



# Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education & Health Education Policy (RSHE)

## Woodhouse Community Primary School

Updated in line with current DfE RSHE statutory guidance



Date policy approved/adopted	September 2022
Next review date	September 2023
Approved by:	Miss S O'Sullivan
Head teacher	Mrs R Smith
Governor	Miss M Williamson



### 1. This policy was developed in response to:

- Children and Social Work Act (2017)
- Relationships Education and Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education Guidance, (Department for Education September 2020)
- Research commentary: teaching about sex, sexual orientation, and gender reassignment, (Chris Jones, Ofsted's Director, July 2021)
- Equality Act, 2010 and schools
- Not Yet Good Enough: personal, social, health and economic education in schools, (Ofsted 2013)
- Special Educational Needs and Disability code of practice: 0-25 years, 2020
- Life Lessons: PSHE and SRE in schools: Fifth Report, (House of Commons Education Committee 2015)
- Keeping Children safe in Education – Statutory Guidance, 2021
- Transforming Children and Young People's Mental Health Provision Green Paper (July 2018)

This policy should be read in conjunction with:

- E-safety/Online Policy
- Anti-bullying/Behaviour Policy
- Safeguarding Policy (including child sexual exploitation)
- Equality and Inclusion Policy
- PSHE Policy
- Promoting Mental Health and Resilience Policy
- Drugs Policy

### 2. The engagement and consultation process has involved:

- A review of Relationship and Sex Education curriculum content with staff
- Audit of teachers' knowledge and confidence teaching curriculum content.
- Staff questionnaire to identify gaps in whole class's knowledge of previously taught content
- A review of Relationship and Sex Education curriculum content with parents/carers and the opportunity to provide feedback
- Consultation with wider school community e.g. The Education Development Service
- Consultation, agreement and implementation with, of policy by school governors

**This policy template has been developed regard to the DfE Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education guidance 2019, taking into consideration changing adolescent bodies which schools have a requirement to teach and strongly links with RSE.**

### 3. RSHE Programme

Our RSHE programme will be taught as part of our PSHE lessons and will fall under the categories of Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education which includes work on physical health and mental well-being. The definitions of these three areas are below: Relationships Education is the building blocks of healthy, respectful relationships, focusing on family and friendships, including online. It gives children and young people the essential skills to build positive, enjoyable, and non-exploitative relationships. Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) is lifelong learning about physical, sexual, moral, and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of stable and loving relationships both on and offline, respect, love, and care, for family life. It involves acquiring information, developing skills, and



forming positive beliefs, values and attitudes. Health Education – Physical Health and Mental Wellbeing The focus in primary will be on teaching the characteristics of good physical health and mental wellbeing. Puberty including menstruation will be covered in Health Education and addressed before the onset of puberty. This will ensure male and female pupils are prepared for changes they and their peers will experience. There will be a clear progression of what is Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education (RSHE) at primary school through to RSHE in secondary school.

#### **4. Principles and Values**

Woodhouse Community Primary School believes that RSHE should:

- be an integral part of the lifelong learning process, beginning in early childhood and to continue into adult life.
- be an entitlement for all pupils in our care.
- encourage every pupil to contribute to the school community that aims to support each individual as they grow and learn.
- be set within this wider school context and supports family commitment and love, respect and affection, knowledge, and openness. Family is a broad concept; not just one model, e.g. children living with blended families; those living with same sex parents, children looked after, adopted children, extended family. It includes a variety of types of family structure, and acceptance of diversity.
- encourage pupils and staff to share and listen to each other's views and the right to hold/express views. We are aware of different values and opinions to sexual orientation and gender identity without promotion of any family structure. The important values are love, respect, kindness, generosity and care for each other.
- generate an atmosphere where questions and discussion on personal matters can take place without any stigma or embarrassment.
- recognise that parents and carers are the prime educators in teaching their children about sex, relationships and growing up. We aim to work in partnership with parents/carers and pupils, consulting them about the content of programmes.
- recognise that the wider community has much to offer and we aim to work in partnership with other health and education professionals.

**RSHE has three main elements:**

##### **Attitudes and Values**

- learning the importance of values, individual conscience and moral choices.
- Learning the value and valuing family life, stable and loving relationships, marriage and civil partnerships.
- learning about the nurture of children.
- Learning the value of and demonstrating respect, kindness, love and care.
- exploring, considering and understanding moral dilemmas.
- developing skills including negotiation and decision making.
- The importance of permission seeking/consent and giving, in relationships including online with friends, peers and adults.
- challenging myths, misconceptions and false assumptions about normal behaviour.

##### **Personal and Social Skills**

- learning to manage emotions within relationships confidently and sensitively, including off and online.
- developing positive self-esteem and confidence.
- developing and demonstrating self-respect and empathy for others.



- making informed choices with an absence of prejudice and discrimination
- pupils show respect for those who share the protected characteristics
- developing an appreciation of the consequences of choices made.
- managing conflict resolution.
- empower pupils with the skills to be able to recognise inappropriate/ uncomfortable situations and/or behaviours with their family, peers and adults, interacting online.
- How to report concerns or abuse, and the vocabulary and confidence needed to do so.

## Knowledge and Understanding

- Should know that their bodies belong to them, and the differences between appropriate and inappropriate or unsafe physical, and other, contact
- Know the key facts about puberty and the changing adolescent body, which is relevant for all pupils, particularly from the ages 9 through to age 11.
- All pupils will learn about menstrual wellbeing including the key facts about the menstrual cycle. (Health Education)
- learning about human reproduction, sexuality, gender identity, personal health, emotions, and relationships.
- learning about where to go for help or advice in school and how to access a range of local and national support agencies.

## 5. Aims and Objectives

The aim of RSHE is to provide balanced information about physical and emotional changes, together with consideration of the broader emotional, ethical, religious, and moral dimensions of sexual health. Our RSHE programme aims to prepare pupils for an adult life in which they can:

- develop positive values and a moral framework that will guide their decisions, judgements and behaviour.
- have the confidence and self-esteem to value themselves and others and respect for individual conscience and the skills to judge what kind of relationship they want.
- understand the consequences of their actions and behave responsibly within personal relationships.
- avoid being pressured into uncomfortable or dangerous situations, including online sharing.
- Understand seeking permission, refusal and consent
- communicate and behave in a respectful manner towards people around them which contributes to a safe, inclusive environment/community
- develop awareness and understanding of their evolving sexuality and gender identity
- Challenge discrimination, sexism and prejudice, which is inclusive to all children and young people.
- have sufficient information and skills to protect themselves in a variety of situations including from exploitation.
- be aware of sources of help and acquire the skills and confidence to access advice and support if necessary.

## 6. Roles and Responsibilities



Responsible for PSHCE/RSHE: Miss S O'Sullivan

Governor responsible for RSHE: Miss M Williamson

Safeguarding Lead: Mrs V Curry

ICT Lead: Mrs Z Connor

## 7. Organisation and Content of RSHE

At Woodhouse Community Primary School our PSHCE curriculum is taught through 6 main categories:

- Family and relationships
- Health and wellbeing
- Safety and the changing body
- Citizenship
- Economic wellbeing
- Identity

Woodhouse Community Primary School specifically delivers RSHE through its PSHE Programme, RE and Science lessons at foundation stage, KS1 and KS2.

Much of the RSHE at Woodhouse Community Primary School takes place within PSHE lessons. Teachers generally deliver the PSHCE curriculum with support from professionals where appropriate. School staff are usually the best people to work with the pupils on many of the RSHE topics as they are aware of each pupil's individual circumstances.

Any RSHE lesson may consider questions or issues that some pupils will find sensitive. Before embarking on these lessons, a group/classroom agreement, formally known as ground rules are established which prohibit inappropriate personal information being requested or disclosed by those taking part in the lesson.

When pupils ask questions, we aim to answer them honestly at an age-appropriate level and within the group/classroom agreement established at the start of the sessions. If it is felt that answering a specific question would involve information at a level inappropriate to the age and development of the rest of the pupils, the question will be dealt with individually at another time. Children's whose questions go unanswered may turn to inappropriate sources of information.

More expert or specialist teachers and other professionals may support staff that are uncomfortable with teaching certain aspects of the RSHE curriculum. Support and professional development will be provided for these staff, so that they can develop their confidence in delivering the whole of the RSHE programme.

At Woodhouse Community Primary School all staff will use scientifically correct vocabulary to avoid misunderstandings and ambiguity. The words which will be used are penis, vulva, vagina, testicles, scrotum, breasts, and pubic hair, all in an age and stage appropriate way. The correct terms help children to report abuse and as a school using the correct terms for the parts of the bodies listed strengthens our approach to safeguarding children and links strongly with our RSE.

## 8. Inclusion



## *Pupils with Special Needs*

We will ensure that all pupils receive relationships education and relationships and sex education, and we will offer provision appropriate to the needs of all our pupils, taking specialist advice where necessary. We ensure that teaching is sensitive, age-appropriate, developmentally appropriate and delivered with reference to the law.

## **9. Working with parents/carers and the wider community**

Here at Woodhouse Community Primary School, we believe the role of parents in the development of their children's understanding about relationships is vital. Parents/carers are the first educators of their children. Therefore, we will ensure that we work closely with parents/carers to ensure they are aware what is taught and when. This policy and information on what will be taught and when will be freely available on our schools' website for parent/carers to access. We encourage parents to view resources and access the links provided on our school's website to support their child's learning and development, for example NHS choices page.

## **10. Right to be excused from Sex Education**

From 2020 all primary schools in England are required to teach Relationships Education and Health Education. You cannot withdraw your child from any part of the Relationships and Health Education curriculum. It is important for ALL children to be taught the content on such essential matters like friendships and keeping safe. Sex education is separate from the Relationships and Health curriculum. You can withdraw your child from some or all of the lessons on Sex Education. The head teacher must grant your request to withdraw your child. At Woodhouse Community Primary School, our sex education includes how a baby is conceived, conception and birth in our content at Years 5 and 6. This is due to the needs our school has.

Parents will be informed via letter when their child will be taught this content. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from some or all the sex education that goes beyond the national curriculum for science and health education. Alternative arrangements and purposeful education would need to be made in such cases. Parents are encouraged to discuss any concerns and / or decisions with the Head Teacher at the earliest opportunity. The head teacher/RSHE lead will document the process and outcome. Parents/carers are welcome to review any RSHE resources we use and encouraged to ask questions to gain clarity when needed. We can offer parents support in talking to their children and informing them of the content which can help empower parents to continue discussions at home and strengthen parental engagement.

## **11. Safeguarding reports of abuse and confidentiality**

All pupils are made aware that all adults in school cannot guarantee absolute confidentiality.

A child under 13 is not legally capable of consenting to sexual activity. Any offence under The Sexual Offences Act 2003 involving a child under 13 is very serious and should be taken to indicate a risk of significant harm to the child. Cases involving under 13's should always be discussed with the nominated child protection lead.

Under the Sexual Offences Act, penetrative sex with a child under the age of 13 is classed as rape. Therefore, in all cases where the sexually active young person is under 13, a referral should be made to First Contact, naming the young person, and the sexual partner if known. Following this, a Strategy Meeting or discussion will be held. The meeting will involve a Team Manager, Social



Worker, Police, Health Worker, Education and Welfare and other relevant agencies, to discuss next steps.

Where the allegation concerns penetrative sex, or other intimate sexual activity occurs, there would always be reasonable cause to suspect that a child, whether girl or boy, is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm. All cases involving under 13's should be fully documented and reported.

Health professionals in school are bound by their codes of conduct but have a duty to share information with relevant others, if they believe that a child is suffering abuse.

*These procedures should be read in conjunction with the Durham Safeguarding Children's Partnership procedures (link) with special reference to Sections 3 'Referral and Investigation' and Section 6.13 'Sexually Active Children under 18' – 'Young People under the age of 13'*

## 12. Monitoring and Evaluation of RSHE

Assessment is carried out where appropriate, for example, at the start, to gather the baseline knowledge and at the end of every module and involves teacher, pupil and peer assessment of knowledge and understanding, interpersonal skills, and attitudes. As a school we will monitor progress and impact throughout the delivery of the RSHE

It is the responsibility of the Head Teacher/ PSHE lead to oversee and organise the monitoring and evaluation of PSHE, in the context of the overall school plans for monitoring the quality of teaching and learning. The PSHE programme will be treated as a subject and will be involved in a yearly monitoring and evaluation exercise led by the Leadership Team.

The Governing body is responsible for overseeing, reviewing, and organising the revision of the RSHE policy and curriculum.

Ofsted is required to evaluate and report personal development, behaviour and welfare as well as spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (SMSC) of pupils. This may include evaluating and commenting on the school's relationship and sex education policy, curriculum, staff development, and quality of provision.

### Appendices:

We have categorised our lessons into the five key areas below, which we return to in each year group, making pupil's prior and future learning clear and shows how what you are teaching fits into their wider learning journey. Year 6 also have a further key area: Identity.

<p><b>Family and relationships</b></p> <p>Learning how to: form respectful relationships with others, deal with conflict and bullying and the importance of challenging stereotypes.</p>	<p><b>Health and wellbeing</b></p> <p>Learning strategies for looking after their mental and physical health, including: healthy eating, relaxation techniques, sun safety, immunisation facts and the benefits of sleep.</p>	<p><b>Safety and the changing body</b></p> <p>Learning: how to administer first aid in a variety of situations and about safety around medicines, online and road safety and the changes which occur during puberty.</p>	<p><b>Citizenship</b></p> <p>Learning about: human rights and the rights of the child, democracy, diversity and community and protecting the environment.</p>	<p><b>Economic wellbeing</b></p> <p>Learning how to make decisions when it comes to spending, budgeting and saving money and exploring different career choices.</p>
--	---	--	---	--

Year 6 only:

<p><b>Identity</b></p> <p>Considering what makes us who we are whilst learning about gender and sexual identity and body image.</p>
---



A request for resources or curriculum can be requested from parents and carers.