



# Whitehouse Primary School RSE Policy: 2021

Ratified by Governors: May 21  
J Hanna

Review: May 2023

## **Whitehouse Primary School**

### **RSE Policy - 2020/2021**

The teaching of Relationships and Sex Education at Whitehouse Primary School is an important aspect of pupils' education. Our school motto of 'Believe in yourself' is embedded in our approach to RSE. Whether in school based, family or other relationships we aim to equip children to make healthy choices for their own physical and emotional well-being. We want them to believe in themselves and know what healthy relationships look like and how to conduct them. We promote an understanding of the range of family types and other people who contribute to providing children with the care, love and support they need to grow and develop. We want our pupils to have an understanding of the importance of family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, self-esteem, love and care and promote the British Value of tolerance.

It is our intention that all children have the opportunity to experience a programme of Relationships and Sex Education at a level which is appropriate for their age and physical development with differentiated provision if required. We firmly believe this is paramount for teaching pupils the skills and knowledge to safeguard themselves, and prepare children and young people for the challenges, opportunities and responsibilities of adult life, building healthy relationships and staying safe.

#### **Overall Aims and Objectives** We

aim to achieve this by:

- Providing PSHE Education that is dynamic, relevant and appropriate for the challenges and contexts of 21st century life as part of our commitment to broad outcomes for children.
- Holding high expectations for all children and modelling our expectations at all times.
- Viewing Relationships and Sex Education as vital and a holistic part of our duty to safeguarding and child protection and promotion of positive behaviour.
- Teaching children about equality and diversity as is our duty within the Equalities Act (2010) through dealing honestly and sensitively with questions relating to sexual orientation, answering appropriate questions and offering support, without direct promotion of any orientation.
- Providing our pupils with Relationships and Sex Education that is age-appropriate and contributes to lifelong learning and pupil well-being.
- Having a strong commitment to confidentiality and to providing a safe learning environment where all feel respected whilst safeguarding vulnerable pupils.
- Informing and working with parents and families to support and promote our work in school.
- Involving our local community partners such as healthcare professionals to enrich and support pupil's learning in Relationships and Sex education where appropriate.

#### **Aims of Relationship and Sex Education**

Taking account of the age, maturity and individual needs of our pupils, Relationships and Sex Education aims to:

- Provide the knowledge and information to which all pupils are entitled.

- Help children to develop feelings of self-respect, self-esteem, self-confidence, sympathy and empathy.
- Provide the confidence to be participating members of society and to value themselves and others.
- Prepare pupils for puberty (physical and emotional changes) and encourage them to take responsibility for their own actions.
- Give children an understanding of reproduction and sexual development.
- Give children an understanding of the importance of health and hygiene.

## **Confidentiality**

At Whitehouse Primary School we believe that because Relationship and Sex education works within pupils' real-life experiences, it is essential to establish a safe learning environment. We will create a safe and supportive learning environment by:

- Establishing ground rules for lessons agreed by pupils and teachers.
- Role modelling and teaching our high expectations of behaviour for learning.
- Sharing the need for confidentiality with staff and pupils and being clear about procedures should pupils indicate that they are vulnerable or "at risk" through our Confidentiality and Safeguarding Policies.

Where pupils indicate that they may be vulnerable and at risk, they will get support by staff following our Safeguarding Policies and informing the Designated Safeguarding Leads.

## **Equality and Diversity**

Whitehouse Primary school strives for the best outcomes for all pupils irrespective of disability, educational needs, race, nationality, ethnic or national origin, sex, gender identity, religion or sexual orientation.

We ensure our Relationships and Sex education is sensitive to the needs of ALL our pupils and their families by:

- Being aware of each group of pupils' individual characteristics, backgrounds, attitudes and feelings.
- Differentiating teaching and learning from our planned scheme of work to allow access to Relationships and Sex education for all our pupils including those with SEND or EAL.
- Valuing and respecting all pupils and adults' contributions and experiences by supporting them to articulate their perceptions.
- Ensuring freedom from all forms of bullying as is our duty within the Equalities Act (2010) through a zero tolerance approach within all our policies and practice.

Our programme of study is taught by following the strands and themes outlined by the DfE's non-statutory and statutory guidance, in keeping with information from the National Curriculum and PSHE Association. We aim to give our pupils a comprehensive, balanced and relevant body of factual information to inform their present and future risk assessment, decision-making and management, with teachers frequently acting as facilitators. Pupils will also follow cross curricular learning in National Curriculum subjects that will build on and inform their learning from Relationships and Sex education.

Our teaching and learning in RSE complements and enhances statutory content for Science where pupils need to know about puberty and how a baby is born – as set out in Key Stages 1 and 2 of the National Science Curriculum:

### **Key Stage 1**

- Notice that animals, including humans, have offspring which grow into adults.

### **Key Stage 2**

- Describe the differences in the life cycles of a mammal, an amphibian, an insect and a bird.
- Describe the life process of reproduction in some plants and animals.
- Describe the changes as humans develop to old age.
- Recognise that living things produce offspring of the same kind, but normally offspring vary and are not identical to their parents.

\*Parents do not have the right to withdraw their child/children from these above aspects of the Science curriculum.

RSE is taught within the personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education curriculum. Biological aspects of RSE are taught within the science curriculum, and values and relationships are included in many other subjects such as English and R.E.

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

- Families and people who care for me
- Caring friendships
- Respectful relationships
- Online relationships
- Being safe

### **Teaching around Puberty in Primary School**

We will teach about puberty in Years 4, 5 and 6, in keeping with our RSE and PSHE Curriculum. Younger children may be aware of puberty and we will answer their questions appropriately on an individual basis. We recognise the importance of ensuring that both boys and girls have a good understanding of puberty before they reach it. We may use single sex groups to address particular needs, such as girls' practical need for information about managing periods and involve the use of health professionals such as the school nurse. We may work with groups of Year 5 and Year 6 pupils separately to ensure they receive appropriate information at these age groups.

### **Children with differing needs**

We recognise the importance of ensuring that young people understand about the physical and emotional changes of puberty before they reach it, in order to allay fears or concerns. We also recognise that young people develop at different rates. When teaching about puberty in our RSE programme, we will be sensitive to the needs of those developing at different rates. We will ensure that our young people have different opportunities to learn about puberty and

their developing sexuality and prepare themselves for it. Programmes will be tailored to individual needs. We will ensure that sensitive arrangements are made for girls who have started menstruating. This includes the provision of sanitary disposal units and the discreet provision of 'emergency' sanitary protection. Staff will respond to such requests discreetly.

### **Answering Questions**

We acknowledge that sensitive and potentially difficult issues will arise in RSE as children will naturally share information and ask questions. When spontaneous discussion arises, it will be guided in a way which reflects the curriculum content for RSE. As a first principle, we will answer questions relating to the taught planned curriculum for that age group to the whole class. We will answer questions relating to areas beyond the taught planned curriculum for that age group, in a sensitive and age appropriate way. Where a question or comment from a pupil in the classroom indicates the possibility of abuse, teachers will pass this information to the designated person for child protection in line with school policy – either Mrs T. White or Miss K. Ogden.

### **Procedures for Withdrawal of Pupils**

Parents do not have the right to withdraw their children from Relationships Education. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the non-statutory components of sex education within RSE. Requests for withdrawal should be put to the head teacher and will automatically be granted. Whilst respecting parental choice, families will be given the opportunity to meet with the PSHE lead to discuss concerns and resources being used.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

At Whitehouse Primary School, the RSE Coordinator monitors outcomes and curriculum delivery.

### **Consultation**

Parents will be consulted on this policy during the school year 2021/2022 – this is rescheduled from Summer 2020 due to Covid.

This policy will be reviewed in line with our school monitoring cycle.