



**Jacksdale Primary School & Nursery**

# **Relationships Education, RSHE / PSHE Policy**

Reviewed: February 2025

Next review due: February 2027

## 1. Rationale and Ethos

From September 2020, Relationships Education will be compulsory for **all** pupils receiving primary education and Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and compulsory for **all** pupils receiving secondary education. Health Education will also be compulsory in all schools except independent schools. PSHE continues to be compulsory in independent schools.

As a school we wholeheartedly support the philosophy of RSHE and believe it is best taught as part of PSHE and citizenship education. The programme seeks to promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils as well as preparing them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life in a digital age.

Relationships and health education is compulsory in all primary and secondary schools, sex education is currently **not** compulsory in primary school, however the DfE continues to recommend that all primary schools should have a sex education programme that is tailored to the age and maturity of the pupils.

As part of the Education Act 2002/Academies Act 2010 all schools must provide a balanced and broad-based curriculum which promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society, whilst also preparing pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.

All schools are required to comply with relevant requirements of the Equality Act 2010 and should pay particular attention to the Public sector equality duty (PSED). Under the provisions of the Equality Act, schools must not unlawfully discriminate against pupils because of their age, sex, race, disability, religion or belief, gender reassignment, pregnancy or maternity, marriage or civil partnership, or sexual orientation (collectively known as the protected characteristics). All schools must ensure that RSHE is accessible for all pupils and should comply with the SEND Code of Practice.

As a school we are fully aware of the need to be mindful of and respectful to a wide variety of faith and cultural beliefs, and we will make every attempt to be appropriately sensitive; equally it is essential that young people still have access to the learning they need to stay safe, healthy and understand their rights as individuals.

We acknowledge that all young people deserve the right to honest, open and factual information to help better form their own beliefs and values, free from bias, judgement or subjective personal beliefs of those who teach them.

The culture at Jacksdale Primary and Nursery School embodies the need for respect, kindness and safety for all. This is what we intend for all pupils and we expect to deliver an education that will balance their maturity, rights and responsibilities.

## **2. Policy development process**

This policy was formulated in consultation with the whole school community with input from;

- Members of staff – through regular agenda items at staff meetings, consultation documents, surveys
- Governors – discussions at governor’s meetings, training attended (G. March – July 2020, information and documents shared with full governing body)
- Parents/carers – parents were invited to take part in consultation in Spring 2021.
- Children – pupils contribute to the development of the policy through the school council, circle time discussions etc.
- Other partners – visiting external providers in school; health, police, wider community, faith groups
- DFE guidance and supporting documentation
- [Sexedforum@ncb.org.uk](mailto:Sexedforum@ncb.org.uk) training – defining and building a developmental and evidence based curriculum
- TETC (NCC) provider training– attended by J. March, J. Gray and J. Brockerton – June 2021
- Reviewed in line with KCSIE (September 2022, September 2023 and most recently, September 2024).

This will ensure that the RSHE curriculum continues to meet the needs of pupils, staff and parents and that it is in line with current DfE advice and guidance

The Policy is available

- Online at [www.jacksdaleprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.jacksdaleprimaryschool.co.uk)
- From the school office

## **3. Parental rights to withdraw**

We are committed to ensuring that the education provided to pupils in relationships education / RSE is appropriate to the age of pupils and compliant with the requirements of the Equality Act 2010.

We recognise, in accordance with statutory guidance, that parents have the right to request for their child to be withdrawn from some or all of the sex education delivered as part of the statutory RSE (other than sex education in the National Curriculum as part of Science),

but not from relationships education. Parents wishing to exercise this right must do so in writing to the headteacher, we will make reasonable adjustments and provide suitable work for their child(ren) at this time.

#### **4. Roles and responsibilities**

**The Head teacher** – has overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation and liaising with the governing body, parents/carers, LA and outside agencies and in identifying a lead teacher (Jill March) who will work closely with colleagues in related curriculum areas in order to complement and not duplicate content.

**The Lead teacher** will take responsibility for;

- Policy development and review involving pupils, staff, governors, parents/carers and relevant partners
- Implementing the policy and monitoring and assessing its effectiveness in practice
- Ensuring evaluation takes place and that this informs policy review
- Assessing and coordinating training and support for staff and parents/carers where appropriate including raising awareness of prejudice and unconscious bias
- Manage all aspects of the RSHE programme developing curriculum materials where appropriate
- Liaise with external agencies to deliver specific elements of the programme
- Monitor and quality assure the programme to ensure continuity and progression within the spiral curriculum
- To ensure that this subject is fully represented at appropriate curriculum and pastoral meetings

#### **5. Aims and objectives**

The aim of RSHE is to help children build healthy friendships and positive relationships in an age appropriate way. The overall objectives of the RSHE curriculum are concerned about raising awareness of attitudes and values, developing personal and social skills and promoting knowledge and understanding. RSHE covers more than biological facts and information. It endeavours to help children develop self-esteem, self-responsibility as well as the acquisition of understanding and attitudes which prepare children to develop caring, stable, healthy relationships. Appreciation of the value of self-respect, dignity, marriage, civil partnership and parental duty should be encouraged in all pupils together with the sensitivity to the needs of others, loyalty and acceptance of responsibility.

## **Equality and Diversity**

RSHE will look at all aspects of diversity and equality in an inclusive and non-judgemental way ensuring opportunities to challenge all forms of discrimination including unconscious bias.

Jacksdale Primary & Nursery School's RSHE curriculum is reflective of our duties under the Equality Act 2010. The school's general duties with regard to equality are:

- Eliminating discrimination.
- Fostering good relationships.
- Advancing equality of opportunity.

We will not discriminate against, harass or victimise any staff member, pupil, prospective pupil, or other member of the school community because of their:

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

(These are known as protected characteristics)

Our RSHE curriculum is designed to promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, with special emphasis on promoting equality and diversity, and eradicating prejudicial incidents for pupils and staff. Our school is committed to not only eliminating discrimination, but also increasing our understanding and appreciation for diversity in the world around us and beyond the world which the children currently know from their own experiences. We refer to this in simple terms as 'one love'.

## **6. Staff training**

RSHE can be a sensitive issue and teachers may welcome support and training. Provision will be made available for teaching staff to clarify legislation, curriculum requirements and to consider appropriate teaching approaches and materials. Teachers should also be supported to develop their understanding of sensitive issues including unconscious bias. The school will support the use of visitors from outside, such as health professionals, police and voluntary sector, and other organisations to provide support and training to staff teaching RSHE.

## 7. Curriculum design

### The RSHE curriculum will be taught through

- RSHE lessons
- External providers
- Topics
- Links to other curriculum area – PE, Citizenship, Science, Religious Education etc
- Ensuring language is consistent and accurate across the school in relation to biological and anatomical terms (see appendix 1)

The programme will be delivered to all students by;

- Staff supported by a variety of professionals, including where appropriate, the school nurse, police etc, with expertise in specific topic areas.
- The RSHE curriculum is organised in our curriculum which develops themes/topics, taking into account the age and maturation of the children. This means that topics are revisited in greater detail as students get older
- Lessons are delivered to mixed year groups within Key Stage 2 and single form entry groups in our Early Years setting and in Key Stage 1. This will mean that in KS2, for some lessons, children will split in to single sex and single year groups for the delivery and discussion of some topics.
- A variety of teaching and learning styles will be used to ensure effectiveness and differentiation.
- Parents have the right to request withdrawal from all or part of the sex education element, but not from the biological aspects of human growth and reproduction that is part of the National Curriculum science curriculum.
- The teacher will discuss and establish ‘ground rules’ at the beginning of every lesson which will enable everybody to discuss openly and honestly without fear and embarrassment or judgement
- All teachers will endeavour to create a supportive environment for all pupils
- Pupils are regularly informed of who can offer confidential support and where they can access sexual health services (age appropriate)
- Local data will be used to inform priorities for the school’s RSHE programme – such as schools health profiles.
- Across all key stages, students will be supported with developing the following skills;
  - Communication – speaking and listening, including how to manage changing friendships, relationships and emotions
    - Recognising and assessing potential risks
    - Assertiveness

- Seeking help and support when required
- Informed decision making
- Self-respect and empathy for others
- Recognising and maximising a healthy lifestyle
- Managing conflict
- Discussion and group work

## **8. Content - Primary**

Through an effective and creative curriculum and by the end of primary school, pupils should know about;

- Families and people who care from them.
- Caring friendships
- Respectful relationships
- Online relationships
- Being safe
- Diversity and equality

### **Physical health and mental wellbeing**

Pupils will be taught about the characteristics of good physical health and mental wellbeing of the benefits and importance of daily exercise, good nutrition and sufficient sleep, and that mental wellbeing is a normal part of daily life, in the same way as physical health.

Within the curriculum and by the end of primary school, pupils should know about;

- Mental wellbeing
- Online behaviour and safety
- Physical health and fitness
- Healthy eating
- Drugs, alcohol and tobacco education
- Health and accident prevention
- Basic first aid
- Changing adolescent body

## **9. Managing difficult questions**

It is inevitable that controversial issues may occur as part of RSHE, such as divorce, rape abortion, pornography etc. the issue will be addressed with sensitivity and at a level appropriate to the age group and developmental stage and will take in to account any additional SEND, in an objective manner free from personal bias. Consideration will be given to the potential for small group or 1-1 discussion for specific questions to be

discussed. Account must be taken of different viewpoints such as different religious or cultural beliefs. Discussion should be set within the legal framework and students made aware of the law as it relates to these issues. Students are made aware that some information cannot be held confidential, and should understand that if certain disclosures are made, our safeguarding procedures will be followed. At the same time students will be offered sensitive and appropriate support.

#### **10. Monitoring, evaluation and review**

To ensure the RSHE programme is effective, is meeting the needs of pupils and complies with the RSHE statutory guidance, the following strategies will be used to quality assure the programme of study;

- Evaluation self-review from pupils after specific topics or at the end of a key stage
- Comments from pupils and representatives through pupil voice surveys
- Whole class discussions

This policy is reviewed annually by the governing body who will monitor the application and outcomes of this policy to ensure it is working effectively

#### **11. Confidentiality and child protection**

It is inevitable that effective RSHE which allows for open discussion to take place may lead to disclosures from pupils. It is essential that those teaching RSHE are completely familiar with the child protection procedures. Pupils disclosures or suspicion of abuse must be followed up with the pupil concerned, that same day and referred to the designated safeguarding lead (Julie Brockerton – Head Teacher), and if not present, their deputy (Leon barber– Deputy Head Teacher, or assistant DSL – Emma Blacknell) via CPOMS recording and reporting, online system. The Designated Safeguarding Leads will then address these disclosures or concerns in line with the child protection policy.

#### **12. Links with other policies**

The RSHE policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies;

- Safeguarding
- Child on Child Abuse Policy
- Behaviour
- Anti-bullying
- Online safety
- SEND
- Equality information and objectives
- Equality and Equal Opportunities

### 13. Useful documents

- DfE 2019 – most recently updated in September 2021: Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSHE) and Health Education; Statutory guidance for governing bodies, proprietors, head teachers, principals, senior leadership teams, teachers
- KCSIE – most recent update is September 2024.
- SEND Code of Practice
- Relationships Education
- Safeguarding: NSPCC PANTS rule with film.
- Relationships and Sex Education
- Sexual health and relationships: up to date information on all aspects of sexual and reproductive health available on Sexwise’s website which teachers may find helpful for their knowledge.
- Abuse in relationships: Disrespect NoBody from the Home Office and Government Equalities Office.
- Consent: PSHE Association lesson plans from the PSHE association.
- LGBT inclusivity: Stonewall lesson plans and materials for primary and secondary.
- Resources covering all contexts, including online, and specifically relationships and bullying, alcohol, smoking, stress, body image from Public Health England website with videos made by young people and resources tested with teachers.
- Mental health and emotional wellbeing lesson plans from PSHE Association.
- MindEd educational resources on children and young people’s mental health.
- Education for a Connected World is the UK Council for Internet safety (UKCCIS) framework of digital knowledge and skills for different ages and stages.
- Sexting advice from UKCCIS for schools on preventative education and managing reports of sexting.
- Thinkuknow is the education programme from National Crime Agency (NCA) and Child
- Exploitation Online Programme (CEOP), which protects children both online and offline. The site offers materials for parents, teachers and pupils on a wide range of online safety issues and facts about areas such as digital footprints, recognising fake websites and checking URLs.
- PSHE Association Programme of study for KS1-5
- Drugs and alcohol
- Planning effective drug and alcohol education from Mentor-ADEPIS research and briefing papers with ideas for lessons
- Extremism and radicalisation

- Practical advice and information from Educate Against Hate for teachers, teachers in leadership positions and parents on protecting children from extremism and radicalization.
- Non-statutory framework for Citizenship KS 1 and 2 (Non-statutory programme of study).
- Schools may wish to draw on the Citizenship programme of study in their planning.
- Data to understand the health and wellbeing needs of the local school-age population
- Public Health England's Child and Maternal Health Intelligence Network brings together a range of publicly available data, information, reports, tools and resources on child and maternal health into one easily accessible hub. It includes school-age health profiles and young people's health profiles. The indicators allow areas to see how they perform against the national average and against other local areas. These tools, accompanied by local health intelligence, will be useful in supporting schools to identify and respond to the particular health and wellbeing needs of their local school-age population. There are also early years health profiles.