

RELATIONSHIPS & HEALTH EDUCATION POLICY

School Vision and Rationale

Statement of Intent – Our aim is for all children to feel valued and respected and to see themselves as important and useful citizens who can participate in and impact positively on the world around them.

To embrace the challenges of creating a happy and successful adult life, pupils need knowledge that will enable them to make informed decisions about their wellbeing, health and relationships and to build their self-efficacy. Our pupils can put this knowledge into practice as they develop the capacity to make sound decisions when facing risks, challenges and complex contexts. Everyone faces difficult situations in their lives. These subjects can support our pupils to develop resilience, to know how and when to ask for help, and to know where to access support.

High quality, evidence-based and age-appropriate teaching of these subjects can help prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life. It also helps us to promote the spiritual, moral, social, cultural, mental and physical development of our pupils both at school and in society.

Through our Relationships and Health Education (RHE), we are able to address the Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE) curriculum for pupils in our school. Our aim is to equip children with the skills and understanding to become healthy, secure, independent and responsible members of society. Children with SEND are always included as valued, respected and equal members of our learning community.

Through all aspects of the RHE curriculum, we promote spiritual, moral, social and cultural education, whilst considering the mental and physical development of pupils at school.

We prepare our pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences in later life and encourage them to use developing social skills and knowledge to identify risk to make safe decisions for them.

RHE has an integral part to play in building pupils' mental wellbeing and their understanding of themselves as part of a family, community and our wider society. As our pupils grow, they will understand their rights as global citizens and the responsibility that this brings.

From September 2020 it is a legal requirement to teach Relationships and Health Education at primary school and parents do not have a legal right to withdraw their child from teaching on these subjects.

In addition to the requirements of the National Curriculum in Science, the school teaches an additional non-statutory lesson in Year 6 entitled 'How babies are made', (information about the contents of this specific lesson can be read in our curriculum overview).

Our school community comes from a wide and diverse society. At HPS we value and celebrate this rich diversity, learning that we have a responsibility to respect all cultures, faiths and families equally.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND CONSULTATION

The policy has been developed through consultation with our school's stakeholders, which include parents, governors, staff and pupils and has paid due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty and

issues relating to National Health Targets, and safeguarding of pupils including Child Sexual Exploitation, Female Genital Mutilation and Homophobia.

Relationships and Health Education

At HPS, understanding the way in which relationships develop and grow over time from childhood through to adult relationships is part of lifelong learning. Part of this is about the understanding the importance of relationships and the values, qualities and responsibilities in friendships, families, and loving relationships and how to develop an understanding of safety in the online environment. It promotes self-respect, confidence, respect & responsibility toward others, emphasising the importance of marriage, loving relationships, safety, love and care.

Health Education includes the teaching of puberty and the changes that occur as pupils move into adolescence. The lessons will be based on teaching children facts in an age-appropriate way to support children to flourish and grow.

Relationships and Health Education does not include teaching about human reproduction except one additional non-statutory lesson for our Year 6 children.

Aims and Objectives of this policy and the relationships education curriculum:

- To provide clear guidance for parents, staff and governors in relation to programme progression and delivery
- For pupils to develop the understanding of relationships and that they need to be built and maintained gradually
- Relationship Education provides a foundation for further work at secondary school
- To help young people to respect themselves and others
- To support pupils through their physical, emotional and moral development
- To develop skills and understanding to enable pupils to make healthy, responsible choices about their health and well-being including personal hygiene
- To help pupils understand the significance of marriage and stable relationships and its importance for family life **Care will be taken to ensure that there is no stigmatisation of children based on their home circumstances**
- To help pupils move more confidently and responsibly into and through adolescence
- To help pupils to understand a range of views and beliefs about relationships
- To help pupils to understand issues of media influence and mixed messages that may contradict and conflict with own beliefs
 - To help pupils use the digital world in a safe and positive manner

MORAL AND VALUES FRAMEWORK

THE PROGRAMME REFLECTS THE SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY AND ETHOS TO ENCOURAGE THE FOLLOWING VALUES

- Respect for self

- Respect for others
- Responsibility for own actions
- Responsibility for family, friends, school and the community

CONTENT OF PROGRAMME

- Outline how Relationships and Health Education is provided to support personal, social and emotional well-being
- Our Relationship and Health Education curriculum has been developed through progressive units beginning from Year 1 to Year 6 (Please see RHE Curriculum Map)

Our programme of class, year group, key stage and whole school assemblies supports this learning each week.

SEX EDUCATION (Year 6 only)

At Harborne Primary, we believe that in order to further the aims and objectives outlined above, and to support transition to secondary school, it is necessary to provide our oldest children with a further non-statutory sex education lesson, in addition to the lessons that are mandatory under the national curriculum for science. This lesson will support Year 6 children understand 'How a baby is made' within the wider context that commitment and friendship are important in a positive relationship. The lesson will be taught in a sensitive and age appropriate way, giving children opportunities to ask questions to a trusted adult in a safe environment. As this learning objective is non-statutory, parents may withdraw their child from this lesson only. They must speak to the class teacher in the first instance to discuss any issues. If they still wish to do so, they can apply in writing to the Head teacher to withdraw their child.

ORGANISATION AND METHODS OF TEACHING

Planning and delivery of programme

- This scheme of work has been planned by school staff and supporting external agencies
- The programme will be taught by class teachers with supporting staff to ensure that both pupils and staff are protected
- The discrete puberty programme will be taught in Years 5 & 6 in selected single sex groups by trained, confident staff
- Pupils will be taught about the changes related to their own and the opposite sex, how to manage the changes and where to get help at home and school
- Girls will be made aware of who can provide support, where menstruation provision is kept and where the appropriate disposal bins are situated
- Resources used have been selected through the parent and staff partnership and the materials selected are appropriate for each year group and enhance the learning
 - Best provision for each pupil that has special educational needs, with differentiation that bears in mind the needs of each child

AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

Head Teacher and Governors

- Ensure the framework is followed
- Ensure that this policy is made available to parents
- When developing and amending this policy, work with parents and listen to their views
- Liaise with the governors on the teaching of RHE in school as required

Teaching Staff

- Implement this policy with the guidance of senior leaders in the school
- Ensure that the policy is followed and all statutory lessons are taught discretely
- Liaise with parents as necessary and feedback any concerns, following the school's usual procedures
- Respond to the needs of all pupils, including those with additional needs, following the school's usual procedures
 - Liaise with the SENCO for additional advice regarding appropriate differentiation for ch with additional needs.

SPECIFIC ISSUES

Confidentiality

Pupils will be informed that as with any other safeguarding issue, confidentiality cannot always be assured and the school will follow the usual procedures for keeping children safe and protected from harm (please refer to school's safeguarding policy).

Use of External Providers

External providers should be made aware of the school's policies and procedures prior to planned delivery. They will be expected to follow the school's agreed scheme of work and that all delivery with pupils will be evaluated.

Answering Difficult Questions

- If a pupil asks a difficult question outside the remit of our scheme of work, staff will consider whether to respond individually or inform parents for further discussion at home. When answering pupils' questions, we will be mindful of their level of maturity and understanding.
- Where possible, pupils will be encouraged to use the question box approach (which can be used as a distancing technique to prevent over exposure of concepts outside of the learning objectives). The class teacher is responsible for dealing with all content.
- The programme is designed to focus on boys and girls with activities planned to ensure both are actively involved, matching their different learning styles
- Teachers will focus heavily on the importance of healthy relationships

- Responses to questions answered will follow the school's policy. Any concerns raised will be discussed with a senior leader or Designated Safeguarding Lead, (DSL), depending on the concern

WORKING WITH PARENTS

The school has established a strong working partnership with parents through consultation and support. The school recognises that parents are key educators and maintain a vital role in providing education about relationships and growing up, and therefore aims to support parents in this role. We know that our parents have a unique wealth of knowledge and experience of their own child and can be best used to support their child in partnership with school.

On an annual basis, parents will be specifically informed about the discrete lesson on 'How babies are made', for year 6 only, and provided with the opportunity to view resources and discuss the teaching content before any delivery takes place.

Parents will be consulted when this Relationship and Health Education Policy is reviewed. Parents can view the curriculum overviews for each year group on our website along with the RHE Curriculum Map. Details of the specific lessons and teaching materials can be made available on request.

PROVISION FOR MENSTRUATION

All Year 6 teachers, Pastoral staff and Office staff will be available to support pupils. Sanitary disposal units are situated in the adult toilet by the main office on Main Site and the adult toilets by the Hall and on the first floor at the Annex. There are also sanitary towels readily available for children to help themselves.

Other related documents & policies

- Cross reference to other related Harborne Primary School policies; SEN Policy, SEN Information Report, Science Policy, RE Policy, PE Policy, Equality Policy
 - Education Act 2002
- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018
- Equality Act 2010 • Science Curriculum KS1 & KS2
- Children and Social Work Act 2017
 - Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education (England) Regulations 2019
- OFSTED School Inspection Handbook 2019
- Relationship & Health Education Statutory Guidance 2019 (DfE)
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES/INCLUSIVITY

The school's Relationships and Health Education Policy and programme will reflect the ethos of the school, by providing a secure, non-judgemental environment in which to learn, in accordance with any protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

This policy will be managed by the RHE Co-ordinator/Science Coordinator and an appointed governor will be responsible to ensure that the programme is evaluated and impact reported to the governing board. The policy will be reviewed annually.

DISSEMINATION OF THE POLICY

A summary of this policy will appear in the school prospectus and on the website. Parents will be supplied with a fully copy on request. The policy will be communicated to all staff and governors.

RATIFIED BY RHE Lead: Claire Walters DATE September 2022

Head Teacher: Duncan Wilson (Acting Head)

Governor: Curriculum Committee, October 2022

REVIEW DATE October 2023 (Annually)