

St STEPHENS C OF E JUNIOR SCHOOL

Relationships and Sex Education Policy

Learning to Change the World

'Do justly, love mercy and walk humbly with your God'

Micah 6:8



Review Details:

Next review due:	January 2028
Committee responsible:	Academy Community Council
Location:	Governorhub/Documents/School Policies

Version	Approved by	Date approval	Key changes
1.0	FGB	July 2020	Statutory relationships education
1.1	FGB	October 2022	Item 6. Relationship focuses listed
1.2	ACC	January 2026	No changes

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
- Equip pupils with skills to manage challenges as they 'learn to change the world'

2. Statutory requirements

A statutory requirement means that we must follow the guidelines that are published. Therefore, as a 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 St Stephen's C of E Junior School we teach RSE as set out in this policy.

3. Policy development

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

1. Review – a member of staff 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 make comments and suggestions about the policy
4. Pupil consultation – we investigated what pupils want from their RSE through surveying teachers
5. Ratification – once amendments were made, the policy was shared with the Academy Community Council (ACC) 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 curriculum 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 will focus on:

- Preparing boys and girls for the changes that adolescence brings
- How a baby is conceived and born

For more information about our curriculum, see Appendices 1, 2 and 3.

6. Delivery of RSE

To ensure progression and a spiral curriculum, we use Jigsaw, the mindful approach to PSHE, as our chosen teaching and learning framework and tailor it to your children's needs. The mapping document: Jigsaw 3-11 and Statutory Relationships and Health Education shows exactly how Jigsaw and therefore our school, meets the statutory Relationships and Health Education requirements.

At St Stephen's C of E Junior School we allocate one hour to PSHE each week in order to teach the PSHE knowledge and skills in a developmental and age-appropriate way. Class teachers deliver the weekly lessons to their own classes.

RSE focuses on giving young people the information they need to help them develop healthy, nurturing relationships of all kinds including:

Families

Respectful relationships, including friendships

Online and media

Being safe

Intimate and sexual relationships, including sexual health

These explicit lessons are reinforced and enhanced in many ways:

Assemblies and collective worship, weekly celebrations and through relationships child to child, adult to child and adult to adult across the school. We aim to 'live' what is learnt and apply it to everyday situations in the school community.

6.1 Relationships Education

What does the DfE statutory guidance on Relationships Education expect children to know by the time they leave primary school?

Relationships 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', and 'Being safe'. The expected outcomes for each of these elements can be found in Appendix 2.

It is important to explain that whilst the Relationships Puzzle (unit) in Jigsaw covers most of the statutory Relationships Education, some of the outcomes are also taught elsewhere in Jigsaw e.g. the Celebrating Difference Puzzle helps children appreciate that there are many types of family composition and that each is important to the children involved. This holistic approach ensures the learning is reinforced through the year and across the curriculum.

Parents should also be aware that the Church of England states in "Valuing All God's Children", 2019, that Relationships and Sex education should: "*Make it clear that relationships and sex education is designed to prepare all pupils for the future, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. RSE must promote gender equality and LGBT equality and it must challenge discrimination. RSE must take the needs and experiences of LGBT people into account and it should seek to develop understanding that there are a variety of relationships and family patterns in the modern world.*" (Page 34)

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).

We will also be mindful of the law and legal requirements, taking care not to condone or encourage illegal political activity, such as violent action against people, criminal damage to property, hate crime, terrorism or the illegal use of drugs.

6.2 Sex Education

Sex Education at Primary School is not statutory. 'Sex Education is not compulsory in primary schools' although, 'the Department continues to recommend...that all primary schools should have a sex education programme tailored to the age and the physical and emotional maturity of the pupils' (DfE guidance page 23).

Sex education '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'. In Year 5, children learn about egg release, ejaculation and conception as part of the science curriculum.

At St Stephen's C of E Junior School, we believe children should understand the facts about human reproduction before they leave primary school. We define Sex Education as understanding 'human reproduction', as puberty work is now included in statutory 'Health Education'.

The 'Changing Me' Puzzle contains the 'explicit' work on these aspects. Appendix 1 outlines the objectives that relate to puberty and human reproduction for each year group.

6.3 Health Education

What does the DfE statutory guidance on Health Education expect children to know by the time they leave primary school?

Health Education in primary schools will cover 'Mental wellbeing', 'Internet safety and harms', 'Physical health and fitness', 'Healthy eating', 'Drugs, alcohol and tobacco', 'Health and prevention', 'Basic First Aid', 'Changing adolescent body'. The expected outcomes for each of these elements can be found in Appendix 3.

It is important to explain that whilst the Healthy Me Puzzle (unit) in Jigsaw covers most of the statutory Health Education, some of the outcomes are taught elsewhere in Jigsaw e.g. emotional and mental health is nurtured every lesson through the Calm me time, social skills are grown every lesson through the Connect us activity and respect is enhanced through the use of the Jigsaw Charter.

Also, teaching children about puberty is now a statutory requirement which sits within the Health Education part of the DfE guidance within the 'Changing adolescent body' strand, and in Jigsaw this is taught as part of the Changing Me Puzzle (unit).

Again, the mapping document transparently shows how the Jigsaw whole-school approach spirals the learning and meets all statutory requirements and more.

7. Roles and responsibilities

7.1 The Academy Community Council (ACC)

The ACC will approve the RSE policy, and hold the Headteacher to account for its implementation.

7.2 The Headteacher

The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring that RSE is taught consistently across the school, and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from non-statutory 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 components of RSE

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.

7.4 Pupils

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

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 components of sex education within RSE.

Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing using the form found in Appendix 4 of this policy and addressed to the Headteacher.

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

9. 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 or sexual health professionals, to provide support and training to staff teaching RSE.

10. Monitoring arrangements

The delivery of RSE is monitored by Leah Hopkins (PSHE Lead) through:

- Planning scrutinies
- Learning walks
- Jigsaw floor book monitoring
- Pupil conferencing

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

This policy will be reviewed by the PSHE Lead annually. At every review, the policy will be approved by the ACC and the Headteacher.

Appendix 1: Curriculum map

'Human reproduction' (Sex) and 'puberty' curriculum map. Most of these units are taught in Term 6 in the 'Changing Me' unit.

	Concept	Objective	Animations used
Y3	Outside body changes	How our bodies need to change so that we can make babies when we grow up. Outside changes and how we feel about them.	
	Inside body changes	How our bodies need to change so that we can make babies when we grow up. Inside changes and how we feel about them	Short version of female and male reproductive system
Y4	Having a baby	The choice to have a baby, the parts of men and women that make babies and in simple terms, how this happens	The female reproductive system
	Girls and puberty	How a girl's body changes so she can have a baby when she's an adult including menstruation	The female reproductive system
Y5	Puberty for girls	Physical changes and feelings about them – importance of looking after yourself	The female reproductive system

	Puberty for boys	Developing understanding of changes for both sexes – reassurance and exploring feelings	The male reproductive system
	Conception	Understanding the place of sexual intercourse in a relationship and how it can lead to conception and the wonder of a new life	The female and male reproductive systems
Y6	Puberty	Consolidating understanding of emotional and physical changes and how they affect us	The female and male reproductive systems
	Girl talk/ Boy talk	A chance to ask questions and reflect (single sex groups)	The female and male reproductive systems
	Conception to birth	The story of pregnancy and birth	The female and male reproductive systems

Appendix 2: Relationships Education in Primary Schools – DfE Guidance 2019

The focus in primary school should be on teaching the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships, with particular reference to friendships, family relationships, and relationships with other children and with adults.

The guidance states that, by the end of primary school:

	Pupils should know...	How Jigsaw provides the solution
Families and people who care for me	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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 (Marriage in England and Wales is available to both opposite sex and same sex couples. The Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013 extended marriage to same sex couples in England and Wales. The ceremony through which a couple get married may be civil or religious). ● how to recognise if family relationships are making them feel unhappy or unsafe, and how to seek help or advice from others if needed. ● 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. 	<p>All of these aspects are covered in lessons within the Puzzles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Relationships ● Changing Me ● Celebrating Difference ● Being Me in My World
Online relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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. 	<p>All of these aspects are covered in lessons within the Puzzles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Relationships ● Changing Me ● Celebrating Difference

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	
<p>Being safe</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<p>All of these aspects are covered in lessons within the Puzzles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relationships Changing Me Celebrating Difference

Appendix 3: Physical health and mental well-being education in Primary Schools – DfE Guidance 2019

The focus in primary school should be on teaching the characteristics of good physical health and mental wellbeing. Teachers should be clear that mental well-being is a normal part of daily life, in the same way as physical health.

By the end of primary school:

	Pupils should know	How Jigsaw provides the solution
Mental wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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, nervousness) and scale of emotions that all humans experience in relation 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, voluntary and service-based activity on mental well-being and happiness. ● simple self-care techniques, including the importance of rest, time spent with friends and family and the benefits of hobbies and interests. ● isolation and loneliness can affect children and that it is very important for children to discuss their feelings with an adult and seek support. ● that bullying (including cyberbullying) has a negative and often lasting impact on mental well-being. ● where and how to seek support (including recognising the triggers for seeking support), including whom in school they should speak to if they are worried about their own or someone else’s mental well- 	<p>All of these aspects are covered in lessons within the Puzzles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Healthy Me ● Relationships ● Changing Me ● Celebrating Difference

	<p>being or ability to control their emotions (including issues arising online).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> it is common for people to experience mental ill health. For 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 and 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 and knowhow to recognise and display respectful behaviour online and the importance of keeping personal information private. why social media, some computer games and online gaming, for example, 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, including that from search engines, is ranked, selected and targeted. where and how to report concerns and get support with issues online. 	<p>All of these aspects are covered in lessons within the Puzzles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relationships Healthy Me
Physical health and fitness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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, 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. 	<p>All of these aspects are covered in lessons within the Puzzles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Healthy Me
Healthy eating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> what constitutes a healthy diet (including understanding calories and other nutritional content). the principles of planning and preparing a range of healthy meals. the characteristics of a poor diet and 	<p>All of these aspects are covered in lessons within the Puzzles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Healthy Me

	risks associated with unhealthy eating (including, for example, obesity and tooth decay) and other behaviours (e.g. the impact of alcohol on diet or health).	
Healthy body	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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, viruses, how they are spread and treated, and the importance of handwashing. • the facts and science relating to immunisation and vaccination 	<p>All of these aspects are covered in lessons within the Puzzles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy Me
Basic first aid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<p>All of these aspects are covered in lessons within the Puzzles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy Me
Changing adolescent body	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 including the key facts about the menstrual cycle. 	<p>All of these aspects are covered in lessons within the Puzzles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changing Me • Healthy Me

Appendix 4: Parent form: withdraw 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			