Relationships and Sex Education Policy

Holbeach Primary School

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1. Aims

The aims of relationships and sex education (RSE) at our school are to:

- Provide a framework in which sensitive discussions can take place.
- Prepare pupils for puberty and give them an understanding of sexual development and the importance of health and hygiene.
- Help pupils develop feelings of self-respect, confidence and empathy.
- Create a positive culture around issues of sexuality and relationships.
- Teach pupils the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies.
- Help pupils to understand what 'consent' means.
- Teach children how to be considerate and compassionate to others.
- Help children to understand the importance of responsibility.

2. Statutory requirements

As a maintained primary school, we must provide relationships education to all pupils as per section 34 of the Children and Social work act 2017.

However, we are not required to provide sex education, but we do need to teach the elements of sex education contained in the science curriculum.

In teaching RSE, we must have regard to guidance issued by the secretary of state as outlined in section 403 of the Education Act 1996.

At Holbeach Primary School we teach RSE as set out in this policy.

3. Policy development

This policy has been developed in consultation with staff, pupils, governors and parents. The consultation and policy development process involved the following steps:

1. Review – a working group pulled together all relevant information including relevant national and local guidance.

2. Staff consultation – all school staff were given the opportunity to look at the policy and make recommendations.

3. Parent/stakeholder consultation – parents and any interested parties were invited to share their responses via a survey and attend a meeting about the policy.

4. Pupil consultation – we investigated what exactly pupils want from their RSE.

5. Ratification – once amendments were made; the policy was shared with governors and ratified.

4. Definition

RSE is about the emotional, social and cultural development of pupils, and involves learning about relationships, sexual health, sexuality, healthy lifestyles, diversity and personal identity.

RSE involves a combination of sharing information and exploring issues and values.

RSE is not about the promotion of sexual activity.

5. Curriculum

Our RSE and PSHE curriculum takes a question-based approach and is set out as per Appendix 1 but we may need to adapt it as and when necessary.

We have developed the curriculum in consultation with parents, pupils and staff, taking into account the age, needs and feelings of pupils. If pupils ask questions outside the scope of this policy, teachers will respond in an appropriate manner, so they are fully informed and don't seek answers online.

Primary sex education at Holbeach Primary School will focus on:

Sex Education Plan	
Lesson Outcomes	**Year Group**
Naming Body Parts	Years 1/2
Preparing boys and girls for changes that adolescences brings	Year 4
Exploring the impact of puberty on the body and the importance of physical hygiene	Year 4
Understanding that Menstruation and wet dreams are a normal part of growing up	Year 4
How a baby is conceived and born	Year 6

For more information about our curriculum, see our curriculum map in Appendix 1.

6. Delivery of RSE

RSE is taught within the personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education curriculum. Biological aspects of RSE are taught within the science curriculum, and other aspects are included in religious education (RE). Many of the online safety objectives are taught within our Computing-Online Curriculum.

Relationship's education focuses on teaching the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships including:

- Families and people who care for me.
- Caring friendships
- Respectful relationships
- Online relationships
- Being safe

****Sex education you provide that is in addition to what's covered in the science curriculum.

For more information about our RSE curriculum, see Appendices 1 and 2.

These areas of learning are taught within the context of family life taking care to ensure that there is no stigmatisation of children based on their home circumstances (families can include single parent families, LGBT parents, families headed by grandparents, adoptive parents, foster parents/carers amongst other structures) along with reflecting sensitively that some children may have a different structure of support around them (for example: looked after children or young carers).

7. Roles and responsibilities

7.1 The governing board

The governing board will approve the RSE policy.

The governing board will hold the headteacher to account for the implementation of this policy.

The governing board has delegated the approval of this policy to the curriculum committee.

7.2 The headteacher

The headteacher, curriculum leader and RSE Co-ordinator are responsible for ensuring that RSE is taught consistently across the school, and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from non-statutory/non-science components of RSE (see section 8).

7.3 Staff

Staff are responsible for:

- Delivering RSE in a sensitive way
- Modelling positive attitudes to RSE
- Monitoring progress
- Responding to the needs of individual pupils
- Responding appropriately to pupils whose parents wish them to be withdrawn from the non-statutory/non-science components of RSE.

Class teachers are responsible for the teaching of RSE at Holbeach Primary School.

Staff do not have the right to opt out of teaching RSE. Staff who have concerns about teaching RSE are encouraged to discuss this with the headteacher. Questions which teachers feel uncertain about answering should be discussed with a senior member of staff and answered at a later date. Consideration should be given to religious or cultural factors, and to parents' wishes before questions are answered.

7.4 Pupils

Pupils are expected to engage fully in RSE and, when discussing issues related to RSE, treat others with respect and sensitivity.

Pupils with special educational needs will be given the opportunity to fully participate in RSE lessons, and a differentiated program will be provided where necessary, to ensure that all pupils gain a full understanding.

8. Parents' right to withdraw

Parents **do not have the right** to withdraw their children from **relationships** education.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the non-statutory/non-science components of sex education within RSE.

The **Science** Curriculum in all maintained schools also includes content on human development, including reproduction, which there is **no right to withdraw from.**

*****Requests for withdrawal from sex education should be put in writing using the form found in Appendix 3 of this policy and addressed to the headteacher. The Headteacher will call to discuss the matter further.

*****Alternative work will be given to pupils who are withdrawn from sex education.

9. Confidentiality

Teachers conduct sex education lessons in a sensitive manner. However, if a child makes reference to being involved, or likely to be in involved in sexual activity, then the teacher will take the matter seriously and deal with it as outlined in the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy. Teachers will respond in a similar way if a child indicates that they may have been a victim of abuse or exploitation. If the teacher has concerns, they will draw these to the attention of the designated person responsible for child protection or the headteacher as a matter of urgency. Disclosure of female genital mutilation must be reported to the police (either by the teacher to whom it is disclosed or by the DSL)

Legally, the school cannot offer or guarantee absolute confidentiality. We aim to ensure that pupils' best interests are maintained and try to encourage pupils to talk to their parents or carers to provide support. If confidentiality has been broken, pupils are informed first and then supported by the designated teacher throughout the whole process.

10. Training

Staff are trained on the delivery of RSE as part of their induction and it is included in our continuing professional development calendar.

The headteacher will also invite visitors from outside the school, such as school nurses, mental health professionals or sexual health professionals, to provide support and training to staff teaching RSE.

11. Monitoring arrangements

The delivery of RSE is monitored by the head teacher, curriculum leader and RSE lead teacher through:

Monitoring of the teaching and learning of RSE will be carried out through lesson observations, planning scrutinies, learning walks and feedback from pupils.

Pupils' development in RSE is monitored by class teachers as part of our internal assessment systems.

This policy will be reviewed by the head teacher, governing board and RSE Co-ordinator every 2 years. At every review, the policy will be approved by the governing board/ curriculum committee.

Appendix 1: Curriculum map

PSHE with Relationships and Sex Education curriculum map Key: Relationships (Including Sex Education) Health and Wellbeing Living in the Wider World

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Year 1	What is the same and different about us?	Who is special to us?	What helps us stay healthy?	What can we do with money?	Who helps to keep us safe?	How can we look after each other and the world?
Year 2	What makes a good friend?	What is bullying?	What jobs do people do?	What helps us to stay safe?	What helps us grow and stay healthy?	How do we recognise our feelings?
Year 3	How can we be a good friend?	What keeps us safe?	What are families like?	What makes a community?	Why should we eat well and look after our teeth?	Why should we keep active and sleep well?
Year 4	What strengths, skills and interests do we have?	How do we treat each other with respect?	How can we manage our feelings?	How will we grow and change?	How can our choices make a difference to others and the environment?	How can we manage risk in different places?
Year 5	What makes up a person's identity?	What decisions can people make with money?	How can we help in an accident or emergency?	How can friends communicate safely?	How can drugs common to everyday life affect health?	What jobs would we like?
Year 6	How can we keep healthy as we grow?		How can the media influence people?		What will change as we become more independent? How do friendships change as we grow?	

Year 1	**Autumn 1**	Ourselves and others; similarities and differences; individuality; our bodies • what they like/dislike and are good at • what makes them special and how everyone has different strengths • how their personal features or qualities are unique to them • how they are similar or different to others, and what they have in common • to use the correct names for the main parts of the body, including external genitalia; and that parts of bodies covered with underwear are private	
	Autumn 2	Ourselves and others; people who care for us; groups we belong to; families	

		• that family is one of the groups they belong to, as well as, for example, school, friends, clubs • about the different people in their family / those that love and care for them • what their family members, or people that are special to them, do to make them feel loved and cared for • how families are all different but share common features – what is the same and different about them • about different features of family life, including what families do / enjoy together • that it is important to tell someone (such as their teacher) if something about their family makes them feel unhappy or worried	

Year 2	**Autumn 1** **Autumn 2**	**Friendship; feeling lonely; managing arguments** • how to make friends with others • how to recognise when they feel lonely and what they could do about it • how people behave when they are being friendly and what makes a good friend • how to resolve arguments that can occur in friendships • how to ask for help if a friendship is making them unhappy **Behaviour; bullying; words and actions; respect for others** • how words and actions can affect how people feel • how to ask for and give/not give permission regarding physical contact and how to respond if physical contact makes them uncomfortable or unsafe • why name-calling, hurtful teasing, bulling and deliberately excluding others is unacceptable • how to respond if this happens in different situations • how to report bullying or other hurtful behaviour, including online, to a trusted adult and the importance of doing so	

Year 3	**Autumn 1** **Spring 1**	Friendship; making positive friendships, managing loneliness, dealing with arguments • how friendships support wellbeing and the importance of seeking support if feeling lonely or excluded • how to recognise if others are feeling lonely and excluded and strategies to include them • how to build good friendships, including identifying qualities that contribute to positive friendships • that friendships sometimes have difficulties, and how to manage when there is a problem or an argument between friends, resolve disputes and reconcile differences • how to recognise if a friendship is making them unhappy, feel uncomfortable or unsafe and how to ask for support Families; family life; caring for each other	

		• how families differ from each other (including that not every family has the same family structure, e.g. single parents, same sex parents, step-parents, blended families, foster and adoptive parents) • how common features of positive family life often include shared experiences, e.g. celebrations, special days or holidays • how people within families should care for each other and the different ways they demonstrate this • how to ask for help or advice if family relationships are making them feel unhappy, worried or unsafe	

Year 4	**Autumn 2**	Respect for self and others; courteous behaviour; safety; human rights • how people's behaviour affects themselves and others, including online • how to model being polite and courteous in different situations and recognise the respectful behaviour they should receive in return • about the relationship between rights and responsibilities • about the right to privacy and how to recognise when a confidence or secret should be kept (such as a nice birthday surprise everyone will find out about) or not agreed to and when to tell (e.g. if someone is being upset or hurt)* • the rights that children have and why it is important to protect these* • that everyone should feel included, respected and not discriminated against; how to respond if they witness or experience exclusion, disrespect or discrimination • how to respond to aggressive or inappropriate behaviour (including online and unwanted physical contact) – how to report concerns	

Year 5	**Summer 1**	Friendships; relationships; becoming independent; online safety • about the different types of relationships people have in their lives • how friends and family communicate together; how the internet and social media can be used positively • how knowing someone online differs from knowing someone face-to-face • how to recognise risk in relation to friendships and keeping safe • about the types of content (including images) that is safe to share online; ways of seeking and giving consent before images or personal information is shared with friends or family • how to respond if a friendship is making them feel worried, unsafe or uncomfortable • how to ask for help or advice and respond to pressure, inappropriate contact or concerns about personal safety	

Year 6	**Summer 1 and 2**	**Different relationships, changing and growing, adulthood, independence, moving to secondary school** • that people have different kinds of relationships in their lives, including romantic or intimate relationships • that people who are attracted to and love each other can be of any gender, ethnicity or faith; the way couples care for one another • that adults can choose to be part of a committed relationship or not, including marriage or civil partnership • that marriage should be wanted equally by both people and that forcing someone to marry against their will is a crime • how puberty relates to growing from childhood to adulthood • about the reproductive organs and process - how babies are conceived and born and how they need to be cared for • that there are ways to prevent a baby being made[2] • how growing up and becoming more independent comes with increased opportunities and responsibilities • how friendships may change as they grow and how to manage this • how to manage change, including moving to secondary school; how to ask for support or where to seek further information and advice regarding growing up and changing	

Appendix 2: By the end of primary school pupils should know

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Families and people who care about me	• That families are important for children growing up because they can give love, security, and stability. • The characteristics of healthy family life, commitment to each other, including in times of difficulty, protection and care for children and other family members, the importance of spending time together and sharing each other's lives. • That others' families, either in school or in the wider world, sometimes look different 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	• 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, and that these can often be worked through so that the friendship is repaired or even strengthened, and that resorting to violence is never right. • How to recognise who to trust and who not to trust, how to judge when a friendship is making them feel unhappy or uncomfortable, managing conflict, how to manage these situations and how to seek help or advice from others, if needed.

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Respectful relationships	• The importance of respecting others, even when they are very different from them (for example, physically, in character, personality or backgrounds), or make different choices or have different preferences or beliefs. • Practical steps they can take in a range of different contexts to improve or support respectful relationships. • The conventions of courtesy and manners • The importance of self-respect and how this links to their own happiness • That in school and in 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 different types of bullying (including cyberbullying), the impact of bullying, responsibilities of bystanders (primarily reporting bullying to an adult) and how to get help. • What a stereotype is, and how stereotypes can be unfair, negative or destructive • The importance of permission-seeking and giving in relationships with friends, peers and adults
Online relationships	• That people sometimes behave differently online, including by pretending to be someone they are not. • That the same principles apply to online relationships as to face-to face relationships, including the importance of respect for others online including when we are anonymous. • The rules and principles for keeping safe online, how to recognise risks, harmful content and contact, and how to report them • How to critically consider their online friendships and sources of information including awareness of the risks associated with people they have never met. • How information and data is shared and used online
Being safe	• What sorts of boundaries are appropriate in friendships with peers and others (including in a digital context) • About the concept of privacy and the implications of it for both children and adults; including that it 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 (in all contexts, including online) whom 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 or 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 get advice e.g. family, school and/or other sources

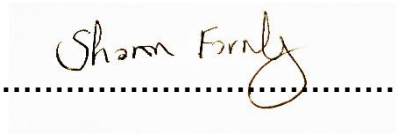
Appendix 3: Parent form: withdrawal from sex education within RSE

TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENTS			
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			

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE SCHOOL	
Agreed actions from discussion with parents	

Relationships and Sex Education Policy

Chair of Governors: *Sharon Farnley* **(please print name)**

Signed:  .....

Headteacher: *Tom Bulpitt* **(please print name)**

Signed:  .....

Date of Policy: September 2026

Date of Review: September 2029