



Meole Brace
C of E Primary School and Nursery

Relationships, Sex and Health Education Policy

Policy: Relationships, Sex and Health Education	Date Policy adopted/reviewed: September 2026
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1. Aims

The aims of relationships and sex education (RSHE) 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.

2. Statutory requirements

As a maintained primary school, we must provide relationships education to all pupils under section 34 of the [Children and Social Work Act 2017](#).

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 RSHE, we must have regard to [guidance](#) issued by the secretary of state, as outlined in section 403 of the [Education Act 1996](#).

We must also have regard to our legal duties set out in:

- Sections 406 and 407 of the Education Act 1996
- Part 6, chapter 1 of the [Equality Act 2010](#)
- The Public Sector Equality Duty (as set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010). This duty requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities

At Meole Brace C of E Primary School and Nursery, we teach RSHE as set out in this policy.

3. Policy development

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

1. Review – a member of staff or working group 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/carer and stakeholder consultation – parents/carers and any interested parties were invited to provide feedback following a presentation about the policy.
4. Pupil consultation – we investigated what pupils require from their RSHE.
5. Ratification – once amendments were made, the policy was shared with governors and ratified.

4. Definition

RSHE is about the emotional, social and cultural development of pupils, and involves learning about relationships, sexual health, sexuality, healthy lifestyles, diversity and personal identity.

RSHE involves a combination of sharing information and exploring issues and values.

RSHE is not about the promotion of sexual activity.

5. Curriculum

Our RSHE 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/carers, pupils and staff, and taking into account the age, developmental stage, needs and feelings of our pupils. If pupils ask questions outside the scope of this policy, teachers will respond in an appropriate manner so that pupils are fully informed and don't seek answers online.

We will share all curriculum materials with parents/carers upon request.

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 our curriculum map in Appendix 1.

6. Delivery of RSHE

RSHE is taught within the Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education curriculum. Biological aspects of RSHE are taught within the Science curriculum, and other aspects are included in Religious Education (RE). Children are also taught how to keep themselves safe online through PSHE and the Computing curriculum, exploring the differences between a safe online relationship and an unsafe one.

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
- Being safe

Year 5 and 6 pupils will be taught Sex Education lessons as part of their PSHE curriculum. Over the course of these lessons, teachers will discuss respect, consent, love and intercourse. Children will learn about human development, puberty, external body parts and positive relationships in their compulsory Science, Relationships and Health lessons. The session on 'How A Baby Is Made', is not compulsory and therefore, parents/carers have the right to withdraw their children from these lessons.

These areas of learning are taught within the context of family life, taking care to make sure 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 and 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.

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

6.1 Inclusivity

We will teach about these topics in a manner that:

- Considers how a diverse range of pupils will relate to them.
- Is sensitive to all pupils' experiences.
- During lessons, makes pupils feel:
 - Safe and supported;
 - Able to engage with the key messages.

We will also:

- Make sure that pupils learn about these topics in an environment that is appropriate for them, for example in:
 - A whole-class setting.
 - Small groups or targeted sessions.
 - 1-to-1 discussions.
 - Digital formats.
- Give careful consideration to the level of adaptation needed.

6.2 Use of resources

We **will** consider whether any resources we plan to use:

- Are aligned with the teaching requirements set out in the statutory RSHE guidance.
- Would support pupils in applying their knowledge in different contexts and settings.
- Are age-appropriate, given the age, developmental stage and background of our pupils.
- Are evidence-based and contain robust facts and statistics.
- Fit into our curriculum plan.
- Are from credible sources.
- Are compatible with effective teaching approaches.
- Are sensitive to pupils' experiences and won't provoke distress.

8. Roles and responsibilities

8.1 The Governing Board

The Governing Board will hold the Headteacher to account for the implementation of this policy and has delegated the approval of this policy to the Curriculum Committee of Governors.

8.2 The Headteacher

The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring that RSHE is taught consistently across the school, for sharing resources and materials with parents/carers, and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from [non-statutory/non-science] components of RSHE (see section 9).

8.3 Staff

Staff are responsible for:

- Delivering RSHE in a sensitive way.
- Modelling positive attitudes to RSHE.
- Monitoring progress.
- Responding to the needs of individual pupils.
- Responding appropriately to pupils whose parents/carers wish them to be withdrawn from the [non-statutory/non-science] components of RSHE.

Staff do not have the right to opt out of teaching RSHE. Staff who have concerns about teaching RSHE are encouraged to discuss this with the Headteacher.

Staff responsible for the planning and delivery of the RSHE curriculum:

PSHE/RSHE Subject Leads: Lisa Hetherington

Julie Nolan

Year 5 Teachers:

Karen Cooke

Rachael Kirby-Murray

Year 6 Teachers:

Lisa Hetherington

Andrew Nodder

8.4 Pupils

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

9. Parents'/carers' right to withdraw

Parents/carers do not have the right to withdraw their child from relationships education.

Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their child from the [non-statutory/non-science] components of sex education within RSHE.

Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing using the form found in Appendix 3 of this policy and addressed to the Headteacher. This form will be sent out to all parents/carers prior to the scheduled sex education lessons.

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

10. Training

Staff are trained on the delivery of RSHE 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 RSHE.

11. Monitoring arrangements

The delivery of RSHE is monitored by Lisa Hetherington and Julie Nolan (PSHE/RSHE Subject Leaders) through:

- Scrutiny of Teachers' planning.
- Scrutiny of Pupils' work.
- Learning walks.
- Pupil voice.

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

This policy will be reviewed by the Headteacher and PSHE/RSHE Subject Leader on an annual basis. Following every review, the policy will be approved by Curriculum Committee on delegation of the Full Governing Board.

Appendix 1: PSHE/RSHE Curriculum Map

	Relationships	Health and wellbeing	Living in the wider world	Sex Education		
	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Year 1	What is the same and different about us?	Who is special to us?	What helps us stay healthy?	What can we do with money?	Who helps to keep us safe?	How can we look after each other and the world?
Year 2	What makes a good friend?	What is bullying?	What jobs do people do?	What helps us to stay safe?	What helps us grow and stay healthy?	How do we recognise our feelings?
Year 3	How can we be a good friend?	What keeps us safe?	What are families like?	What makes a community?	Why should we eat well and look after our teeth?	Why should we keep active and sleep well?
Year 4	What strengths, skills and interests do we have?	How do we treat each other with respect?	How can we manage our feelings?	How will we grow and change?	How can our choices make a difference to others and the environment?	How can we manage risk in different places?
Year 5	What makes up a person’s identity?	What decisions can people make with money?	How can we help in an accident or emergency?	How can drugs common to everyday life affect health?	What jobs would we like?	How can friends communicate safely? How are babies made?
Year 6	How can we keep healthy as we grow?		How can the media influence people?		What will change as we become more independent? How do friendships change as we grow?	How are babies made?

Appendix 2: By the end of primary school pupils should know

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Families and people who care about me	• 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 • How to recognise if family relationships are making them feel unhappy or unsafe, and how to seek help or advice from others if needed
Caring friendships	• How important friendships are in making us feel happy and secure, and how people choose and make friends • The characteristics of friendships, including mutual respect, truthfulness, trustworthiness, loyalty, kindness, generosity, trust, sharing interests and experiences and support with problems and difficulties • That healthy friendships are positive and welcoming towards others, and do not make others feel lonely or excluded • That most friendships have ups and downs, and that these can often be worked through so that the friendship is repaired or even strengthened, and that resorting to violence is never right • How to recognise who to trust and who not to trust, how to judge when a friendship is making them feel unhappy or uncomfortable, managing conflict, how to manage these situations and how to seek help or advice from others, if needed

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Respectful relationships	• The importance of respecting others, even when they are very different from them (for example, physically, in character, personality or backgrounds), or make different choices or have different preferences or beliefs • Practical steps they can take in a range of different contexts to improve or support respectful relationships • The conventions of courtesy and manners • The importance of self-respect and how this links to their own happiness • That in school and in wider society they can expect to be treated with respect by others, and that in turn they should show due respect to others, including those in positions of authority • 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
Online relationships	• 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 • 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

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Being safe	• 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

Appendix 3: Parent/carer form for withdrawal from sex education within RSHE

TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENTS/CARERS			
Name of child		Class	
Name of parent/carer		Date	
Reason for withdrawing from sex education within relationships and sex education			
Any other information you would like the school to consider			
Parent/carer signature			

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE SCHOOL	
Agreed actions from discussion with parents/carers	