



Westgate Primary School Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) Policy

(Based on the Leeds Healthy Schools RSE Model Policy)

1. Context – why RSE is important

We are required to teach Relationships Education as part of our PSHE curriculum. Current regulations and guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) state that from September 2020, all schools must deliver Relationships Education. High quality Relationships Education and RSE help create a safe school community in which our pupils can grow, learn and develop positive, healthy behaviour for life.

2. Development process

This policy was produced by Joanne Hattersley (PSHE Lead & Assistant Head Teacher).

From September 2020, the law requires primary schools to consult on their Relationships Education policy.

This policy was drafted by Joanne Hattersley with support of the Health and Wellbeing Service. Pupils' views were sought through 'My Health, My School Survey' and governors were consulted through governor briefings. This policy has been approved and adopted by the head teacher and governing body. The member of staff responsible for overseeing and reviewing this policy is *Joanne Hattersley*. It will be reviewed in full every 3 years.

3. Definition

Relationships and Sex Education is learning about the emotional, social and physical aspects of growing up, relationships, sex, human sexuality and sexual health. Some aspects are taught in science, and others are taught as part of personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE).

A comprehensive programme of RSE provides accurate information about the body, reproduction, sex, and sexual health. 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.

- Sex and relationships education (SRE) for the 21st century (2014)

Term definitions:

- **physical development** - *how our reproductive systems work*
- **emotions** - *how to manage feelings*
- **social aspects** - *positive and negative influences from friends*
- **healthy relationships** - *how to recognise healthy and unhealthy relationships*

4. The principles of high quality RSE in our school

Relationships and Sex Education:

- is a partnership between home and school
- ensures pupils' views are actively sought to influence lesson planning and teaching
- starts early and is relevant to pupils at each stage in their development and maturity
- is taught by people who are trained and confident in talking about issues such as healthy and unhealthy relationships, equality, pleasure, respect, abuse, sexuality, gender identity, sex and consent
- includes the acquisition of knowledge, the development of life skills and respectful attitudes and values
- has sufficient time to cover a wide range of topics, with a strong emphasis on relationships, consent, rights, responsibilities to others, negotiation and communication skills, and accessing services
- helps pupils understand on and offline safety, consent, violence and exploitation
- is both medically and factually correct and treats sex as a normal and pleasurable fact of life

- is inclusive of difference: gender identity, sexual orientation, special educational needs and disability, ethnicity, culture, age, faith or belief, or other life experience
- uses active learning methods, and is rigorously planned, assessed and evaluated
- helps pupils understand a range of views and beliefs about relationships and sex in society which may differ to their own
- teaches pupils about the law and their rights to confidentiality even if they are under 16, and is linked to school-based and community health services and organisations
- promotes equality in relationships, recognises and challenges gender inequality and reflects girls' and boys' different experiences and needs

5. Overall school aims for RSE

Our approach to RSE consists of a comprehensive and developmental programme of teaching and learning, which is delivered in the context of a Healthy School where the health and wellbeing of pupils and the whole school community are actively promoted. Our RSE programme has a positive influence on the ethos, learning and relationships throughout the school. It is central to our values and to achieving our school's stated aims and objectives. Our RSE programme helps pupils to develop the knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes they need to live confident, healthy, independent lives now and in the future.

Through the provision outlined in this policy, the school's overall aims of RSE are to teach and develop the following three main elements:

Attitudes and values:

- learn the importance of values and individual conscience and moral considerations
- learn the value of family life, marriage, and stable and loving relationships for the nurture of children
- learn the value of respect, love and care
- explore, consider and understand moral dilemmas
- develop critical thinking as part of decision-making

Personal and social skills:

- learn to manage emotions and relationships confidently and sensitively
- develop self-respect and empathy for others
- learn to make choices based on an understanding of difference and with an absence of prejudice
- develop an appreciation of the consequences of choices made
- manage conflict
- learn how to recognise and avoid exploitation and abuse

Knowledge and understanding:

- learn and understand physical development at appropriate stages
- understand human sexuality, reproduction, sexual health, emotions and relationships
- learn about contraception and the range of local and national sexual health advice, contraception and support services
- learn the reasons for delaying sexual activity, and the benefits to be gained from such delay, including the avoidance of unplanned pregnancy

Sex and Relationships Education Guidance DfEE

In addition to this, we also aim to:

- raise pupils' self-esteem and confidence
- develop communication and assertiveness skills that can help them stay true to their values if challenged by others, their peers or what they see in the media
- teach pupils to be accepting of the different beliefs, cultures, religions, sexual orientations, gender identity, physical and mental abilities, backgrounds and values of those around them
- support pupils to lead a healthy and safe lifestyle, teaching them to care for, and respect, their bodies
- provide pupils with the right tools to enable them to seek information or support, should they need it
- teach pupils about consent and their right to say no, in an age appropriate manner
- to teach lessons that are sensitive to a range of views, values and beliefs

- ensure that staff teaching RSE remain neutral in their delivery whilst ensuring that pupils always have access to the learning they need to stay safe, healthy and understand their rights as individuals

The aim of RSE is NOT to:

- encourage pupils to become sexually active at a young age
- promote a particular sexual orientation or gender identity
- sexualise children

6. The wider context of RSE

The school's RSE programme will:

- be an integral part of the lifelong learning process, beginning in early childhood and continuing into adult life
- be an entitlement for all pupils, including those with additional learning and language needs
- be set within the wider school context and support family commitment and love, respect and affection, knowledge and openness
- recognise that family is a broad concept; not just one model, e.g. nuclear family
- encourage pupils and teachers to share and respect each other's views with cultural awareness and sensitivity
- ensure pupils are aware of different approaches to sexual orientation, without promotion of any particular family structure
- recognise that parents/ carers are the key people in teaching their children about relationships, sex and growing up
- work in partnership with parents/ carers and pupils, consulting them about the content of programme
- work in partnership with other health professionals and the wider community

RSE contributes to:

- a positive ethos and environment for learning
- safeguarding pupils (Children Act 2004), promoting their emotional wellbeing, and improving their ability to achieve in school
- a better understanding of diversity and inclusion, a reduction in gender-based and homophobic, biphobic, transphobic (HBT) prejudice, bullying and violence and an understanding of the difference between consenting and exploitative relationships
- helping pupils keep themselves safe from harm, both on and offline, enjoy their relationships and build confidence in accessing services if they need help and advice
- reducing early sexual activity, teenage conceptions, sexually transmitted infections, sexual exploitation and abuse, domestic violence and bullying

7. Roles & Responsibilities

The head teacher is responsible for ensuring that RSE is taught consistently across the school, and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from non-statutory components of RSE (see appendix 2)

Specific responsibilities	Who/ role
Co-ordinating the RSE provision, ensuring a spiral curriculum	Joanne Hattersley, PSHE lead/ AHT
Accessing and co-ordinating training and support for staff	Joanne Hattersley, Helen Carpenter, head teacher, designated safeguarding lead (DSL)
Establishing and maintaining links with external agencies/ other health professionals	Helen Carpenter, Marie Colannino, SENCo/ DSL
Policy development and review, including consultation and dissemination	Joanne Hattersley

Implementation of the policy; monitoring and assessing its effectiveness in practice	Joanne Hattersley, Helen Carpenter
Managing child protection/safe guarding issues	Helen Carpenter, Marie Colannino
Establishing and maintaining links with parents/ carers	Joanne Hattersley, Helen Carpenter, Marie Colannino
Liaising with link schools to ensure a smooth transition	Helen Carpenter
Liaising with the media	Helen Carpenter

8. Language

Pupils will be taught the anatomical terms for body parts. Slang or everyday terms used in certain social circles will be discussed; this will surround discussion about what is and isn't acceptable language to use.

Agreed list of vocabulary used in school:

Vocabulary (<i>list of examples but not exhaustive</i>):
puberty, conception, pregnancy, birth, ovary, ovum, egg, fallopian tube, womb, uterus, menstruation, period, vagina, vulva, labia, clitoris, cervix, oestrogen, penis, foreskin, testicles, scrotum, epididymis, sperm, sperm ducts, prostate gland, urethra, ejaculation, erection, wet dream, testosterone, sexual intercourse, penetration, make love, pleasure, egg, ovum, foetus, zygote, embryo, umbilical cord, amniotic fluid, placenta, amniotic sac, cells, contractions, disease, infection, love, relationship, family, marriage, support, caring, loving, consent, heterosexual, gay, transgender, lesbian, bisexual, homophobic, transphobic, biphobic, homophobia, transphobia, biphobia, LGBT+

Teaching specific vocabulary in RSE	
<i>'It is good practice to use anatomical terms for genitalia and sexual parts of the body, for example vagina, breasts, penis and testicles from the offset. Having the right language to describe the private parts of their body, and knowing how to seek help if they are being abused, are vital for safeguarding. Evidence to support this approach is outlined in the Children's Commissioner Report November 2015, 'Protecting Children from harm'</i>	
Year Group introduced	Vocabulary
Reception	caring, loving, love, family, relationship, support, marriage
Year 1	Science – labelling body parts. Although the children are not required to label the male and female sex parts, if the children bring these up during teaching then the biological terms will be used = penis, vagina. Infection, disease
Years 2 & 3 (6 lessons)	Penis, vagina
Year 4 (4 lessons)	Human life cycle, puberty, reproduce (have children), bra, breasts, testicles
Year 5 (8 lessons)	Human life cycle, puberty, reproduce (have children) menstruation, period, womb, erection, ejaculation, urethra, wet dream, sperm, genitals, circumcised, uterus, orgasm, semen, sanitary towels, tampons, clitoris, foreskin, lesbian, gay, bisexual, heterosexual, identify some discriminatory language homophobia, transphobia, bi-phobic, bi-phobia, transgender, transphobic
Year 6 (7 lessons)	Consenting adults, sexual intercourse, make love, pleasure, conception, penetration, uterus, sperm ducts, contractions, fallopian tube, placenta, ejaculation, amniotic sac/fluid, foetus, ovum, ovary, zygote, embryo, cervix, umbilical cord, nipples, scrotum, clitoris, anus, womb
Additional Year 6 unit (3 lessons) <i>Dependent on the cohort</i>	Consenting adults, HIV, contraception <i>Female genital mutilation</i>

Respectful Language

The use of respectful language which challenges sexism, homophobia and other forms of prejudice will be established in RSE but will have benefits for the whole school community, both in and out of lessons; it helps to ensure we are a happy and healthy place to learn. Ofsted found that casual use of homophobic language in schools is often unchallenged (2013) – we always challenge it. The casual use of homophobic, biphobic and transphobic language in school will be challenged and pupils will be made aware that using the word ‘gay’ to mean something is rubbish is wrong and will not be tolerated. To tackle this, staff might say: ‘you’ve used the word ‘gay’, but not in the right way.’

As a result, pupils will hear references to, for example, ‘gay’, ‘straight’ and different kinds of relationships as part of teaching and assemblies, for example when we talk about rights, respect or relationships.

9. Answering questions

We acknowledge that potentially sensitive or controversial issues will arise as pupils will naturally share information and ask questions. ‘They will often ask their teachers or other adults questions pertaining to sex or sexuality which go beyond what’s prescribed for Relationships Education. We also acknowledge that children of the same age may be developmentally at different stages leading to differing types of questions or behaviours.’

When spontaneous discussions arise, it is guided in a way that reflects the stated school aims and curriculum content for RSE. As a first principle, we answer questions relating to taught, planned curriculum for that age group to the whole class. We answer questions, where appropriate, relating to areas beyond the taught, planned curriculum for that age group, in a sensitive and age appropriate way, only to the pupil or pupils who have asked the question. If a member of staff is uncertain about the answer to a question, or indeed whether they should answer it, they will seek guidance from the RSE leader/ designated safeguarding lead. Questions may be referred to parents/ carers if it is not appropriate to answer them in school. We will also use a question box where questions may be asked anonymously.

When answering questions, we ensure that sharing personal information by adults, pupils or their families is discouraged. Where a question or comment from a pupil in the classroom indicates the possibilities of abuse or risk of harm, teachers will pass this information to the designated person for safeguarding and child protection, in line with school policy and procedures.

Staff training will include sessions on how to deal with difficult questions. Agreed phrases, where appropriate, will be used in response to difficult questions. Phrases we will use are: *‘I can only answer questions on the content of this lesson’ or ‘That is something that may be covered later on’ or ‘I can’t answer that question, but you could ask your parents/ carers’*

Ground rules are essential when discussing sensitive subject matters. Staff will establish clear parameters about what is appropriate and inappropriate in a whole-class setting by for example:

- staff will set the tone by speaking in a matter-of-fact way
- pupils will be encouraged to write down questions, anonymously if desired, and post them in a question box or ask-it basket
- staff will have time to prepare answers to all questions before the next session, and will choose not to respond in a whole-class setting to any questions that are inappropriate or need one-to-one follow up
- if a verbal question is too personal, staff will remind the pupils of the ground rules
- if a question is too explicit, feels too old for a pupil, is inappropriate for the whole class, or raises concerns, staff will acknowledge it and promise to attend to it later on an individual basis
- staff will not provide more information than is appropriate to the age/developmental level of the pupil
- if staff are concerned that a pupil is at risk of abuse, the designated teacher will be informed and the usual child protection procedures followed.

10. Key responsibilities for RSE

i) All staff

All staff will:

- ensure that they are up to date with school policy and curriculum requirements regarding RSE
- attend and engage in professional development training around RSE provision, including individual and whole staff training/inset, where appropriate
- attend staff meetings to be introduced to any new areas of work and review the effectiveness of the approaches used
- report back to the RSE Coordinator on any areas that they feel are not covered or inadequately provided for in the school's RSE provision, including resources
- encourage pupils to communicate concerns regarding their social, personal and emotional development in confidence and listen to their needs and support them
- follow the school's reporting systems if a pupil comes to a member of staff with an issue that they feel they are not able to deal with alone
- ensure that their personal beliefs and attitudes will not prevent them from providing balanced RSE in school
- tailor their lessons to suit all pupils in their class, across the whole range of abilities, faiths, beliefs, culture, gender identity and sexual orientations, including SEND
- ask for support in this from the school SEND coordinator or the RSE Coordinator, should they need it

ii) Lead member/s of staff

The lead member/s of staff will receive training in their role and responsibilities. This supports them to lead on the development of the school's policy and practice and to monitor its implementation. This practice includes the curriculum and approaches to teaching and learning, as well as whole school approaches to health and wellbeing.

The lead member/s of staff will:

- develop the school policy and review it on a 2 year basis
- ensure all members of the governing body will be offered appropriate RSE training
- ensure that all staff are given regular and ongoing training on issues relating to RSE as well as how to deliver lessons on such issues
- ensure that all staff are up to date with policy changes, and familiar with school policy and guidance relating to RSE, including new staff or supply staff
- provide support to staff members who feel uncomfortable or ill-equipped to deal with the delivery of RSE to pupils
- ensure that RSE is age appropriate and needs-led across all year groups; this means ensuring that the curriculum develops as the pupils do and meets their needs
- ensure that the knowledge and information regarding RSE to which all pupils are entitled is provided in a comprehensive way
- support parent/carer involvement in the development of the RSE curriculum
- ensure that their personal beliefs, values and attitudes will not prevent them from providing balanced RSE in school
- communicate freely with staff, parents/ carers and the governing body to ensure that everyone is in understanding of the school policy and curriculum for RSE, and that any concerns or opinions regarding the provision at the school are listened to, taken into account and acted on as appropriate
- share the school's provision for RSE with parents/ carers in order to ensure they can support this at home
- communicate to parents/ carers any additional support that is available from the school to support them with RSE at home

iii) Governors

The governing body as a whole plays an active role in monitoring, developing and reviewing the policy and its implementation in school. When aspects of RSE appear in the School Improvement Plan, a governor will be assigned to reflect on, monitor and review the work as appropriate.

As well as fulfilling their legal obligations, the governing body will also make sure that:

- all pupils make progress in achieving the expected educational outcomes

- the subjects are well led, effectively managed and well planned;
- the quality of provision is subject to regular and effective self-evaluation;
- teaching is delivered in ways that are accessible to all pupils with SEND;
- clear information is provided for parents on the subject content and the right to request that their child is withdrawn from appropriate areas
- the subjects are resourced, staffed and timetabled in a way that ensures that the school can fulfil its legal obligations

iv) Pupils

All pupils:

- are expected to attend the statutory National Curriculum Science elements of the RSE curriculum and the statutory Relationships Education and Health Education curriculum
- should support one another with issues that arise through RSE by, for example, alerting relevant members of staff to any potential worries or issues
- will listen in class, be considerate of other people's feelings and beliefs and comply with the ground rules that are set in class
- will have the opportunity to talk to a member of staff, in confidence, regarding any concerns they have in school related to RSE or otherwise
- will be asked for feedback on the school's RSE provision throughout the topic and through our MHMS survey and be expected to take this responsibility seriously; opinions on provision and comments will be reviewed by the lead member/s of staff for RSE and taken into consideration when the curriculum is prepared for the following year's pupils

v) Parents/ Carers

The role of parents in the development of their children's understanding about relationships is vital. Parents are the first teachers of their children. They have the most significant influence in enabling their children to grow and mature and to form healthy relationships. The DfE has produced a [guide for parents](#) about RSE.

The school will:

- work closely with parents/ carers when planning and delivering RSE
- ensure that parents/ carers know what will be taught and when, and clearly communicate the fact that parents have the right to request that their child be withdrawn from some or all of sex education delivered as part of RSE
- give parents/ carers every opportunity to understand the purpose and content of relationships education and RSE
- communicate and give opportunities for parents/ carers to understand and ask questions about the school's approach help increase confidence in the curriculum
- build a good relationship with parents/ carers on these subjects over time by inviting parents into school to discuss what will be taught, address any concerns and help support them in managing conversations with their children on these issues
- encourage parents/ carers to create an open home environment where pupils can engage, discuss and continue to learn about matters that have been raised through RSE
- will reach out to all parents, including those who are hard to engage, recognising that a range of approaches may be needed for doing so

The right to withdraw

Parents/ carers cannot withdraw their child from the statutory sex education content included in National Curriculum for Science which includes content on human development, including reproduction. Parents/ carers also cannot withdraw their child from Relationships Education or Health Education because it is important that all children receive this content, covering topics such as friendships, how to stay safe and puberty. However, they do have the right to request that their child be withdrawn from some or all of sex education delivered as part of the non-statutory RSE, delivered as part of the PSHE curriculum.

Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing using the form found in Appendix 2 of this policy and addressed to the head teacher. Before granting any such the head teacher will discuss this request with parents/ carers and, as appropriate, with the child to ensure that their wishes are understood and to clarify the nature and purpose of the curriculum. This process will be documented to ensure a record is kept.

The head teacher will also discuss with parents/ carers the benefits of receiving this important education and any detrimental effects that withdrawal might have on the child. This will include any social and emotional effects of being excluded, as well as the likelihood of the child hearing their peers' version of what was said in the classes, rather than what was directly said by the teacher.

RSE is a vital part of the school curriculum and supports child development and we strongly advise parents/ carers to carefully consider their decision before withdrawing their child from this aspect of school life. It is acknowledged however that the final decision on the issue is for the parents/ carers to take and the child and family should not be stigmatised for the decision.

The school provides an information leaflet to parents/ carers to provide further information on understanding Relationships Education. Support materials for home use will be offered. The school's arrangements for pupils withdrawn from RSE are to give parents the support materials to encourage them to deliver the session at home.

11. Staff Support & CPD

It is important that all staff feel comfortable to deliver RSE lessons. The school provides regular professional development training in how to deliver RSE. Staff, including non-teaching staff, CPD needs are identified and met through the following ways:

- training and support is organised by Joanne Hattersley
- staff will be offered generic RSE training which includes sessions on: confidentiality, creating a ground rules, handling controversial issues, responding to awkward questions, an introduction to the rationale of why teaching RSE is so important, current law and guidance, learning outcomes and school policy.
- staff involved in the delivery of issues seen as potentially more sensitive will be offered appropriate training to encourage confidence in dealing with matters of confidentiality, child protection, sensitive issues and potentially difficult questions
- the school nurse will provide support and resources

12. RSE Provision

Statutory aspects of Sex Education within the National Curriculum Science

All schools must teach the following as part of the National Curriculum Science; parents/ carers do not have the right to withdraw their child/children from this.

National Curriculum Science:

<p>Key Stage 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify, name, draw and label the basic parts of the human body and say which part of the body is associated with each sense • notice that animals, including humans, have offspring which grow into adults • describe the importance for humans of hygiene 	<p>Key Stage 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
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Statutory aspects of Relationships Education:

Families and people who care for me	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that families are important for children 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.
Caring friendships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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, and 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, managing conflict, how to manage these situations and how to seek help or advice from others, if needed.
Respectful relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the importance of respecting others, even when they are very different from them (for example, physically, in character, personality or backgrounds), or make different choices or have different preferences or beliefs. • 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 in 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 different types of bullying (including cyberbullying), the impact of bullying, responsibilities of bystanders (primarily reporting bullying to an adult) and how to get help. • what a stereotype is, and how stereotypes can be unfair, negative or destructive. • the importance of permission-seeking and giving in relationships with friends, peers and adults.
Online relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that people sometimes behave differently online, including by 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 including when we are anonymous. • the rules and principles for keeping safe online, how to recognise risks, harmful content and contact, and how to report them. • how to critically consider their online friendships and sources of information including awareness of the risks associated with people they have never met. • how information and data is shared and used online.
Being safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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; including 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) whom they do not know. • how to recognise and report feelings of being unsafe or feeling bad about any adult.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how to ask for advice or help for themselves or 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 get advice e.g. family, school and/or other sources.
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Statutory aspects of Health Education (which apply to RSE)

Health and prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • about personal hygiene and germs including bacteria, viruses, how they are spread and treated, and the importance of handwashing.
Changing adolescent body	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 including the key facts about the menstrual cycle.

The needs of pupils

We recognise that an interactive approach to RSE will better develop the skills of our pupils and also that it is more likely to meet their needs. We involve pupils in the planning, development and evaluation of their RSE in ways appropriate to their age, stage and development.

We will involve pupils through:

- discussions with small groups of pupils
- questionnaires/surveys (e.g. the My Health My School Survey)
- pupil focus groups formed specifically for RSE
- use of the RSE consultation toolkit
- pre and post assessment activities for RSE
- school council meetings
- full class consultation activities which ensure all pupils have a voice in the process

Topics to be covered

The Relationships Education, Health education and RSE curriculum we follow within in PSHE is the ‘You, Me and PSHE’ scheme of work.

Delivery of RSE

Pupils receive their entitlement for RSE through a spiral curriculum which demonstrates progression. The RSE programme units are shown on the Whole School PSHE Curriculum above. The teachers at Westgate Primary School can make professional judgements as to whether to deliver the units sooner. PSHE sessions are either timetable weekly or blocked. The RSE programme is complemented and enhanced with Mindmate sessions, assemblies and enrichment days / weeks. The RSE programme is delivered through a variety of opportunities including:

- designated RSE time
- frequency of sessions
- use of external agencies/services
- school ethos
- small group work
- cross curricular links e.g. science
- assemblies

Working with visitors and other external agencies

Where appropriate, we may use visitors from external agencies or members of the community to support RSE. Working with external organisations enhances delivery of RSE, bringing in specialist knowledge, which gives different ways of engaging with our pupils.

When using visitors, the school's policy on use of visitors will be used. A teacher will be present throughout these lessons. Visitors will be given a copy of this policy, and any other relevant policies, and expected to comply with the guidelines outlined within it. Our partnership with the local community is also a priority, and we recognise and value its contribution to the RSE programme.

We will ensure that the teaching delivered by the visitor fits with our planned programme and policy. We will discuss the detail of how the visitor will deliver their sessions and ensure that the content is age-appropriate and accessible for our pupils. We will ask to see the materials visitors will use as well as a lesson plan in advance, so that we can ensure it meets the full range of pupils' needs.

We will agree in advance of the session how confidentiality will work in any lesson and how a safeguarding report should be dealt with by the external visitor. It is also important that children understand how confidentiality will be handled in a lesson and what might happen if they choose to make a report.

Use of visitors will be to enhance teaching by an appropriate member of the teaching staff, rather than as a replacement for teaching by those staff.

Before involving visitors in any aspect of RSE, teachers will ensure that:

- the visitor understands the school's confidentiality policy, values and approach to the educational programme
- there is appropriate planning, preparatory and follow up work for the sessions
- the visitor understands the emotional, intellectual, cultural, religious, social and ability level of the pupils involved, including where there may be a specific issue relating to child protection
- the teacher needs to be part of the experience in order for the pupils to value the lessons and to build on the pupils' learning after the session/s as well as answer any questions the pupils may subsequently have

Inclusion, equality and diversity

We are required by law to comply with relevant requirements of the Equality Act 2010. All pupils are entitled to quality RSE that helps them build confidence and a positive sense of self, and to stay healthy. We include all pupils regardless of their age, sex, race, disability, religion or belief, gender reassignment, or sexual orientation.

All classes include pupils with different abilities and aptitudes, experiences, religious/ cultural backgrounds, gender and sexual identities. To encourage pupils to participate in lessons, teachers will ensure content, approach and use of inclusive language reflects the diversity of the school community and helps each and every pupil to feel valued and included in the classroom.

We promote the needs and interest of all pupils. The school's approaches to teaching and learning take into account all needs of the pupils to ensure all can access the full RSE provision. We promote social learning and expect our pupils to show a high regard for the needs of others. RSE is an important vehicle for addressing controversial and sensitive issues and ensuring equal opportunities for all.

Responding to pupils' diverse learning needs:

Considerations will be made for:

- religious and cultural diversity
- differing gender needs and abilities, including SEND
- diverse sexuality of pupils
- homophobic/transphobic/biphobic bullying and behaviour
- pupil's age and physical and emotional maturity
- pupils who are new to English

Ethnicity, religion and cultural diversity:

Our policy values the different backgrounds of all pupils in school and, in acknowledging and exploring different views and beliefs, seeks to promote respect and understanding. We encourage respect for all religions and cultures. We do not ask pupils to represent the views of a particular religious or cultural group to their peers, unless they choose to do so.

Single gender groups:

Our policy is sensitive to the needs of different groups. For some pupils, it may be more appropriate for them to be taught particular topics in single gender groups. We will consult parents/ carers and pupils both on what is included, and on how it is delivered. This will help pupils and their families to establish what is appropriate and acceptable for them. Working in single gender groups can considerably ease concerns about RSE, and help to ensure that pupils receive the RSE to which they are entitled. Single gender groups can also help boys and girls to feel safer and less embarrassed about airing issues and discussing relationships. Where single gender groups are used for pupils, they will always be given time after the sessions to come together in a controlled environment to share and discuss what they have learnt, before leaving the classroom.

Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND):

RSE helps all pupils understand their physical and emotional development and enable them to make positive decisions in their lives. We ensure that all pupils receive RSE and we offer provision appropriate to the particular needs of our pupils, taking specialist advice where necessary. Staff will differentiate lessons to ensure that all members of the class can access the information fully. The school will use a variety of different strategies to ensure that all pupils have access to the same information.

Some pupils will be more vulnerable to abuse and exploitation than their peers, and others may be confused about what is acceptable public behaviour. These pupils will need help to develop skills to reduce the risks of being abused and exploited, and to learn what sorts of behaviour are, and are not, acceptable.

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Plus (LGBT+):

We have a clear duty under the Equality Act 2010 to ensure that our teaching is accessible to all pupils, including those who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or + (LGBT+). Inclusive RSE will foster good relations between pupils, tackle all types of prejudice, including homophobia, and promote understanding and respect, enabling us to meet the requirements, and live the intended spirit, of the Equality Act 2010.

We will deal sensitively and honestly with issues of sexual orientation and identity, answer appropriate questions and offer support. Pupils, whatever their developing sexuality or identity, need to feel that RSE is relevant to them. Teachers will never assume that all intimate relationships are between opposite sexes. Information will be inclusive and will include LGBT people in stories, scenarios and role-plays. We will ensure all pupils can explore topics from a different gender's point of view, and a variety of activities, including practical tasks, discussions, group activities and competitions. We will also ensure that our teaching is sensitive and age appropriate in approach and content.

Pupils who are new to English



The school will take into account the language skills of individual pupils, ensuring that all pupils have equal access to the RSE provision and resources.

Resources

We use primarily the Leeds Scheme, 'You, Me and PSHE' and the resources recommended within it. We will focus on the needs of the pupils and our planned learning objectives. We select carefully resources which meet these objectives. We evaluate carefully teacher resources, leaflets, online resources and videos before using them (see checklist below).

We use children's books, both fiction and non-fiction, extensively within our RSE programme. Teachers will always read and assess the books before using them to ensure they are appropriate for the planned work. They will also consider the needs and circumstances of individual pupils in class when reading texts, in case they need to have a preparatory conversation with a pupil before the teaching takes place, for instance.

Key texts and resources we will use for RSE are:

-  Leeds PSHE Scheme of Work RSE modules (available from the Health and Wellbeing Service)
-  Resources as identified in the medium term plans for the RSE modules including Channel 4 - Living & Growing series

i) Learning environment and additional non-negotiable ground rules

Staff are careful to ensure their personal beliefs and attitudes do not influence the teaching of RSE. To this end, ground rules have been agreed to provide a framework of common values within which to teach. There are clear parameters as to what will be taught in a whole-class setting, and what will be dealt with on an individual basis.

In addition to the ground rules used in PSHE, we will develop non-negotiable ground rules for lessons and discussions related to RSE. If pupils are to benefit fully from an RSE programme, they need to be confident speakers, good listeners and effective, sensitive communicators. When the needs of pupils are analysed, of overriding importance are two key areas: they need to feel safe and be safe. Additional, non-negotiable ground rules will help staff to create a safe and relaxed environment in which they do not feel embarrassed or anxious about unexpected questions or comments from the pupils. They also reduce the possibility of inappropriate behaviour and the disclosure of inappropriate personal information.

Our additional, non-negotiable ground rules are:

- Confidentiality: 'what is said in the room, stays in the room' except if anyone mentions something which could be harmful or put them at risk – then will have to pass the information on to help keep them safe
- It's not OK to ask personal questions of each other or the teacher but we can put questions in the box for later.
- Don't use names: if you want to ask about or share a personal story or experience, you can speak in the third person about 'someone I know', 'a friend', 'a situation I've heard about/read about'
- We will try to only ask questions related to what we are learning in the lesson.
- We will use the anatomical terms for the sexual body parts.
- It is ok to say pass / not join in.
- We will respect different opinions, situations & backgrounds.

ii) Assessment, recording and reporting in RSE

We assess pupils' learning in RSE in line with approaches used in the rest of the curriculum (including assessment for learning). We report to parents/ carers at the end of the school year on pupils' learning and progress within RSE.

Assessment methods:

- baseline or pre-assessment (essential for needs-led RSE)
- needs assessment is used to identify existing knowledge and skills of pupils
- assessment is built into the RSE programme to inform planning
- summative assessment takes place at the end of each unit
- pupil self-assessment is used where appropriate
- assessment focuses on knowledge as well as skill development and attitudes
- teachers will keep a note of pupils who have missed some or the entire module due to absence from school
- pupil progress and achievement is reported to parents/ carers as part of PSHE
- pupil achievement in RSE is celebrated and shared

13. Safeguarding and Child Protection

Westgate Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of all children and expects our staff, visitors and volunteers to share this commitment.

RSE plays a very important part in fulfilling the statutory duties all schools have to meet and the RSE policy should be closely aligned to the school's safeguarding policy. RSE helps pupils understand the difference between safe and abusive relationships and equips them with the knowledge and skills to get help if they need it. The use of the correct anatomical terms for body parts helps to ensure that children are able to describe abusive behaviours if they need to.

When teaching any sensitive issue young people may give cause for concern, and a link needs to be made with the pastoral system and safeguarding arrangements. All adults involved in RSE delivery need to be aware of the pastoral system and safeguarding arrangements in place.

If adults have any reason to believe a pupil is at risk, then they must follow the Child Protection procedures and alert designated staff immediately.

14. Confidentiality in the context of RSE lessons

The nature of RSE means that pupils may disclose personal information that staff will respond to appropriately. The classroom is never a confidential place to talk, and that remains true in RSE. Pupils will be reminded that lessons are not a place to discuss their personal experiences and issues, or to ask others to do so, through the establishment of ground rules. Any visitor to the classroom will be bound by the school's policy on confidentiality, regardless of whether they have, or their organisation has, a different policy. We will make sure visitors are aware of this, and make sure there are enough opportunities for pupils to access confidential support after the lesson if they need it.

Any information disclosed to a staff member or other responsible adult, which causes concern about the child's safety, will be communicated to the designated person as soon as possible and always within 24 hours, in line with our safeguarding and child protection policy.

If a pupil tells a health professional, such as the school nurse, something personal on a one-to-one basis outside of the classroom, our school's confidentiality policy will help us to decide whether that person can keep that information confidential, or whether they need to seek help, advice, or refer to someone else. We will also signpost pupils and their families, where appropriate, to on and offline community, health and counselling services so pupils know where to go for confidential help and advice.

Techniques used in school to minimise the chance of pupils making a disclosure in an RSE lesson include:

- depersonalising discussion
- puppets
- using role play to 'act out' scenarios
- appropriate DVDs and TV extracts
- case studies with invented characters
- visits to/from outside agencies

15. Support

We hope that pupils will feel safe in the school environment to talk to any member of staff in confidence about any areas of concern regarding their personal, social or emotional development, including matters raised by, or relating to, RSE. We promote the school ethos as one of inclusion and acceptance throughout all areas of school activity and hope that pupils respond to this by feeling comfortable to ask questions and continue their learning both in and outside of the classroom.

16. Advice and treatment

There is no reason for staff to expect to be made aware of a pupil or colleague's HIV or hepatitis status, and no person will be discriminated against because of this if there is a disclosure of this type of information.

The school's **first aid policy** covers protection for all school members against infection from blood-borne viruses.

17. Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

Monitoring activities

- recording of pupil attendance in RSE lessons
- a system for regular review of the RSE policy and programme
- pupil and staff interviews/ questionnaires
- pupil/ staff/ parent surveys
- samples of pupils' work

Evaluation activities

- teacher and pupil evaluation of lessons, units and the overall RSE programme
- evaluation of contributions of external partners
- feedback and evaluation by pupils
- pre and post assessments
- sampling pupils' work and portfolios

Review

This policy was agreed by staff and adopted by governors in October 2020. It will be reviewed as part of a three year cycle, in October 2023, or earlier if legislation requires.

Signed: **Head Teacher**

Signed: **(on behalf of the governing body)**

Date: **19/10/2020**

See also the following policies:

- Child Protection/Safeguarding Children (including FGM)
- Confidentiality
- Equal Opportunities
- SEN/Inclusion
- Behaviour/Anti-bullying
- Continued Professional Development
- Assessment, Recording and Reporting
- Teaching and Learning
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Visitors in School
- Science/curriculum

Appendix 1: Further references and sources of information and support

Local and national websites

Healthy relationships, sexual consent, exploitation and abuse:

- Information about FGM can be found at: www.forwarduk.org.uk
- Good practice examples and guidance on consent: www.pshe-association.org.uk/consent
- Home Office guidance; this is abuse: <http://thisisabuse.direct.gov.uk/>
- Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) has produced a series of resources which are available at: www.ceop.police.uk and www.thinkuknow.co.uk
- Brook has produced a Traffic Light Tool to help professionals assess whether children's sexual behaviours are healthy or unhealthy: www.brook.org.uk/traffic-lights
- Ask Brook about relationships, safety and risks, available at: www.brook.org.uk/shop
- Alright Charlie - Blast have designed this CSE resource in consultation with CSE professionals, primary schools teachers and children in years 5 and 6 in primary schools. This resource is designed for use with children aged 9-11 in primary schools and aims to highlight the warning signs of grooming in an age appropriate way. <https://basisyorkshire.org.uk/resource/alright-charlie-cse-primary-school-resource/>

Violence within relationships:

- The Against Violence and Abuse Project provides further information, advice and guidance: www.avaproject.org.uk
- Rape Crisis provides help and advice to those affected by rape, sexual violence and child sexual abuse: www.rapecrisis.org.uk
- Providing support to people in the Leeds District whose lives have been affected by domestic violence and abuse: <http://www.behind-closed-doors.org.uk/>

Teaching about pornography:

- Growing Up Safe, from Big Talk Education, for primary schools: <http://www.bigtalkeducation.co.uk/resources-for-primaries.html>

Teaching about sexting:

- The NSPCC has produced resources to make it easier for children to get help about sexting: <http://www.childline.org.uk/explore/onlinesafety/pages/sexting.aspx>
- Big Talk has produced resources to help primary school teachers discuss a range of difficult issues – including sexting and explicit images – with children: <http://www.bigtalkeducation.co.uk/resources-for-primaries.html>
- CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection) has developed www.thinkuknow.co.uk, which contains a number of resources exploring the risks children face online, including two films that address sexting issues: Exposed and First to a Million.
- Brook has produced a leaflet for young people called Ask Brook about relationships, safety and risk, which addresses on and offline safety and is supported by CEOP: <http://www.brook.org.uk/shop>

Inclusive RSE:

- Stonewall has produced a series of packs and information for schools. Details are available at: www.stonewall.org.uk
- Brook has produced packs to help those who work with diverse groups of children, available at: www.brook.org.uk/shop including:

Local sources of support:

www.schoolwellbeing.co.uk
www.healthyschools.org.uk
www.leedsforlearning.co.uk

<http://www.leeds.gov.uk/phrc/Pages/default.aspx>
www.leeds.gov.uk/phrc/Pages/public-health-training.aspx
<https://www.leedsscp.org.uk/Home>
<http://leedssexualhealth.com>
<http://www.themarketplaceleeds.org.uk/>
<http://mesmac.co.uk/>
<https://www.mindmate.org.uk/>

National sources of support:

<http://www.nhs.uk/Livewell/Sexualhealthtopics/Pages/Sexual-health-hub.aspx><https://www.brook.org.uk/>
<http://www.fpa.org.uk/>
<http://www.sexeducationforum.org.uk/>
<https://www.pshe-association.org.uk/>
<http://www.stonewall.org.uk/>
<http://www.bodysense.org.uk/>
www.riseabove.org.uk
<http://www.nat.org.uk/>
<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/>
<https://www.childline.org.uk>

Appendix 2: Parental request for withdrawal from sex education within RSE

TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENTS			
Name of child		Class	
Name of parent		Date	
Reason for withdrawing from sex education within relationships and sex education			
Any other information you would like the school to consider			
Parent signature			

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE SCHOOL			
Agreed actions from discussion with parents			
Staff member:		Date:	