

Knowsley Village Primary School

RSE Policy



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Introduction

This is the policy of Knowsley Village Primary School on the approach taken to Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE), approved by Knowsley Village School Governors in July 2021. See Appendix 1 for an additional RSHE Guide for Parents/Carers.

Legal Context

The law was changed with effect from September 2020 so that primary schools in England must teach relationships education and health education (*The Children and Social Work Act 2017*).

- The relationships education part of the new curriculum teaches what children need to learn to build positive and safe relationships with family and friends and online.
- The health education part of the new curriculum covers both physical health and mental wellbeing and teaches children how to make good decisions about their own health and wellbeing; how to recognise issues in themselves and in others; and how to seek support as early as possible when issues arise.

Sex education is not compulsory in primary schools, but:

- The new curriculum for relationships education and health education does include content on puberty.
- The national curriculum for science includes subject content in related areas, such as the main external body parts; the human body as it grows from birth to old age (including puberty); and reproduction in some plants and animals.

Following this change in the law, the Department for Education published *Statutory Guidance for Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education (2019)*. This guidance requires primary schools in England to have a written relationships education policy to cover the following:

- How relationships education is delivered.
- What sex education (if any) a school chooses to cover that goes beyond the national curriculum for science and relationships education.

There is no equivalent requirement for a health education policy but, in line with best practice, this RSHE policy also covers health education.

This RSHE policy also supports legal requirements relating to the following:

- *The Equality Act 2010.*
- *The Education Act 1996.*
- *Statutory guidance, Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020.*

The following policies are also relevant to this Relationships and Health Education policy:

- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Child Protection Policy
- Equality Duty Statement
- PSHE
- Behaviour
- Wellbeing
- Managing Drug-Related Incidents

Definition

RSHE supports children and young people's personal development including their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Its aims are to help children and young people to deal with the real-life issues they face as they grow up and that they will encounter as adults. Their learning will support them both online and offline, to make informed choices about their safety, physical and mental health, enabling them to live positive and fulfilled lives.

RSHE is enhanced by a supportive school ethos where everyone is valued, positive relationships are promoted and there is a safe learning environment. At Knowsley Village Primary School, we aim to create a positive, happy and successful learning environment for all children. We aim to develop each child to their full potential and provide each learner with the skills, attributes, knowledge and attitudes to prepare each and every one for future lifelong learning. We ensure that through our school vision, values, rules, curriculum and teaching we promote tolerance and respect for all cultures, faiths and lifestyles. We have a duty to prepare our children for life in modern Britain to keep them safe.

Aims

The aims of our RSHE programme are:

- Provide accurate and age-appropriate information.
- Include all children.
- Help children make informed choices.
- Develop knowledge, skills and attitudes.
- Build confidence and self-esteem.
- Develop personal attributes.
- Prepare children for the next stage of education and adulthood.
- Develop positive and inclusive attitudes to everyone, particularly to those with protected characteristics under the *Equality Act 2010*.

Roles and Responsibilities

An effective programme of RSHE requires support from the whole school community and the following people have specific roles and responsibilities:

- **Governors**

The Governors will:

- Evaluate and approve a satisfactory policy.

- **Headteacher**

The Headteacher will:

- Oversee the development and delivery of RSHE.
- Provide staff with the opportunity to contribute to the development of RSHE.
- Provide information to the trustees/governors.
- Provide training for the subject leader and staff, as required.
- Support the subject leader to liaise with parents and carers.
- Deal with parents and carers who wish to withdraw a child from sex education.

- **Subject Leader**

The Subject Leader will:

- Lead the development and delivery of effective RSHE.
- Keep up-to-date with the development of RSHE.
- Support colleagues as required.
- Monitor and evaluate RSHE and providing necessary reports.
- Liaise with parents and carers.

- Keep subject information up-to-date, including on the school website.
- Oversee external visitors and resources used in RSHE.
- **School Staff**
Teachers will:
 - Understand and implement the policy of RSHE.
 - Teach RSHE in line with the agreed curriculum.
 - Assess and monitor the progress of children.
 - Respond to the needs of individual children.

Curriculum Organisation

The school adopts the following approaches to organise the curriculum to ensure high quality delivery of RSHE:

- RSHE will be covered as part of a wider programme of PSHE education.
- PSHE lessons will be delivered weekly.
- PSHE lessons will be of sufficient length to allow children to explore topics and reflect on their learning, with the suggestion that:
 - For KS1 – lessons should be 40-45 minutes long;
 - For KS2 – lessons should be 50-60 minutes long.
- Opportunities for cross-curricular learning.
- Confident and skilled staff will teach effective lessons, particularly for sensitive and controversial topics.

Teaching and Learning

RSHE is delivered in line with the teaching and learning policy. However, as the subject deals with real-life experiences, it is important to establish a safe and positive learning environment using the following approaches:

- Establishing clear ground rules in consultation with children. Ground rules should include confidentiality, respect for others, privacy and boundaries.
- Using distancing techniques including de-personalised discussions and role play.
- Using clear language to avoid misunderstandings.
- Avoiding prejudice and assumptions about children's abilities, desires, background and experiences.
- Dealing sensitively with unexpected questions and comments.
- Assessing and building on existing knowledge and experiences.
- Ensuring that learning is engaging, using a range of activities, including structured discussion and problem-solving.
- Providing a range of opportunities to learn, practise and demonstrate knowledge, skills and attitudes.
- Allowing time for reflection.
- Providing differentiated learning.
- Using a variety of groupings to enhance learning.

Curriculum Content

• Long term planning

The school has chosen to use the Kapow Primary RSE scheme of work which provides full curriculum coverage, including all the statutory content, for each year group. See Appendix 1 for the Kapow Primary RSHE & PSHE Curriculum Overview. More information can be found on the Kapow Primary website: <https://www.kapowprimary.com/subjects/rse-pshe/>

• Resources

Teachers will select any additional resources carefully, and the subject leader will oversee the selection.

Additional resources will be:

- Up-to-date.
- Relevant to children.
- Consistent with the aims and values of the school.

Visitors

Visitors can enhance children's learning. Teachers will select visitors in liaison with the subject leader. The following will be used to guide the use of visitors:

- The school will use visitors to enhance the lessons delivered by the class teacher; and information on where a visitor fits into the long-term plan will be shared with the visitor.
- The school will make visitors aware of the school policy for RSHE.
- The school will check the content of sessions delivered by visitors to make sure that it fits with the school's ethos and meets legal requirements.
- A member of staff will be present in sessions delivered by visitors.
- The school will make sure visitors undergo the necessary checks as required by the school safeguarding policies.

Equality

Under the *Equality Act 2010*, the school is under a legal duty to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relationships between those with protected characteristics and those without. The protected characteristics are:

- Age.
- Marriage and Civil partnership.
- Disability.
- Race.
- Religion and belief.
- Sexual orientation.
- Sex.
- Pregnancy and maternity.
- Gender reassignment.

The RSHE programme will meet the needs of all children. Lessons will include content that will tackle discrimination and foster good relationships. In addition, teaching will consider the needs of those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

Right to Withdraw from Sex Education

A parent or carer cannot legally withdraw their child from any aspect of the statutory relationships education or health education. A parent or carer does have the right to withdraw their child from sex education unless what is being taught is part of the science national curriculum.

Following a consultation with the whole school community, the following content is deemed to be sex education:

- Year 6: Safety and the changing body, Lesson 5: Conception
- Year 6: Safety and the changing body, Lesson 6: Pregnancy and birth

The following process must be followed if a parent or carer wishes to withdraw their child from sex education:

- Parents/carers will be informed about upcoming RSHE sex education lessons by letter accompanied by the Kapow Primary RSHE Guide for Parents/Carers (Appendix 1).
- Parents/carers will be invited to a pre-meeting to discuss learning intentions and have the opportunity to discuss concerns.

- If parents/carers wish to withdraw their child from sex education, a letter response will be needed. This decision will be recorded by the class teacher and passed to the Subject Leader and/or Headteacher.
- Alternative arrangements will be made for children who opt out of the sex education lesson.

Safeguarding

RSHE includes sensitive topics. It is, therefore, possible that discussions will prompt safeguarding disclosures. Reference should be made to safeguarding policies and procedures to deal with these appropriately.

The subject leader/teacher should discuss with the designated safeguarding lead any potentially sensitive topics. Appropriate steps must be taken to provide additional support for children if required.

Staff should consider the timing of lessons to ensure that children have the opportunity to report any concerns they may have either that day or the following day.

RSHE should not be a time for children to make disclosures. It is important, however, to inform children of the support that is available to them if they are worried about anything raised in a lesson. The following support will be highlighted to children as appropriate:

- School support: class teachers, senior leadership team, support staff.
- External support: NSPCC, Childline, Police.

Monitoring and Evaluating

The headteacher and subject leader will be responsible for monitoring and evaluating RSHE in line with other subjects. Opportunities for evaluation will include:

- Scrutiny of planning.
- Lesson observations.
- Learning walks.
- Evidence of learning.
- Feedback from staff.
- Feedback from parents/carers.
- Feedback from children.

Professional Development

The Headteacher and Subject Leader will assess the professional development needs of staff regularly. Appropriate development will be provided using internal or external expertise.

Communication of Policy

This RSHE policy will be available to read on and downloaded from the school website and copies can be requested free of charge from the school office.

Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Knowsley Village Primary School governors. The next review date will be July 2023.

Appendix 1



Kapow Primary Parents' and carers' guide for Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE).

From the academic year 2020-2021, all primary schools in England must teach Relationships and Health Education (RSHE). The government has set out guidance about what they expect children to know by the time they leave primary education but it is up to schools to decide how they will teach this. Schools will discuss their approach with parents and carers.

There is no legal requirement for schools to teach sex education but the government recommends children learn about some key areas before they leave primary school.

Many schools will have been teaching these topics for a number of years. As with other subjects, we will work hard to make sure the lessons meet the needs of the children and are age appropriate. These topics are really important in helping children deal with current experiences and also to prepare them for the next stage of their education and ultimately for adult life.

Schools and the government recognise the important role you play in educating your children and this is especially true for RSHE. It is important that children can discuss and ask questions both at home and at school.

What will my child be learning about?

Your child's school has chosen to use lesson plans from Kapow Primary, an online provider of resources for primary schools. These lessons cover the statutory requirements and have been carefully planned to be age appropriate. They also give the opportunity for children to revisit topics in different year groups. This is important as they will learn more and see things differently as they mature.

The lessons are divided up into three overarching themes:

- Families and relationships
- Health and wellbeing
- Safety and the changing body

Below is a summary of some of the areas covered within each theme:

Families and relationships

- How to form and maintain friendships
- Importance of family
- Different types of families
- Dealing with problems in friendships
- Online relationships, including staying safe
- Stereotyping

Health and wellbeing

- Mental health and wellbeing
- Healthy eating
- Physical activity
- Dental health
- Importance of sleep
- Medicines
- Tobacco
- Alcohol
- First aid

Safety and the changing body

- Online safety
- Safety around adults
- Understanding their body
- Physical changes during puberty
- Emotional changes during puberty
- Asking for help when needed

The lessons will give children the opportunity to increase their knowledge and understanding of the topic. They will also be able to explore their feelings and ideas about topics and listen to the views of other people. The overall aim is for children to be able to make their informed choices and decisions.

Will my child have to take part?

All the content outlined above is statutory and therefore all children should be taught it. As with any other subject teachers will ensure that the lesson is taught in a way which means children of all abilities will learn. The government is very clear that they want children with special educational needs (SEN) to be included in these lessons.

As a parent you do **not** have the right to withdraw your child from any of the statutory content on either relationships or health. You only have the right to withdraw your child from the sex education content that we choose to teach, apart from National Curriculum Science. It is recommended that you talk to your child's school about this before making a decision.

Parents and carers are sometimes concerned about the conversations children may have in RSHE lessons, but teachers have lots of ways to make sure children are safe in these lessons. For example, they will have ground rules to make sure children feel confident to share their ideas, they will use things like puppets and stories, so children are discussing a made up characters' experiences rather than their own. They also know the children in their class well and will have a sense of their needs and what they teach will be age appropriate.

It is important to balance what children know already and to prepare them for the future. Discussing issues in the safe learning environment of the classroom before they experience them in real life is very valuable for children.

We will be very happy to share more information with you on how they approach these topics.



Appendix 2

Kapow Primary RSHE & PSHE Curriculum Overview



RSE & PSHE Curriculum Overview

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Family and relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction to RSE What is family? What are friendships? Family and friends help and support each other Making friends Friendship problems Healthy Friendships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction to RSE Families offer stability and love Families are all different Managing friendships Unhappy friendships Valuing me Manners & courtesy Loss and change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction to RSE Healthy families Friendships - conflict Effective communication Learning who to trust Respecting differences Stereotyping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction to RSE Respect & manners Healthy friendships My behaviour Bullying Stereotypes Families in the wider world Loss and change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction to RSE Build a friend Resolving conflict Respecting myself Family life Bullying 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction to RSE Respect Developing respectful relationships Stereotypes Bullying Being me Loss and change
Safety and the changing body	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Getting lost Making a call to the emergency services Asking for help Appropriate contact Medication Safety at home People who help to keep us safe 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Internet Communicating online Secrets and surprises Appropriate contact Road safety Drug education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic first aid Communicating safely online Online safety Fake emails Drugs, alcohol & tobacco Keeping safe out and about 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online restrictions Share aware Basic first aid Privacy and secrecy Consuming information online The changing adolescent body (puberty) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online friendships Identifying online dangers The changing adolescent body (puberty, including menstruation) First aid Drug education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drugs alcohol & tobacco First aid Critical digital consumers Social media The changing adolescent body (puberty, conception, birth)
Health and wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wonderful me What am I like? Ready for bed Relaxation Hand washing & personal hygiene Sun safety Allergies People who help us stay healthy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experiencing different emotions Being active Relaxation Steps to success Growth mindset Healthy diet Dental health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> My healthy diary Relaxation Who am I? My superpowers Breaking down barriers Dental health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diet and dental health Visualisation Celebrating mistakes My role My happiness Emotions Mental health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relaxation The importance of rest Embracing failure Going for goals Taking responsibility for my feelings Healthy meals Sun safety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What can I be? Mindfulness Taking responsibility for my health Resilience toolkit Immunisation Physical health concerns Habits – positive and negative

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RSE & PSHE Curriculum Overview

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Citizenship	Responsibility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rules Caring for others: Animals The needs of others Community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Similar, yet different Belonging Democracy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Democratic decisions 	Responsibility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rules beyond school Our school environment Our local environment Community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Job roles in our local community Similar yet different: My local community Democracy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> School Council Giving my opinion 	Responsibility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rights of the child Rights and responsibilities Recycling Community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local community groups Charity Democracy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local democracy Rules 	Responsibility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are human rights? Caring for the environment Community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community groups Contributing Diverse communities Democracy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local councillors 	Responsibility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Breaking the law Rights and responsibilities Protecting the planet Community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contributing to the community Pressure groups Democracy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parliament 	Responsibility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human rights Food choices and the environment Caring for others Community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prejudice and discrimination Valuing diversity Democracy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National democracy
Economic wellbeing	Money <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction to money Looking after money Banks and building societies Saving and spending Career and aspirations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jobs in school 	Money <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where money comes from Needs and wants Wants and needs Looking after money Career and aspirations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jobs 	Money <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ways of paying Budgeting How spending affects others Impact of spending Career and aspirations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jobs and careers Gender and careers 	Money <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spending choices/ value for money Keeping track of money Looking after money Career and aspirations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Influences on career choices Jobs for me 	Money <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Borrowing Income and expenditure Risks with money Prioritising spending Career and aspirations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stereotypes in the workplace 	Money <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attitudes to money Keeping money safe Gambling Career and aspirations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What jobs are available Career routes
Transition	1 lesson	1 lesson	1 lesson	1 lesson	1 lesson	1 lesson
Identity						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is identity Gender identity Identity and body image

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