

# Relationships and Health Education Policy



Agreed and ratified – Summer 2021

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## Contents

1. Rationale
2. Legal Framework
3. Policy Development
4. Aims
5. Roles and Responsibility
6. Consultation with Parents
7. Organisation of the Curriculum
8. Relationships Education Overview
9. Health Education Overview
10. Sex Education
11. Delivery of the Curriculum
12. Working with External Experts
13. Equality and Accessibility
14. Curriculum Links
15. Parents' Right to Withdraw
16. Training
17. Confidentiality
18. Monitoring
19. Monitoring and Review

*Today's children and young people are growing up in an increasingly complex world and living their lives seamlessly on and offline. This presents many positive and exciting opportunities, but also challenges and risks. In this environment, children and young people need to know how to be safe and healthy, and how to manage their academic, personal and social lives in a positive way.*

*This is why we have made Relationships Education compulsory in all primary schools in England and Relationships and Sex Education compulsory in all secondary schools, as well as making Health Education compulsory in all state-funded schools. The key decisions on these subjects have been informed by a thorough engagement process, including a public call for evidence that received over 23,000 responses from parents, young people, schools and experts and a public consultation where over 40,000 people contacted the Department for Education.*

**Relationships and Health education is about the emotional, social and cultural development of pupils, and involves learning about relationships, sexual health, sexuality, healthy lifestyles, diversity and personal identity. It also gives children and young people essential skills for building positive, enjoyable, respectful and non-exploitative relationships and staying safe both on and offline". Relationships and Health education is an integral part of our personal, social and health education programme, an area which is considered important throughout our school and this policy should be read in conjunction with the Personal, Social, Health Education (PSHE) policy.**

## 1. Rationale

At Yarm Primary School, we understand that pupils must be provided with an education that prepares them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life. A key part of this relates to relationships and health education, which must be delivered to every primary-aged pupil. Relationships education focusses on giving pupils the knowledge they need to make informed decisions about their wellbeing, health and relationships, and to build their self-efficacy. Health education focusses on equipping pupils with the knowledge they need to make good decisions about their own health and wellbeing.

We understand our responsibility to deliver a high-quality, age-appropriate and evidence-based relationships and health curriculum for all our pupils. This policy sets out the framework for our relationships and health curriculum, providing clarity on how it is informed, organised and delivered.

## 2. Legal Framework

2.1 This policy has due regard to legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Section 80A of the Education Act 2002
- Children and Social Work Act 2017
- The Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education (England) Regulations 2019
- Equality Act 2010
- DfE (2019) 'Relationships, Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education'
- DfE (2013) 'Science programmes of study: key stages 1 and 2'

2.2 This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- PSHE Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Behaviour management Policy
- SEND Policy
- Equality Policy
- Confidentiality Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- E-safety Policy

## 3. Policy Development

This policy covers our school's approach to Relationships and Health education and is intended to be developed in consultation with staff, pupils, parents and Governors.

## 4. Aims

At Yarm Primary School, Relationships and Health education reflects the school's vision and values which demonstrate and teach the skills, knowledge and understanding pupils need to lead confident, healthy lives to become informed, active and responsible citizens. Relationships and Health education is taught in the context of relationships and promotes self-esteem and emotional health and wellbeing to help children form healthy meaningful relationships, based on respect for themselves and for others. We believe that Relationships and Health education must include information about physical, moral and emotional development and the school will ensure that pupils are given information appropriate to their age and stage of development. Yarm Primary School believes in working in partnership with parents and carers and understands the importance of sharing our Relationships and Health education programme with families so that they are able to support their children's physical, moral, mental wellbeing and emotional development at home.

Taking account of the age, maturity and needs of our children, the aims of Relationships and Health education 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
- Develop and use communication skills and assertiveness skills to cope with the influences of their peers and the media
- Enable children to recognise unsafe situations and be able to protect themselves and ask for help and support
- Help children to understand the consequences of their actions and behave responsibly within relationships
- Help children to develop feelings of self-respect, self-esteem, self-confidence, sympathy and empathy.
- Create a positive culture around issues of sexuality and relationships
- Teach pupils the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies

## 5. Roles and Responsibilities

5.1 We are an Enquiry Learning Trust school and the ELT improvement committee will approve the RHE policy and hold the Principal to account for its implementation and development.

5.2 The Principal is responsible for:

- The overall implementation of this policy.
- Ensuring staff are suitably trained to deliver the subjects.
- Ensuring that parents are fully informed of this policy.
- Reviewing requests from parents to withdraw their children from the subjects.
- Discussing requests for withdrawal with parents.
- Organising alternative education for pupils, where necessary, that is appropriate and purposeful.
- Reporting to the governing board on the effectiveness of this policy.
- Reviewing this policy on an annual basis.

5.3 The Relationships and Health Education subject leader is responsible for:

- Overseeing the delivery of the subjects.
- Ensuring the subjects are age-appropriate and high-quality.
- Ensuring teachers are provided with adequate resources to support teaching of the subjects.
- Ensuring the school meets its statutory requirements in relation to the relationships and health curriculum.
- Ensuring the relationships and health curriculum is inclusive and accessible for all pupils.
- Working with other subject leaders to ensure the relationships and health curriculum complements, but does not duplicate, the content covered in the national curriculum.
- Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the subjects and providing reports to the Principal.

5.4 The appropriate teachers are responsible for:

- Delivering a high-quality and age-appropriate relationships and health curriculum in line with statutory requirements.
- Using a variety of teaching methods and resources to provide an engaging curriculum that meets the needs of all pupils.
- Ensuring they do not express personal views or beliefs when delivering the programme.
- Modelling positive attitudes to relationships and health education.
- Responding to any safeguarding concerns in line with the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.
- Acting in accordance with planning, monitoring and assessment requirements for the subjects.

- Liaising with the SENCO to identify and respond to individual needs of pupils with SEND.
  - Working with the relationships, sex and health education subject leader to evaluate the quality of provision.
- 5.5 The SENCO is responsible for:
- Advising teaching staff how best to identify and support pupils' individual needs.
  - Advising working partnerships of teachers and support staff in order to meet pupils' individual needs.

## 6. Consultation with Parents

The school understands the important role parents play in enhancing their children's understanding of relationships and health. Similarly, we also understand how important parents' views are in shaping the curriculum. The school works closely with parents by establishing open communication – all parents are consulted in the development and delivery of the curriculum. The school aims to build positive relationships with parents by inviting them into school to discuss what will be taught, address any concerns and help parents in managing conversations with their children on the issues covered by the curriculum. Parents are consulted in the review of the curriculum and this policy, and are encouraged to provide their views at any time.

Parents are provided with the following information:

- The content of the Relationships and Health Curriculum
- The delivery of the Relationships and Health Curriculum, including what is taught in each year group
- The legalities surrounding withdrawing their child from the subjects
- The resources that will be used to support the curriculum

## 7. Organisation of the Curriculum

Every primary school is required to deliver statutory relationships education and health education. Our Relationships and Health curriculum has been organised in line with the statutory requirements outlined in the DfE (2019) 'Relationships, Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education' guidance. When organising the curriculum, the religious backgrounds of all pupils will be considered so that the topics that are covered are taught appropriately.

## 8. Relationships Education Overview

Relationships education focuses on teaching the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships including:

### 8.1 Families and people who care for me

By the end of primary school, pupils will know:

- That families are important for them 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.

## 8.2 Caring friendships

By the end of primary school, pupils will know:

- 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, but 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.
- How to manage conflict.
- How to manage different situations and how to seek help from others if needed.

## 8.3 Respectful relationships

By the end of primary school, pupils will know:

- The importance of respecting others, even when they are very different from them (for example, physically, in character, personality or backgrounds), make different choices, or have different preferences or beliefs.
- Which 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 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 the different types of bullying (including cyberbullying), the impact of bullying, responsibilities of bystanders to report bullying to an adult, and how to seek help.
- What a stereotype is, and how they can be unfair, negative or destructive.
- The importance of permission-seeking and giving in relationships with friends, peers and adults.

## 8.4 Online relationships

By the end of primary school, pupils will know:

- That people sometimes behave differently online, including 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, even when we are anonymous.
- The rules and principles for keeping safe online.
- How to recognise harmful content and contact online, and how to report these.
- How to critically consider their online friendships and sources of information.
- The risks associated with people they have never met.
- How information and data is shared and used online.

## 8.5 Being safe

By the end of primary school, pupils will know:

- 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.
- 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) who 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 and 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 seek advice, for example, from their family, their school and other sources.

These areas of learning are taught within the context of family life taking care to ensure 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, 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).

## 9. Health Education Overview

The focus at primary level is teaching the characteristics of good physical health and mental wellbeing.

### 9.1 Mental wellbeing

By the end of primary school pupils will know:

- That mental wellbeing is a normal part of daily life, in the same way as physical health.
- That there is a normal range of emotions, e.g. happiness, sadness, anger, fear, surprise and nervousness.
- The scale of emotions that humans experience in response to different experiences and situations.
- How to recognise and talk about their emotions, including having a varied vocabulary of words to use when talking about their own and others' feelings.
- How to judge whether what they are feeling and how they are behaving is appropriate and proportionate.
- The benefits of physical exercise, time outdoors, community participation, and voluntary and service-based activity on mental wellbeing and happiness.
- Simple self-care techniques, including the importance of rest, time spent with friends and family, and the benefits of hobbies and interests.
- How isolation and loneliness can affect children and that it is very important they discuss their feelings with an adult and seek support.
- That bullying (including cyberbullying) has a negative and often lasting impact on mental wellbeing.
- Where and how to seek support (including recognising the triggers for seeking support), extending to who in school they should speak to if they are worried about themselves or others.
- That it is common to experience mental ill health and, for the many people who do, the problems can be resolved if the right support is made available, especially if accessed early enough.

### 9.2 Internet safety and harms

By the end of primary school, pupils will know:

- That for most people, the internet is an integral part of life and has many benefits.
- About the benefits of rationing time spent online.
- The risks of excessive time spent on electronic devices.
- The impact of positive and negative content online on their own and others' mental and physical wellbeing.
- How to consider the effect of their online actions on others.
- How to recognise and display respectful behaviour online.
- The importance of keeping personal information private.
- Why social media, some computer games and online gaming, for example, are age-restricted.

- That the internet can also be a negative place where online abuse, trolling, bullying and harassment can take place, which can have a negative impact on mental health.
- How to be a discerning consumer of information online, including understanding that information (inclusive of that from search engines) is ranked, selected and targeted.
- Where and how to report concerns and get support with issues online.

### **9.3 Physical health and fitness**

By the end of primary school, pupils will know:

- The characteristics and mental and physical benefits of an active lifestyle.
- The importance of building regular exercise into daily and weekly routines and how to achieve this, for example by walking or cycling to school, a daily active mile, or other forms of regular, vigorous exercise.
- The risks associated with an inactive lifestyle, including obesity.
- How and when to seek support, including which adults to speak to in school if they are worried about their health.

### **9.4 Healthy eating**

By the end of primary school, pupils will know:

- What constitutes a healthy diet, including an understanding of calories and other nutritional content.
- The principles of planning and preparing a range of healthy meals.
- The characteristics of a poor diet and risks associated with unhealthy eating, including obesity, and other behaviours, e.g. the impact of alcohol on diet or health.

### **9.5 Drugs alcohol and tobacco**

By the end of primary school, pupils will know:

- The facts about legal and illegal harmful substances and associated risks, including smoking, alcohol use and drug-taking.

### **9.6 Health and prevention**

By the end of primary school, pupils will know:

- How to recognise early signs of physical illness, such as weight loss or unexplained changes to the body.
- About safe and unsafe exposure to the sun, and how to reduce the risk of sun damage, including skin cancer.
- The importance of sufficient good-quality sleep for good health, and that a lack of sleep can affect weight, mood and ability to learn.
- About dental health and the benefits of good oral hygiene and dental flossing, including regular check-ups at the dentist.
- About personal hygiene and germs including bacteria and viruses, how they are spread and treated, and the importance of hand washing.
- The facts and science relating to immunisation and vaccination.

### **9.7 Basic first aid**

By the end of primary school, pupils will know:

- How to make a clear and efficient call to emergency services if necessary.
- Concepts of basic first-aid, for example dealing with common injuries, including head injuries.

### **9.8 Changing adolescent body**

By the end of primary school, pupils will know:

- Key facts about puberty and the changing adolescent body, particularly from age 9 through to age 11, including physical and emotional changes.
- About menstrual wellbeing and key facts relating to the menstrual cycle



## 10. Sex Education

All pupils must be taught the aspects of sex education outlined in the primary science curriculum – this includes teaching about the main external parts of the human body, how it changes as it grows from birth to old age, including puberty, and the reproductive process in some plants and animals. The school is free to determine whether pupils should be taught sex education beyond what is required of the national curriculum. At our school, we do not teach pupils sex education beyond what is required of the science curriculum.

## 11. Delivery of the Curriculum

Relationships and Health education is taught within the personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education curriculum through the Discovery Education framework. This provides a comprehensive spiral curriculum for PSHE education, including mental health and wellbeing. Using Discovery Education across all age groups ensures progression in knowledge, attitudes and values, and skills – including the key skills of social and emotional learning, known to improve outcomes for children.

This scheme of work provides us with a whole-school approach to building these five essential foundations which we believe are crucial for our children to achieve their best, academically and socially. This approach also promotes behaviour, safety, achievement and wellbeing.

## 12. Working with External Experts

External experts may be invited to assist from time-to-time with the delivery of the programme and will be expected to comply with the provisions of this policy.

- The school will ensure all visitor credentials are checked before they are able to participate in delivery of the curriculum, in line with the Visitor Policy.
- The school will ensure that the teaching delivered by the external expert fits with the planned curriculum and this policy.
- Before delivering the session, the school will discuss the details of the expert's lesson plan and ensure that the content is age-appropriate and accessible for the pupils.
- The school will also ask to see the materials the expert intends to use, as well as a copy of the lesson plan, to ensure it meets all pupils' needs, including those with SEND.
- The school will agree with the expert the procedures for confidentiality, ensuring that the expert understands how safeguarding reports should be dealt with in line with the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.
- The intended occasional use of external experts is to enhance the curriculum delivered by teachers, rather than as a replacement for teachers.

## 13. Equality and Accessibility

The school understands its responsibilities in relation to the Equality Act 2010, specifically that it must not unlawfully discriminate against any pupil because of their:

- Age
- Sex or sexual orientation
- Race
- Disability
- Religion or belief
- Gender reassignment
- Pregnancy or maternity
- Marriage or civil partnership

The school is committed to making reasonable adjustments wherever possible to promote accessibility and inclusivity of the curriculum.

- The school understands that pupils with SEND or other needs (such as those with social, emotional or mental health needs) are entitled to learn about relationships, health education, and the programme will be designed to be inclusive of all pupils.

- Teachers will understand that they may need to be more explicit and adapt their planning of work and teaching methods in order to appropriately deliver the programme to pupils with SEND or other needs.
- Provisions under the Equality Act 2010 allow our school to take positive action, where it can be evidenced to be proportionate, to respond to particular disadvantages affecting a group because of a protected characteristic. For example, we could consider taking positive action to support girls if there was evidence that they were being disproportionately subjected to sexual violence or sexual harassment.
- When deciding whether support is necessary to support pupils with a particular protected characteristic, we will consider our pupils' needs, including the gender and age range of our pupils.
- In order to foster healthy and respectful peer-to-peer communication and behaviour between boys and girls, the school implements a robust Behaviour management Policy, as well as a Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy, which set out expectations of pupils.

## 14. Curriculum Links

The school seeks opportunities to draw links between relationships, sex and health education and other curriculum subjects wherever possible to enhance pupils' learning.

Relationships, sex and health education will be linked to the following subjects in particular:

- Science – pupils learn about the main external parts of the body and changes to the body as it grows from birth to old age, including puberty.
- Computing and ICT – pupils learn about e-safety, including how to use technology safely, responsibly, respectfully and securely, how to keep personal information private and how to access help and support.
- PE – pupils explore various physical activities, are physically active for sustained periods of time, engage in competitive sport and understand how exercise can lead to healthier lifestyles.
- Citizenship – pupils learn about the requirements of the law, their responsibilities and the possible consequences of their actions.
- PSHE – pupils learn about respect and difference, values and characteristics of individuals.

## 15. Parents' Right to Withdraw

Relationships and health education are statutory at primary and parents do not have the right to withdraw their child from the subjects.

## 16. Training

Staff are trained on the delivery of Relationships and Health education and it is included in our continuing professional development calendar.

The Principal will also invite visitors from outside the school, such as health professionals, to provide support and training to staff teaching Relationships and Health education.

## 17. Confidentiality

Confidentiality within the classroom is an important component of relationships, sex and health education, and teachers are expected to respect the confidentiality of their pupils as far as is possible.

Teachers will, however, alert the Principal about any issues around inappropriate behaviour or potential abuse as per the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

Pupils will be fully informed of the school's responsibilities in terms of confidentiality and will be aware of what action may be taken if they choose to report a concern or make a disclosure.

Any reports made during lessons, or as a result of the content taught through the curriculum, will be reported to the DSL and handled in accordance with the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

## 18. Monitoring Quality

The relationships and health education subject leader, Jayne Barber, is responsible for monitoring the quality of teaching and learning for the subjects. This will be conducted through:

- Self-evaluations
- Lesson observations
- Learning walks
- Work scrutiny
- Pupil Voice

The relationships and health education subject leader will create annual subject reports for the Principal and Trust to report on the quality of the subjects.

The relationships and health education subject leader will work regularly and consistently with the Principal through regular review meetings, to evaluate the effectiveness of the subjects and implement any changes (especially during the introduction of the scheme).

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

## 19. Monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis by the Relationships and Health Education subject leader and Principal. The next scheduled review date for this policy is September 2022 .

This policy will also be reviewed in light of any changes to statutory guidance, feedback from parents, staff or pupils, and events in the school or local area that may be influential on this work. Any changes made to this policy will be communicated to all staff, parents and, where necessary, pupils.