

This policy has been developed with the whole staff and in collaboration with GHLL. Parents and carers have also been involved in this process and attended a consultation meeting.

What is relationships and sex education?

According to the statutory sex and relationships guidance from the Department for Education, relationships and sex education is:

Lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality, and sexual health. It is not about the promotion of sexual orientation or sexual activity – this would be inappropriate teaching.

Aims and Objectives of School RSE Policy

Harewood Junior School believes that it is a priority within school to ensure that our pupils have access to learning which supports them in forming strong positive, safe relationships in both a sexual and emotional context. Relationships and sex education in this school will be developmental and a foundation for further work in the secondary school.

We follow the statutory Department for Education guidance (September 2021) and take into account the latest Keeping Children Safe in Education documentation. Our curriculum ensures that we promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

The school will work towards this aim in partnership with parents and carers.

The aim in the Relationships and Sex Education Policy is to clarify the content and the manner in which relationships and sex education is delivered in school.

Moral and Values Framework

The Relationships and Sex Education Programme will reflect the school ethos and demonstrate and encourage the following values:

- respect for self;
- respect for others;
- responsibility for their own actions;
- responsibility for their family, friends, school and wider community.

Content headings for school Relationships and Sex Education Programme

The Relationships and Sex Education Programme will:

- provide information which is easy to understand, relevant and appropriate to the age and maturity of the pupils;
- include the development of communication and social skills;
- encourage the exploration and clarification of values and attitudes;
- be taught about the importance of a loving relationship within the context of marriage, whilst being sensitive to the range of family structures.
- help pupils develop sensitivity and respect for themselves and others;
- provide a friendly and caring environment in which children are able to ask questions and further their understanding;
- support pupils in taking responsibility for their actions and the consequences of their actions;
- prepare pupils for puberty, transition and loss;
- give them an understanding of reproduction and sexual development;
- give them information on where individuals and families can get help and support;

- teach them how to keep physically and emotionally safe;
- how to respond to a risky or negative relationship and know where to go to get help;
- respect equality and diversity in a relationship;
- how to manage emotions within a relationship;
- how to recognise a risky or negative relationship including forms of abuse and bullying.

A sequence for teaching RSE

Topics and themes will be repeated from year to year in greater depth taking account of the pupils' development. This is detailed in the PSHE and science key skills documents.

Organisation of School RSE

Coordination

Relationships and Sex education will be coordinated by the school staff in collaboration with the PSHE & Science subject leads.

Delivery

- as topics
- through planned aspects of science
- through planned PSHE lessons
- assembly time
- opportune moments throughout the school day as appropriate and in response to children's needs.

Teaching Methods

Children will usually be taught in classes, however it may be more appropriate for certain topics, eg: managing menstruation, to be covered in single gender groups within their year group, including parent/carer and child sessions. Certain aspects may also be delivered to children in small groups according to their need.

Resources

A range of materials will be used to deliver the curriculum. We make effective use of a range of material from GHLL and The PSHE Association.

Subject delivery

All members of staff are committed to delivering the programme and work in teams to plan lessons. The Head Teacher, pastoral team and some additional members of staff have undertaken Home Office training modules in regards to FGM (Female Genital Mutilation) and forced marriage. All staff have been on a FGM general awareness training course.

Assessment

The different elements of RSE are assessed through the school assessment procedures.

Working with parents and carers

The school is committed to working with parents and carers. They are consulted regularly and invited to join their child for certain sessions at appropriate points in the programme. As part of the review process, parents and carers are always consulted.

As detailed in the DfE statutory guidance, pupils can be withdrawn by their parents or carers from any part of the sex education curriculum that is outside the compulsory elements of sex education in the science National Curriculum. Parents wanting to exercise this right are invited to see the Headteacher. She will explore the concerns of parents and the possibilities of adjusting the programme or approach and will discuss any impact that withdrawal may have on the child. She will talk with the parents about the child's possible negative experiences or feelings that may result from exclusion and the ways in which these can be minimised. Once a child has been withdrawn they cannot take part in sex education until the request for withdrawal has been removed.

Confidentiality

Teachers conduct Relationships and Sex Education lessons in a sensitive manner and in confidence. However, if a child makes a reference to being involved, or likely to be involved in sexual activity, or indicates that they may have been a victim of abuse, this will be dealt with in line with our safeguarding policy.

Answering Difficult Questions

If a child asks an explicit or difficult question, the staff will use their professional judgement in deciding the best way to answer it. This may be through individual work or discussion with the child. If the staff member is concerned, they can refer to the PSHE coordinator, SENCO or headteacher who can discuss the matter with the parent, or follow other appropriate procedures. Classes may use a 'Question box' during the term in which they are being taught RSE topics, so that they can ask questions anonymously.

Use of visitors

There are various people who can resource and support school based relationships and sex education including the healthy schools team, Facts4Life, PSHE coordinator, SENDCo and other health professionals or parents and carers.

Procedures for policy monitoring and evaluation

The policy will be reviewed every three years.

Equal opportunities

Harewood Junior School is committed to working towards equality of opportunity to all aspects of school life.

Cross-reference to:

- PSHE policy
- Science policy
- Safeguarding policy
- SEND policy
- KCSIE policy