



# **Relationship and Sex Education Policy**

## **Holymead Primary School**

DATE OF LAST REVIEW: Sept 2023

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## 1. RATIONALE

Defining Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) DfE Guidance

Sept 2021

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) is lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It can make a significant contribution to the personal skills of pupils to establish and maintain healthy relationships. It also supports children and young people to make responsible and informed decisions about their health and wellbeing. It is about understanding relationships in terms of family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality and sexual health at an appropriate level. It is not about the promotion of sexual orientation or sexual activity.

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) is the right and responsibility of the parent/carers. The school provides RSE to support parent/carers in fulfilling their responsibility using the Jigsaw scheme of work which is informed by the DfE guidance on Relationships, Sex and Health Education.

As part of Holymead Primary School's care and welfare of its pupils, we will teach pupils about Relationships and Sex Education (RSE). Sex is a reality in children's lives and schools share responsibility with parents/carers and the community to educate pupils about relationships, risks and consequences and to encourage them to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, challenging attitudes and identifying misconceptions.

### Aims

We aim to:

1. Promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society.
2. Prepare such pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life. The school will work towards this purpose in partnership with parents/ carers.

RSE in this school will be developmental and form a foundation for further work in secondary schools.

The content and manner in which RSE is delivered at Holymead Primary School will be shared with governors, staff, children and parents/carers.



## 2. CURRICULUM

RSE in this school will contribute to the requirement of the latest DFE guidelines which come into effect in Sept 2021

RSE will be taught in the context of relationships. Topics and themes will be repeated from year to year in greater depth, taking account of the pupils' development and understanding. The school will use the Jigsaw scheme of work

Each year group will be given objectives to cover from the Jigsaw SOW. The objectives to be covered in each year group will be provided to staff, taking into consideration the needs of children at Holymead, in conjunction with the senior leadership team and governors. There will be annual staff meetings to support staff in the weeks before the RSE content of PSHC is taught

The scheme of work covered will:

- Provide information which is easy to understand and 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
- Promote healthy relationships and encourage respect for self and others
- Encourage responsibility for their own actions
- Promote the importance of family values
- Encourage responsibility for their family friends, school and wider community
- Encourage children to become healthy and fulfilled individuals
- Reflect the diverse cultural and social mix of the school

### Links

This policy links to our school policies on:

- Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship (PSHC)
- Drug Education Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Confidentiality Policy
- Child Protection/ Safeguarding Policy
- Anti- bullying Policy
- Equal Opportunities Policy



- Inclusion Policy
- IT/ E-safety Policy
- SMSC Policy
- SEN Policy

### **3. INCLUSION**

The Equality Act (2010) covers the way in which the curriculum is delivered. Education providers must ensure that issues are taught in a way that does not subject pupils to discrimination. Schools have a duty under the Equality Act to ensure teaching is accessible to all children and young people, including those who are lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBTQ+) and that the inclusive nature of the RSE will tackle all types of prejudice (including homophobia) and promote understanding and respect. This is included in the Equalities sections of DfE document 'Relationships Education, Relationships and

Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education' (2019) which states:

'Schools should be alive to issues such as everyday sexism, misogyny, homophobia and gender stereotypes and take positive action to build a culture where these are not tolerated, and any occurrences are identified and tackled. Staff have an important role to play in modelling positive behaviours. School pastoral and behaviour policies should support all pupils.'

### **4. SAFEGUARDING**

RSE, which brings an understanding of what is and is not acceptable in a relationship, can lead to disclosure of a child protection issue. Therefore, staff must be aware of the procedures to follow. It is of paramount importance that the staff are aware of the guidance and channels for confidentiality which appear in our Safeguarding and Child Protection policies. Any concerns will be shared with the designated safeguarding DS lead, the deputy DSL, or other member of the safeguarding team.

All staff have annual staff meeting where the RSE lead provides any relevant national updates as well as reminders on how to manage RSE sessions and any potential difficult questions of disclosures.

#### Answering difficult questions

Holymead Primary School believes that pupils should have genuine questions answered in a sensible and matter of fact manner. However, occasionally a pupil may ask a particularly explicit or embarrassing question in class. Whilst measures are taken to minimise this in the



structure of the lessons, teachers will use their skills and discretion to decide about whether to answer questions in class and if so how. They will establish clear parameters of what is appropriate and inappropriate in class by discussing ground rules with students and taking an approach that encourages pupils to be mature and sensible. If a question is too explicit or inappropriate to answer in class at that moment, teachers will acknowledge it and advise the pupil, that at this stage, we will not be learning about that but it may be returned to or referred on to parents/carers. The pupils may also be advised to ask this question of their parent/carer.

If a question is too personal, teachers will remind children about the ground rules. If teachers are concerned that a child is at risk from sexual abuse, they will follow the school's child protection procedures.

## **5. WORKING WITH PARENTS AND CARERS**

In KS1 parents/carers will be informed by letter of upcoming lessons should they wish to discuss the content with staff.

In KS2 parent meetings will be held to inform parents/carers about the content of their child's RSE curriculum, as the lessons become more detailed.

From Sept 2020, at primary level, it will be compulsory for all primary schools (as set out in the DFE Guidance 2019) to provide Health Education. This includes teaching children learning about the '*changing adolescent body*'.

Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their child from those aspects not covered by the statutory National Curriculum schemes of work. Holymead Primary School is committed to working with parents/ carers who wish to exercise this right. In this circumstance they will be invited in by a member of the leadership team (Deputy Headteacher/ RSE Lead who will then explore concerns and discuss any impact that withdrawal may have on the child. Holymead Primary School also provide annual parent /carers meetings where parent/carers will have the opportunity to explore the rationale for teaching RSE, the resources being used to teach it and ask any questions they may have regarding the content of these lessons. Once a child has been withdrawn he/she cannot take part in RSE until the request for withdrawal has been removed.

Relationships and Sex topics can arise incidentally in other subjects such as Science, History, RE etc. and it will not always be possible to withdraw pupils from these relatively limited and often unplanned discussions.



## 6. MONITORING AND REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed by the PSHC leaders in consultation with other staff and as appropriate if changes occur or at a frequency not less than every year.

In reviewing this policy, Holymead Primary School has considered:

- The impact on staff workload
- The impact on pupil wellbeing
- How this policy is consistent with the school's vision and strategy for wellbeing

## RELATIONSHIP AND SEX EDUCATION POLICY

This Policy was issued for implementation on: Sept 2024

The policy will be reviewed: Sept 2025

Reviewed by C O'Toole Sept 2025

This policy will be renewed: Sept 2025

Article 29 - Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures, and the environment.

