning will be formally assessed by the RSHE subject leader before use to ensure they are appropriate for the age and maturity of pupils, and sensitive to their needs, as well as, selecting with sensitivity given to the developmental stage and cultural background of pupils.

Teachers will establish what is appropriate for one-to-one and whole-class settings, and alter their teaching of the programme accordingly. 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. 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.

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.

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.

Teachers will ensure pupils are aware of the expectation of them to participate sensitively and respectfully in class discussions of sensitive issues.

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.

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.

Whilst there are no formal examinations for the relationships and health curriculum, the school will undertake informal assessments to determine pupil progress – these include the following:

- Tests and recorded observations/comments/questions
- Written assignments/pop tasks
- Group presentations
- Group tasks
- Questionnaires

Working with external experts

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. The intended use of external experts is to enhance the curriculum delivered by teachers, rather than as a replacement for teachers.

Before delivering the session, the school will:

- Ensure the lesson the external expert has planned fits with the school's planned curriculum and this policy.
- Ensure the expert's credentials are checked before they are able to participate in delivery of the curriculum, in line with the Visitor Policy.
- Discuss the details of the expert's lesson plan and ensure that the content is age-appropriate and accessible for the pupils.
- 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.
- 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.

Equality and accessibility

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
- Sexual orientation
- Race
- Disability
- Religion or belief
- Gender reassignment
- Pregnancy or maternity
- Marriage or civil partnership

The school is committed to making reasonable adjustments wherever possible to promote accessibility and inclusivity of the curriculum. The school will ensure that relationships and health education programme is inclusive, and caters to the needs, of pupils with SEND or other support needs, such as those with SEMH needs.

Teachers will understand that they may need to adapt their planning of work and teaching methods in order to appropriately deliver the programme to pupils with SEND or other support needs.

Provisions under the Equality Act 2010 allow our school to take positive action, where it can be evidenced to be proportionate, to respond to particular disadvantages affecting a group or a pupil because of a protected characteristic. For example, we could consider taking positive action to support pupils if there was evidence that they were being treated unfairly due to gender reassignment.

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.

In order to foster healthy and respectful peer-to-peer communication and behaviour between all pupils, the school implements a robust Behaviour Policy, as well as a Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy, which sets out expectations of pupils.

The school understands that relationships, sex, 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 wellbeing lead to discuss this.

Curriculum links

The school seeks opportunities to draw links between relationships and health education and other curriculum subjects wherever possible to enhance pupils' learning. 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. Year 1 learn the correct language for naming genital parts, this is a part of us as professionals helping to safeguard our pupils.
- **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.

Withdrawing from the subjects

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

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 the sex education curriculum, except for LGBTQ+ which is compulsory.

The headteacher will automatically 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; 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. The headteacher will discuss with the parent, the benefits or 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.

The headteacher will keep a record of the discussion between themselves, the pupil and the parent. The parent will be informed in writing of the headteacher's decision.

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

Behaviour

The school has a zero-tolerance approach to bullying. We aim to foster a culture based on mutual respect and understanding for one another.

Any bullying incidents caused as a result of the relationships and health education programme, such as those relating to sexual orientation, will be dealt with as seriously as

other bullying incidents within the school. 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. These incidents will be dealt with following the processes in our Behaviour Policy and Anti-bullying Policy.

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.

Staff training

All staff members at the school will undergo training to ensure they are up-to-date with the relationship and health education programme and associated issues. Members of staff responsible for teaching the subjects will undergo further training, (especially on the lead up puberty and growing up), led by the RSHE subject leader, to ensure they are fully equipped to teach the subjects effectively.

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.

Confidentiality

Confidentiality within the classroom is an important component of relationships, sex and health education, and teachers are expected to respect the confidentiality of their pupils as far as is possible. Teachers will, however, alert the headteacher about any suspicions of inappropriate behaviour or potential abuse as per the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

Pupils will be fully informed of the school's 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. 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.

Monitoring quality

The RSHE subject leader is responsible for monitoring the quality of teaching and learning for the subjects. They will conduct subject assessments, which will include a mixture of the following:

- Lesson observations
- Topic feedback forms
- Learning walks
- Floor books scrutiny
- Depth of learning; coverage and achievements

The RSHE subject leader will create annual subject reports for the headteacher and governing board to report on the quality of the subjects. They will also work regularly and consistently with the headteacher and RSHE link governor, e.g. through termly review meetings, to evaluate the effectiveness of the subjects and implement any changes.

Monitoring and review

The governing board is responsible for approving this policy.

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis by the RSHE subject leader and headteacher. The next scheduled review date for this policy is September 2024. 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.

Any changes made to this policy will be communicated to all staff, parents and, where necessary, pupils.