



CHARSFIELD C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

PERSONAL SOCIAL HEALTH EDUCATION (PSHE) INCLUDING RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION (RSE) POLICY

November 2021

Signature	
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Date of Next Review	November 2023

Introduction

This policy sets out our school's approach to statutory Relationships Education and non-statutory Sex Education.

Department for Education guidance states that from September 2020, all primary schools must teach Relationships and Health Education. The teaching of Sex Education in primary schools remains non-statutory, with the exception of the elements of sex education contained in the science national curriculum including the main external body parts, the human life cycle (including puberty) and reproduction in some plants and animals. Other related topics that fall within the statutory requirements for Health Education, such as puberty and menstrual wellbeing, will be included within PSHE education lessons.

Within the statutory guidance document for RSE and Health Education, the DfE also encourages schools to deliver age-appropriate sex education if they feel their pupils need this information:

"It will be for primary schools to determine whether they need to cover any additional content on sex education to meet the needs of their pupils. Many primary schools already choose to teach some aspects of sex education and will continue to do so, although it is not a requirement...."

"It is important that the transition phase before moving to secondary school supports pupils' ongoing emotional and physical development effectively. The Department continues to recommend therefore that all primary schools should have a sex education programme tailored to the age and the physical and emotional maturity of the pupils. It should ensure that both boys and girls are prepared for the changes that adolescence brings and – drawing on knowledge of the human life cycle set out in the national curriculum for science - how a baby is conceived and born"

Within this policy, as in the DfE guidance, Relationships Education is defined as teaching about the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships, with particular reference to friendships, family relationships, and relationships with other children and with adults.

Our definition of Relationships Education includes all of those elements defined within this statutory topic – these are detailed below in the 'RSE Curriculum' section.

Sex Education is defined as teaching children how human reproduction occurs, including how a baby is conceived. This draws on knowledge of the human life cycle set out in the national curriculum for science. For the purposes of this policy, we specifically identify any non-statutory Sex Education that falls outside of Science and those related elements (the physical changes associated with puberty) within statutory Health Education.

RATIONALE AND ETHOS

At Charsfield Primary, RSE is underpinned by the ethos and values of our school as reflected in our whole school motto, 'to develop happy, young people with enquiring minds, a spirit of curiosity and respect for themselves, others and the environment, and to work together in partnership with each other, home and the wider community'.

Through our PSHE programme we aim to provide children with the knowledge, skills and understanding they need to lead confident, healthy, independent lives and to become informed, active and responsible citizens. In providing children with an understanding of healthy and respectful relationships and appropriate boundaries, we consider effective RSE to be a fundamental part of our approach to supporting pupils to grow into confident, caring, responsible and respectful young citizens.

RSE is lifelong learning about personal, physical, moral and emotional development. It is set in the context of clear values about the understanding of the importance of stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care, for family life. It should teach children and young people to develop and form positive values, attitudes, personal and social skills, and increase their knowledge and understanding of how to make informed decisions and life choices.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) forms part of the Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education curriculum in our school. The RSE programme is led by the PSHE Co-ordinator with the support of the Head of School and our teaching assistant who is experienced in delivering PSHE throughout the school

As a school we are aware that the primary responsibility for providing children's RSE lies with parents and carers. We recognise the need to work with parents and carers to ensure a shared understanding of RSE and to deliver an effective programme that meets the needs of our pupils.

THE RSE CURRICULUM

At Charsfield we follow the **Collins 'My Life'** curriculum. This is a complete PSHE and RSHE programme which has been designed to cover the statutory content and wider aspects of the PSHE curriculum such as economic education and living in the wider world. The programme offers lesson plans, resources and power points that can be used to support our teachers' planning and which can be adapted to our pupils' needs each year. The topics have been carefully arranged in order to create a spiral curriculum of both content and skills. This provides a rigorous structure with in-built progression where topics are regularly visited through the key stages to ensure that understanding and skills are developed in an age-appropriate way. This enables children to grow in confidence when taking part in discussion, debates and when exploring current issues within PSHE education.

A long term plan and overview of each My Life topic for years 1 to 6 is provided at the end of this document. EYFS Personal, social, emotional development (PSED) will be taught covering the content in the table at the end of this document.

STATUTORY RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION

As part of our PSHE/Relationships Education programme of study, children will be taught what a relationship is; the different types of relationships they might have e.g. with family members, friends, and other adults; the importance of healthy and secure relationships to wellbeing; what constitutes a healthy relationship, in person and online; how to set and observe appropriate boundaries in relationships; how to recognise when a situation is unsafe; strategies for dealing with situations that they find uncomfortable or that are unsafe; and sources of help and advice.

A summary of the key objectives of the statutory Relationships Education curriculum is set out below.

Families and people who care for me

Children should know:

- 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

Pupils should 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, 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.

Respectful relationships

Pupils should know:

- 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

Pupils should know:

- 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

Pupils should 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; 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.

NON-STATUTORY SEX EDUCATION

As part of **statutory Health Education**, children are taught in an age-appropriate way about the associated physical changes (change in height, losing milk teeth etc.) and emotions they may experience (happy, angry, sad etc.), from Reception onwards. As part of the statutory science curriculum, children learn in Year 5 and 6 about how reproduction occurs in some plants and animals. The DfE guidance 2019 also recommends that all primary schools have a sex education programme tailored to the age and the physical and emotional maturity of pupils, and this should include how a baby is conceived and born. Although sex education is not compulsory in primary schools, we believe children should understand the facts about human reproduction before they leave primary school. We therefore provide some non-statutory sex education, covering how human reproduction and conception occurs. This is included in the upper key stage 2 unit in the summer term. Children are taught:

- that when a sperm and egg meet, this is called conception; that conception usually occurs as a result of sexual intercourse, and what sexual intercourse means (Sex Education Lessons Year 5 and 6);
- how a baby develops in the womb (some in science lesson – Year 5 and 6) and how babies are born (Sex Education Lessons Year 5 and 6).

We believe it is important for all children in Year 5 and 6 to understand all the physical and emotional changes that puberty brings for both boys and girls and to be prepared for these changes. We also judge the maturity of the pupils in these year groups and on occasions after consultation of parents, may teach these lessons to just Year 6 for a particular cohort. Boys and girls are taught together for part of the lessons and then separately, where children have the chance to ask questions and discuss anything they want to know about puberty. These sessions are taught by an experienced class teacher who is able to lead the children in talking in an open, respectful and trusting way together.

We believe that teaching this additional content to pupils will ensure that they are better prepared for transition to secondary school and also support their personal and social development as they grow into young adults. As is legally prescribed, parents have a right to withdraw their children from these additional non-statutory sex education lessons.

TEACHING AND LEARNING STRATEGIES

We aim to provide an environment and atmosphere for PSHE/RSE where pupils feel safe, relaxed, unintimidated, and focused; and where they have confidence and trust in the knowledge, ability and skills of staff in school. This ensures that both pupils and staff feel fully confident in engaging in age-appropriate discussions around potentially sensitive topics and themes.

To provide clarity and create a safe learning environment, at the beginning of each session, a set of ground rules will be agreed by the class based on a school-wide template. As a minimum, ground rules are likely to include the following basic guidelines:

- Listen politely to each other.
- Everyone gets a turn - if they want one.
- Respect everybody's contribution.
- No personal information - no names.
- No personal questions.
- No making fun.

- An age-appropriate rule around confidentiality and safeguarding

Children and teachers are free to suggest and agree further ground rules as appropriate to the topic of each lesson.

Other teaching and learning strategies utilised in RSE (and across the PSHE curriculum) to establish a safe learning environment include the following techniques:

- Using 'distancing' techniques such as role play, case studies etc. to depersonalise sensitive issues.
- Anonymous question boxes. These can help children to have the confidence to ask sensitive questions, and they provide an opportunity for teachers to pre-empt questions that might not be age appropriate or that might raise safeguarding or child protection concerns.
- It will be emphasised to children that any voluntary sharing of information should be anonymous

(for example “someone I know...” rather than “I” or naming names). Should personal questions be asked of either children or staff, children will be reminded that the ground rules for RSE prohibit personal questions. Although staff may draw on their personal experiences to answer certain questions, for example around menstruation, this should always be depersonalised and discussed in third person rather than first person.

MONITORING, RECORDING AND ASSESSMENT

Assessment and self-assessment are a vital part of learning in PSHE. Each lesson gives an opportunity for assessment which can be adapted to suit the assessment policy of the school.

Some examples include:

- baseline and post-unit assessments
- drama and role play assessment
- discussion
- draw and write
- team and group project assessments.

To support their independence, children are given many opportunities to reflect on and evaluate their learning through self-assessment. This valuable life skill is reinforced and embedded across the curriculum through the *My Life* scheme and resources provided.

Pupil voice is also a key feature of our learning at Charsfield Primary School. We encourage our children to express opinions on how and where they would like their learning to go and we take these into account when planning and teaching units from the curriculum. Their comments help us to assess and monitor their progress. Listening and responding to the views of our pupils ensures that our policy and curriculum is responsive and meet the needs of all our learners from year to year.

THE ROLE OF PARENTS/PARENTAL RIGHT OF WITHDRAWAL

We recognise that parents and carers are the primary providers of RSE for their children. Our RSE curriculum is designed to support and complement this. We aim to build a positive and supportive relationship with parents and carers through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation.

In promoting this we will:

- Inform parents about the school’s RSE policy and practice;
- Provide opportunities to view resources used in the RSE programme and answer any questions that parents may have about RSE for their child;
- Take seriously any issues or concerns that parents raise.

We believe that all of the content within our school’s PSHE curriculum, including RSE, is of the utmost importance and relevance to all pupils. However, parents have the legal right to request that their child be

withdrawn from some or all **non-statutory** sex education other than that which is part of the National Curriculum for Science.

Please note there is no parental right of withdrawal from Relationships Education or Health Education content within the school curriculum, or from any statutory sex education that forms part of the National Curriculum for Science. These are statutory requirements which the DfE mandates schools to teach; please see the statutory document if further information is required.

Parents and carers who wish to exercise their right to withdraw their child from non-statutory sex education should talk with the class teacher, the PSHE co-ordinator or the Head of School who will explore any concerns and discuss resources being used.

If parents still wish to withdraw their child from non-statutory sex education lessons, this request will be recorded, and suitable alternative arrangements made for pupils during relevant lessons. The issue of withdrawal will be handled as sensitively as possible. Parents should also understand that the decision to remove their child from these lessons means that they themselves will assume responsibility for talking to their children about any related sex education themes covered outside of National Curriculum Science.

MONITORING AND REVIEW

Our aim is to provide RSE that is relevant and tailored to meet the needs of our pupils, depending on their age and stage of personal development. For this reason, we regularly review the RSE curriculum to evaluate its effectiveness and will inform parents of any revisions to the school policy or curriculum as required.

Teachers will continually reflect on the effectiveness of our PSHE provision, and the PSHE Co-ordinator will gather staff views through regular Staff Voice feedback. Pupil Voice exercises will also be used to inform reviews and updates to planning, resources and activities.

The Curriculum Committee of the governing body monitors our RSE policy on a regular basis. This committee reports its findings and recommendations to the full governing body, as necessary, if the policy needs modification. The Curriculum Committee gives consideration to any feedback from parents about the RSE programme and makes a record of all such comments. Governors require the head of school to keep a written record, giving details of the content and delivery of the RSE programme that we teach in our school.

LOCATION AND DISSEMINATION

Copies of this policy are held by the Head of School and PSHE co-ordinator. Further copies are available in the staff policy folder on the learning platform; on the school website and from the school office on request from parents.

Next review date: September 2023