

Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSE) policy

Bucklesham Primary School



Approved by:

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Date: October 2023

Last reviewed on:

March 2021

Next review due by:

October 2026

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Introduction

This is the policy of Bucklesham Primary School on the approach taken to Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE), approved by governors on 7.12.23.

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
- Safeguarding

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.

Our vision:

Bucklesham pupils will become confident, independent and happy lifelong learners who take responsibility for their choices in a diverse and rapidly changing world developing cultural capital through a carefully constructed knowledge based curriculum. We promote the broadest possible personal development of pupils and staff.

Spiritual, moral, social, cultural, physical, emotional and creative development will seek to stimulate in its pupils a real respect for, and generosity towards each other along with honesty and integrity. These values will define the way we view the world; our personal relationships, and our vision for the school. The school is a place where pupils and staff are cared for and trusted and where they learn to care for and trust one another.

Aims

The aims of our RSHE programme are to teach pupils the knowledge and skills to:

- Value different family structures
- Create and maintain positive friendships
- Develop safe and respectful relationships
- Help children make informed choices
- Operate safely in a digital world
- Build confidence and self-esteem
- 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

- Strategic oversight and policy approval
- Wellbeing Governor is Charlotte Gammons

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 to organise the curriculum to ensure high quality delivery of RSHE:

- RSE is covered as part of a wider programme of PSHE education.
- RSHE lessons are delivered weekly.
- RSHE lessons are of sufficient length to allow children to explore topics and reflect on their learning.
 - KS1 – 30 - 40 minutes long;
 - KS2 – 40 - 45 minutes long.
- PSHE and Wellbeing enrichment days are used to enhance children's' learning on top of weekly PSHE lessons.
- Cross curricular links are shown on planning.
- Teachers or HLTAs deliver PSHE lessons. When potential sensitive or controversial topics are to be taught, it is recommended that a member of staff familiar with the class deliver those lessons. Outside visitors or agencies may be used to deliver specialist information.

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 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.

Follow this link to view the [Kapow Primary RSE curriculum overview](#).

Sub-strand	EYFS (Reception)		Year 1		Year 2	
	Skills	Knowledge	Skills	Knowledge	Skills	Knowledge
Being safe (including online)	Considering why it is important to follow rules. Exploring what it means to be a safe pedestrian.	To know that some rules are in place to keep us safe. To know how to behave safely on the pavement and when crossing roads with an adult.		To know that some types of physical contact are never appropriate.	Discussing the concept of privacy. Exploring ways to stay safe online.	To know the PANTS rule. To know that I should tell an adult if I see something which makes me uncomfortable online. To understand the difference between secrets and surprises.
Drugs, alcohol and tobacco	N/A	N/A	Learning what is and is not safe to put in or on our bodies.	To know that some things are unsafe to put onto or into my body and to ask an adult if I am not sure.	Exploring what people can do to feel better when they are ill. Learning how to be safe around medicines.	To know that medicine can help us when we are ill. To understand that we should only take medicines when a trusted adult says we can.
The changing adolescent body	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	To know the names of parts of my body including private parts.
Basic first aid	N/A	N/A	Practising making an emergency phone call.	To know that an emergency is a situation where someone is badly hurt, very ill or a serious accident has happened. To know that the emergency services are the police, fire service and the ambulance service.	N/A	N/A

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Condensed progression of knowledge and skills

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Sub-strand	Year 3		Year 4	
	Skills	Knowledge	Skills	Knowledge
Being safe (including online)	Exploring ways to respond to cyberbullying or unkind behaviour online. Developing skills as a responsible digital citizen. Identifying things people might do near roads which are unsafe.	To understand that cyberbullying is bullying which takes place online. To know the rules for being safe near roads.	Discussing how to seek help if I need to. Exploring what to do if an adult makes me feel uncomfortable. Learning about the benefits and risks of sharing information online.	To understand that there are risks to sharing things online. To know the difference between private and public.
Drugs, alcohol and tobacco	Exploring that people and things can influence me and that I need to make the right decision for me. Exploring choices and decisions that I can make.	To understand that other people can influence our choices.	Discussing the benefits of being a non-smoker.	To understand the risks associated with smoking tobacco.
The changing adolescent body	N/A	N/A	Discussing some physical and emotional changes during puberty.	To understand the physical changes to both male and female bodies as people grow from children to adults.
Basic first aid	Learning what to do in a medical emergency, including calling the emergency services.	To know that it is important to maintain the safety of myself and others, before giving first aid.	N/A	N/A

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Condensed progression of knowledge and skills

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Sub-strand	Year 5		Year 6	
	Skills	Knowledge	Skills	Knowledge
Being safe (including online)	Developing an understanding of how to ensure relationships online are safe.	To know the steps to take before sending a message online (using the THINK mnemonic). To know some of the possible risks online.	Exploring online relationships including dealing with problems.	To understand that online relationships should be treated in the same way as face to face relationships. To know where to get help with online problems.
Drugs, alcohol and tobacco	Learning to make 'for' and 'against' arguments to help with decision making.	To know some strategies I can use to overcome pressure from others and make my own decisions.	Discussing the reasons why adults may or may not drink alcohol.	To understand the risks associated with drinking alcohol.
The changing adolescent body	Identifying reliable sources of help with puberty.	To understand the process of the menstrual cycle. To know the names of the external sexual parts of the body and the internal reproductive organs. To know that puberty happens at different ages for different people.	Discussing problems which might be encountered during puberty and using knowledge to help.	To understand how a baby is conceived and develops.
Basic first aid	Learning about how to help someone who is bleeding.	To know how to assess a casualty's condition.	Placing an unresponsive patient into the recovery position.	To know how to conduct a primary survey (using DR5ABC).

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:

- [Year 6: Safety and the changing body, Lesson 5: Conception](#)
- [Year 6: Safety and the changing body, Lesson 6: Pregnancy and birth](#)

<https://www.kapowprimary.com/subjects/rse-pshe/upper-key-stage-2/year-6/safety-and-the-changing-body-year-6/lesson-6-pregnancy-and-birth/>

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

- All parents receive a letter in the weeks leading up to the lesson, giving an overview of the content covered in the lesson(s). They are invited to contact the school with any concerns.
- Parents contact the Headteacher by phone/email/Dojo to request further information or a meeting to discuss the lesson and its content
- Following the meeting, if parents decide to withdraw their child, this will be recorded by the Headteacher
- Alternative provision to be provided by the class teacher for the duration of the sex education lesson

Safeguarding

RSHE includes sensitive topics. It is, therefore, possible that discussions will prompt safeguarding disclosures. In this instance, staff are to follow the school's safeguarding policy and procedures in a sensitive and timely manner.

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. The following support will be highlighted to children as appropriate:

In school:

- Class teacher.
- SENDCo
- Headteacher
- Feelings Group leader (where appropriate)

External:

- Local agencies.
- National agencies such as Childline.

Monitoring and evaluating

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

- Lesson observations/learning walks
- Evidence of learning in floor books
- 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 (recommended) from the 7.12.23 date of approval of the RSHE policy by the governors.