

HOLYMEAD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Relationships and Sex Education Policy

Context: Our policy is informed by government guidance on Relationships and Sex Education, and the review underway in 2018-2019

The DfE Guidance of September 2013, and the DfE Policy Paper of 1st March 2018 carry guidance on the review underway in a policy paper: **‘Relationships education, RSE and PSHE. DfE statement on relationships education, relationships and sex education (RSE), and personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE).’ This stated that:**

Relationships and RSE will be age-appropriate, building knowledge and life skills over time in all schools must have regard to, including setting out that pupils are taught:

- safety in forming and maintaining relationships,
- the characteristics of healthy relationships,
- how relationships may affect mental and physical health

Rationale

As part of Holymead Primary School’s care and welfare of its pupils, we believe we have a duty to inform and educate children about relationships and sex education. Sex is a reality in life and children need to be aware of this. Schools share responsibility with parents 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 practising inter-personal skills and showing empathy.

Aims

Holymead Primary School believes that RSE in this school will build on what parents and carers are covering with their children with regard to RSE, and be developmental and a foundation for further work in secondary schools.

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

RSE in this school will contribute to the requirement of the Education Reform Act 1988 that the school curriculum should be one which:

1. Promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society.
2. Prepares such pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

The school will work towards this purpose in partnership with parents. We will comply with subsequent legal requirements and DfE guidelines and policy.

Guidelines

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 the spiral curriculum concept. The school will use the Jigsaw scheme of work for PSHCE including RSE

Delivery: We will deliver the framework for RSE in the following way:

Each year group will be given objectives to cover from the Jigsaw SoW. The PSHCE leaders will decide what objectives will be covered in each year group in conjunction with the senior management team.

Objectives covered will:



Article 28: All children and young people have a right to a primary education, which should be free. Wealthy countries should help poorer countries achieve this. Discipline in schools should respect children’s human dignity. Young people should be encouraged to reach the highest level of education they are capable of.

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
- respect for others
- taking responsibility for one's own actions
- a valuing of family values within a broad modern notion of what constitutes a family
- acting responsibly
- reflect the diverse cultural and social mix of the school

Working with Parents and Carers

In KS1 parents will be informed of upcoming lessons.

In KS2 parent meetings will be held to inform parents about the content of their child's RSE curriculum.

Holymead Primary School is committed to working with parents and carers and respecting the legal right of parents and carers to withdraw children from the non-compulsory elements of sex education. We will also, within the law, take into account pupil views as a UNICEF Rights Respecting School committed to the UNCRC.

Parents/Carers wanting to exercise the right of withdrawal from elements of the curriculum are invited to see Kate Slatcher (Head Teacher) to clarify and explore the views/position of parents and the possibilities of adjusting the programme or approach. We will discuss any impact that withdrawal may have on the child and their rights. Discussion will include considering any potential negative experiences or feelings that may result from exclusion and the ways in which these can be minimised. Once a child has been withdrawn he/she cannot take part in RSE until the request for withdrawal has been removed.

Where helpful, specialist guidance or outside agencies such as the RSE lead for Bristol, might be asked to give advice or help in developing and sharing understanding.

Answering difficult questions

The school ethos strongly aligns with the UNCRC and we are a UNICEF *Rights Respecting School*. We believe the pupils should have genuine questions answered in a sensible and matter-of-fact manner. However, occasionally a pupil may ask a particularly explicit or potentially sensitive question in class. 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 appropriately mature and sensible. If a question is likely to lead to an overly explicit or inappropriate answer for the whole class at that moment, teachers will acknowledge it and advise the pupil, that at this stage, we will not be learning about that but when you are older you will talk about this at school. The pupils may also be advised to ask this question to their parent and carer in an appropriate way at a carefully chosen moment. If a question is too personal, teachers will remind children about the ground rules.

Safeguarding and Confidentiality

If at any point discussion, questions or comments from parents/carers children or colleagues give rise to safeguarding concerns staff will follow the school's child protection and safeguarding procedures.

Appropriate attention will be paid to the sensitive and confidential nature of disclosures and investigations/safeguarding actions and information will only be shared with designated child protection colleagues and investigating officials/social services designated staff.



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Links to other school policies:

Anti- bullying
Behaviour
Confidentiality
Safeguarding and Child Protection
Drugs and Substance Abuse Education
Health and Safety
Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship (PSHC)

Reviewed March 2019; Next Review: March 2020

Agreed by:

Kate Slatcher (Headteacher)
Caron O'Toole, Holly Norrington and Alyx Hunt (RSE/PSHCE Coordinator)