

Knuzden St Oswald's C of E Primary Academy PSHRE (including Relationships and Sex Education - RSE) Policy 2026

Our Vision and Ethos

At Knuzden St Oswald's Church of England Primary Academy, our PSHRE curriculum is fundamentally rooted in our Christian vision: "Stand firm in the faith and do everything with love" (1 Corinthians 16:13). We believe that every child is a unique being and a child of God, loved and accepted. Our approach to PSHRE is the practical application of the greatest commandment—to "love your neighbour"—by teaching children how to treat others with courage, compassion, and creativity.

This policy outlines our school's compliance with the statutory guidance on Relationships Education, Health Education, and all non-statutory elements of PSHE. Specifically, it aligns with the July 2025 DfE requirements, which mandate updated standards for implementation by September 2026. In an increasingly complex world, a robust PSHRE curriculum is a vital safeguarding tool; it equips our pupils with the knowledge to recognise healthy boundaries, stay safe from emerging online harms like AI-generated content and financial exploitation, and develop the resilience needed for adult life. By fostering our core values of Kindness, Politeness, Patience, Respect, and Self-Control, we prepare our children to navigate life with confidence and empathy, ensuring they are "happy and confident learners" who honour God's purpose for their lives.

Our Curriculum

At Knuzden St Oswald's, Relationship, Sex, and Health Education (RSHE) is not taught in isolation; it is integrated into our broader PSHE (Personal, Social, Health, and Economic) education program. As defined by the PSHE Association (2024):

'PSHE education is the school subject through which children and young people acquire the knowledge, understanding and skills they need to manage their lives, now and in the future. PSHE education develops the qualities and attributes pupils need to thrive as individuals, family members and members of society.'

To ensure our pupils receive a well-rounded education, we use the Kapow Primary 2026 scheme, which maps out a spiral curriculum across three distinct statutory and non-statutory areas:

- Relationships Education (Statutory): Pupils learn the building blocks of healthy, respectful relationships, focusing on family structures, friendships, and loneliness. We cover essential life skills such as consent (appropriate and inappropriate touch), online safety (recognising manipulation and data sharing), and respectful relationships both in-person and online.
- Health Education (Statutory): This strand focuses on the link between physical and mental wellbeing. Topics include mental health (managing feelings and resilience), dental health, healthy diets, physical activity, and the importance of vaccinations. Within the 'Safety and the Changing Body' units, we also cover the onset of puberty (Year 4-6). As this content is statutory, parents do not have a right to withdraw their children from these lessons.
- Sex Education (Non-Statutory): our "growing up" content is covered under statutory Health or Science, some elements of human reproduction (taught in Year 6) go beyond the National Curriculum for Science. We believe these lessons are vital for preparing pupils for the transition to secondary school. However, parents have a legal right to request that their child be withdrawn from the non-statutory components of Sex Education.

Children will be taught PSHRE lessons by Class Teachers or Higher Level Teaching Assistants familiar to the children. We may also supplement and enhance the curriculum by the use of visitors or providers. A member of school staff will always be present at these deliveries and they are evaluated for safeguarding and quality purposes.

Transparency and Parental Partnership

We are committed to a policy of full transparency. Parents and carers are invited to view the specific lesson plans, slides, and resources provided by Kapow Primary to understand exactly how these topics are handled. A full parent guide has been shared with parents. Should you wish to review specific teaching materials, these are available to view by appointment at the school office.

Right to Withdraw

Parents and carers have a legal right to request that their child be withdrawn from the non-statutory components of Sex Education delivered in Year 6. Please note that this right **does not** extend to statutory Relationships Education, Health Education, or the

National Curriculum for Science (including biological puberty). To exercise this right, parents must submit a formal written request addressed to the Headteacher. Following this request, a brief meeting will be arranged with the Headteacher and PSHRE Lead to discuss the request, clarify what content will be missed, and ensure a mutual understanding. If the request is granted, the school will provide high-quality alternative provision for the pupil during those specific sessions.

Difficult questions & sensitive issues

Our school's PSHRE programme will provide opportunities for children to 'talk honestly and openly'. At the same time, we have to respect the pace of children's maturation. There are also sensitive or controversial topics over which some staff, parents and governors may have reasonable concerns.

All classes have an 'Ask it Basket' for any questions children may have that they do not want to ask in front of peers. Staff may, in line with our policy, answer the child's question. If necessary, a dojo message will be sent home informing parents/carers of what their child has asked and the answer we have given in school or whether we have not been able to answer their question.

In some cases, a question or request for advice may indicate the pupil to be at risk or in danger, in which case appropriate action will be taken in accordance with the school's written policy and procedure for Safeguarding and Child Protection. This also means that if a pupil puts a private question to a teacher or other member of staff and requests secrecy, no promise of secrecy or confidentiality will be given, but with the reassurance that any steps taken will always be in the pupil's best interest.

Policy Development and Review

In preparation for the implementation of the statutory September 2026 PSHE and RSHE curriculum, we undertook a comprehensive stakeholder consultation process. Following a period of curriculum development and staff review, a formal two-week parent and community consultation window was held in June 2026. Detailed information regarding the new curriculum framework, statutory requirements, and the Kapow Primary scheme of work was shared directly with all parents and carers, alongside an invitation to submit feedback or queries. The school received one question response during this period, which requested clarification on whether development and puberty lessons would be co-educational. The school confirmed that, in line with the inclusive design of the Kapow curriculum, boys and girls learn about each other's physical and emotional development to foster mutual empathy, respect, and shared understanding,

with single-sex spaces utilised only where developmentally appropriate for practical comfort. No objections or further amendments to the policy or curriculum content were raised, and this policy was formally ratified by the Governing Body in July 2026.

Written July 2026

Author - PSHRE lead - Mrs N Stout

Approved by - Governors

Will be reviewed every 2 years or sooner if guidance changes.