

Little Bollington CE Primary School Relationships, Sex and Health Education Policy

(2023/24)



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Introduction

This is the policy of Little Bollington CE Primary on the approach taken to Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE), approved by governors in June 2023 following a consultation with parents and carers 16.6.23.

Legal context

The law was changed with effect from September 2020 so that primary schools in England must teach relationships education and health education (*The Children and Social Work Act 2017*).

- The relationships education part of the new curriculum teaches what children need to learn to build positive and safe relationships with family and friends and online.
- The health education part of the new curriculum covers both physical health and mental wellbeing and teaches children how to make good decisions about their own health and wellbeing; how to recognise issues in themselves and in others; and how to seek support as early as possible when issues arise.

Sex education is not compulsory in primary schools, but:

- The new curriculum for relationships education and health education does include content on puberty.
- The national curriculum for science includes subject content in related areas, such as the main external body parts; the human body as it grows from birth to old age (including puberty); and reproduction in some plants and animals.

Following this change in the law, the Department for Education published *Statutory Guidance for Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education (2019)*. This guidance requires primary schools in England to have a written relationships education policy to cover the following:

- How relationships education is delivered
- What sex education (if any) a school chooses to cover that goes beyond the national curriculum for science and relationships education.

There is no equivalent requirement for a health education policy but, in line with best practice, this RSHE policy also covers health education.

This RSHE policy also supports legal requirements relating to the following:

- *The Equality Act 2010.*
- *The Education Act 1996.*
- *Statutory guidance, Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020.*

The following policies are also relevant to this Relationships and Health Education policy:

- Anti-bullying
- Safe-guarding
- Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development

Definition

RSHE supports children and young people's personal development including their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Its aims are to help children and young people to deal with the real-life issues they face as they grow up and that they will encounter as adults. Their learning will support them both online and offline, to make informed choices about their safety, physical and mental health, enabling them to live positive and fulfilled lives.

RSHE is enhanced by a supportive school ethos where everyone is valued, positive relationships are promoted and there is a safe learning environment.

Aims

The aims of our RSHE programme are:

- Provide accurate and age-appropriate information.
- Include all children.
- Help children make informed choices.
- Develop knowledge, skills and attitudes.
- Build confidence and self-esteem.
- Develop personal attributes.
- Prepare children for the next stage of education and adulthood.
- Develop positive and inclusive attitudes to everyone, particularly to those with protected characteristics under the *Equality Act 2010*.

Roles and responsibilities

An effective programme of RSHE requires support from the whole school community and the following people have specific roles and responsibilities:

Governors

- Effective strategic oversight of RSHE curriculum.
- Governor who has responsibility for RSHE: Lindsey Warburton

Headteacher

- Overseeing the development and delivery of RSHE.
- Providing staff with the opportunity to contribute to the development of RSHE.
- Providing information to the trustees/governors.
- Providing training for the subject leader and staff, as required.
- Supporting the subject leader to liaise with parents and carers.
- Dealing with parents and carers who wish to withdraw a child from sex education.

Subject leader

- Leading the development and delivery of effective RSHE.
- Keeping up-to-date with the development of RSHE.

- Supporting colleagues as required.
- Monitoring and evaluating RSHE and providing necessary reports.
- Liaising with parents and carers.
- Keeping subject information up-to-date, including on the school website.
- Overseeing external visitors and resources used in RSHE.

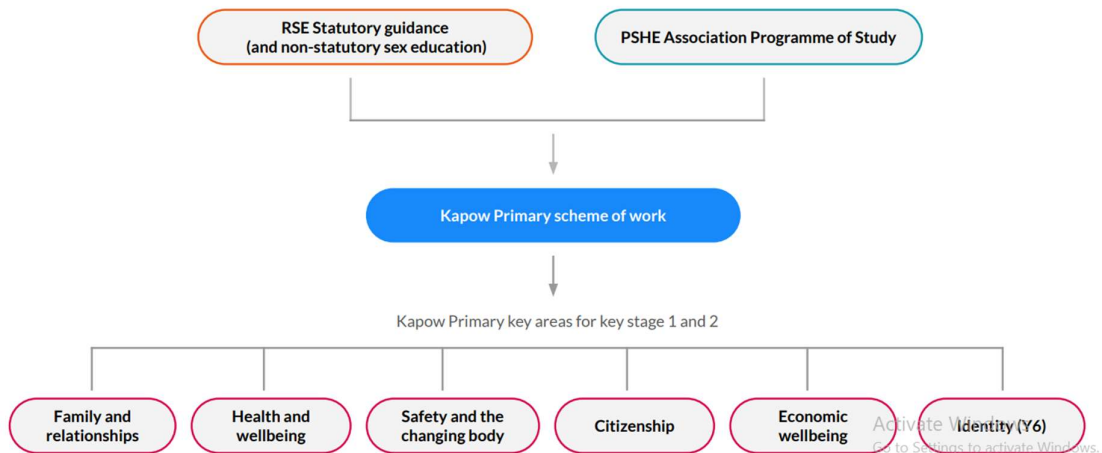
All staff

- To understand and implement the policy of RSHE.
- To teach RSHE in line with the agreed curriculum.
- To assess and monitor the progress of children.
- To respond to the needs of individual children.

Curriculum organisation

The school adopts the following approaches (Kapow mixed-aged scheme) to organise the curriculum to ensure high quality delivery of RSHE:

How is the RSE & PSHE scheme of work organised?



Key areas

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.

Family and relationships Learning how to: form respectful relationships with others, deal with conflict and bullying and the importance of challenging stereotypes.	Health and wellbeing Learning strategies for looking after their mental and physical health, including: healthy eating, relaxation techniques, sun safety, immunisation facts and the benefits of sleep.	Safety and the changing body 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,	Citizenship Learning about: human rights and the rights of the child, democracy, diversity and community and protecting the environment.	Economic wellbeing Learning how to make decisions when it comes to spending, budgeting and saving money and exploring different career choices.
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Year 6 only:

Identity Considering what makes us who we are whilst learning about body image.	
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A spiral curriculum

Kapow Primary's RSE and PSHE scheme of work has been designed as a spiral curriculum with the following key principles in mind:

- ✓ **Cyclical:** Pupils revisit the five key areas throughout KS1 and KS2.
- ✓ **Increasing depth:** Each time a key area is revisited, it is covered with greater depth and increasing maturity.
- ✓ **Prior knowledge:** Upon returning to each key area, prior knowledge is utilised so pupils can build on previous foundations, rather than starting again.



How Kapow Primary can help with mixed-age teaching

At Kapow Primary, we know the unique challenges that come with working in a mixed-age class: sometimes trying to meet different learning objectives for different year groups and dealing with an even wider range of abilities than you would in a single year group.

For RSE and PSHE, consideration must also be given to the emotional maturity of the children in your class and the appropriate age to introduce topics such as puberty.

Kapow primary have created a mixed-age scheme of work that can help you with all these challenges. We have worked with specialists in RSE and PSHE and in mixed-age teaching to produce a mixed-age scheme aimed at teaching Y1/2, Y3/4, Y5/6.

We have organised our existing content for key stages 1 and 2 into a two-year cycle, often adding increased differentiation to help you support and extend all pupils, even with the wider-range of abilities that mixed-age teaching brings.

In some areas, though, we felt that it was important that pupils had the opportunity to develop their understanding **each year**, rather than once in a two-year period, so the lessons have been rewritten, with clear guidance, activities, differentiation and assessment information for each year group. In these instances, teachers teach the same lesson each year, but pupils will have a different experience in the lesson depending on whether they are the younger or older cohort.

This means that even with a two-year cycle, you can be reassured that your pupils are progressing year-on-year as they develop in emotional maturity.



Activate Windows
Go to Settings to activate

What about sex education?

Sex education is not compulsory in primary schools, beyond what is laid out in the National Curriculum for Science:

- **Year 1:** Identify, name, draw and label the basic parts of the human body and say which part of the body is associated with each sense.
- **Year 2:** Notice that animals, including humans, have offspring which grow into adults
- **Year 5:** Describe the life process of reproduction in some plants and animals; describe the changes as humans develop to old age [They should learn about the changes experienced in puberty.]

The RSE statutory guidance states that:

Where a maintained primary school chooses to teach aspects of sex education (which go beyond the national curriculum for science), the school must set this out in their policy and all schools should consult with parents on what is to be covered. Primary schools that choose to teach sex education must allow parents a right to withdraw their children. Unlike sex education in RSE at secondary, in primary schools, head teachers must comply with a parent's wish to withdraw their child from sex education beyond the national curriculum for science.

The Kapow Primary scheme of work includes **two** Year 6 lessons which parents have the opportunity to withdraw their children from all/part of the lesson: *Safety and the changing body*: [Lesson 5: Conception](#) and [Lesson 6: Pregnancy and birth](#).

Teaching and learning

RSHE is delivered in line with the teaching and learning policy. However, as the subject deals with real-life experiences, it is important to establish a safe and positive learning environment using the following approaches:

- Establishing clear ground rules in consultation with children. Ground rules should include confidentiality, respect for others, privacy and boundaries.

- Using distancing techniques including de-personalised discussions and role play.
- Using clear language to avoid misunderstandings.
- Avoiding prejudice and assumptions about children’s abilities, desires, background and experiences.
- Dealing sensitively with unexpected questions and comments.
- Assessing and building on existing knowledge and experiences.
- Ensuring that learning is engaging, using a range of activities, including structured discussion and problem-solving.
- Providing a range of opportunities to learn, practise and demonstrate knowledge, skills and attitudes.
- Allowing time for reflection.
- Providing differentiated learning.
- Using a variety of groupings to enhance learning.

Curriculum content

Long term planning

The school has chosen to use the [*Kapow Primary RSE scheme of work*](#), which provides full curriculum coverage, including all the statutory content, for each year group.

Resources

Teachers will select any additional resources carefully, and the subject leader will oversee the selection.

Additional resources will be:

- Up-to-date.
- Relevant to children.
- Consistent with the aims and values of the school.

Visitors

Visitors can enhance children’s learning. Teachers will select visitors in liaison with the subject leader. The following will be used to guide the use of visitors:

- The school will use visitors to enhance the lessons delivered by the class teacher; and information on where a visitor fits into the long-term plan will be shared with the visitor.
- The school will make visitors aware of the school policy for RSHE.
- The school will check the content of sessions delivered by visitors to make sure that it fits with the school’s ethos and meets legal requirements.

- A member of staff will be present in sessions delivered by visitors.
- The school will make sure visitors undergo the necessary checks as required by the school safeguarding policies.

Equality

Under the *Equality Act 2010*, the school is under a legal duty to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relationships between those with protected characteristics and those without. The protected characteristics are:

- Age.
- Marriage and Civil partnership.
- Disability.
- Race.
- Religion and belief.
- Sexual orientation.
- Sex.
- Pregnancy and maternity.
- Gender reassignment.

In addition, the school must consider the needs of those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

The RSHE programme will meet the needs of all children. Lessons will include content that will tackle discrimination and foster good relationships.

Right to withdraw from sex education

A parent or carer cannot legally withdraw their child from any aspect of the statutory relationships education or health education.

A parent or carer does have the right to withdraw their child from sex education unless what is being taught is part of the science national curriculum.

Following a consultation with the whole school community, the following content is deemed to be sex education:

The suggested Kapow Primary lessons that are deemed to be sex education are:

- *Year 6: Safety and the changing body, Lesson 5: Conception*
- *Year 6: Safety and the changing body, Lesson 6: Pregnancy and birth*

The following process must be followed if a parent or carer wishes to withdraw their child from sex education:

- Parents/carers will be informed about sex education lessons via a letter/email.
- Parents/carers should contact the headteacher by email to withdraw: head@littlebollington.cheshire.sch.uk
- Meetings can be arranged to give an opportunity for the school and the parent/carer to discuss concerns.
- The decision on the withdrawal request will be recorded on cpoms.
- Alternative arrangements will be made in school for the child during the sex education lesson that the child will not attend.

Safeguarding

RSHE includes sensitive topics. It is, therefore, possible that discussions will prompt safeguarding disclosures. Reference should be made to safeguarding policies and procedures to deal with these appropriately.

The subject leader/teacher should discuss with the designated safeguarding lead any potentially sensitive topics. Appropriate steps must be taken to provide additional support for children if required.

Staff should consider the timing of lessons to ensure that children have the opportunity to report any concerns they may have either that day or the following day.

Support

RSHE should not be a time for children to make disclosures. It is important, however, to inform children of the support that is available to them if they are worried about anything raised in a lesson.

Monitoring and evaluating

The headteacher and subject leader will be responsible for monitoring and evaluating RSHE in line with other subjects:

- Scrutiny of planning.
- Lesson observations.
- Learning walks.
- Evidence of learning.
- Feedback from staff.
- Feedback from parents/carers.
- Feedback from children.

Professional development

The headteacher and subject leader will assess the professional development needs of staff regularly. Appropriate development will be provided using internal or external expertise.

Communication of policy

This RSHE policy will be available to read on and downloaded from the school website and copies can be requested free of charge from the school office.

Review

This policy will be reviewed every three years, from July 2023 (approval of the RSHE policy by the governors).