



Relationships and Sex Education Policy



Orchard Meadow Primary School

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Orchard Meadow Primary takes its responsibility to provide relevant, effective and responsible relationship and sex education (RSE) and Health education to all its pupils as part of the school's personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE) curriculum very seriously. We use the [PSHE Association Scheme of Work](#) supplemented by additional resources and learning relevant to the school community. The school wants parents and pupils to feel assured that sex education will be delivered at a level appropriate to both the age and development of pupils, and that it is safe to voice opinions and concerns relating to the sex education provision.

Personal, Social, Health and Economic curriculum is delivered weekly on the timetable, please see the [link to](#) the website for further information on curriculum plans. Where it is appropriate the school will use outside agencies to complement and support the delivery of the programme of study, for example, Thames Valley Police.

This policy framework should be read in conjunction with the more detailed **United Learning Relationships, Sex and Health Education Policy Statement** for schools, and the [DfE guidance](#) regarding relationships and sex education. Its purpose is to enable those schools which choose to teach sex education (additional to that taught under the science curriculum) to develop an effective Relationship and Sex Education Policy, using the framework set out below.

Introduction

A brief definition of Relationships and Sex Education should be provided. Its objective is to enable pupils to learn about:

- (i) families and people who care for them, including the nature of marriage and civil partnership and their importance for family life and the bringing up of children,
- (ii) forming and maintaining caring relationships,
- (iii) the characteristics of healthy and respectful relationships, including online,
- (iv) how relationships may affect physical and mental health and wellbeing, and how to ensure they are safe,
- (v) **(strictly at an age appropriate level)** intimate and sexual relationships including sexual health.

Relationship and sex education will only use teaching and materials which are appropriate to the age and the religious background of the pupils receiving it.

Sex education is not compulsory in primary schools. This version of United Learning policy framework is designed for those United Learning primary schools that choose to teach some aspects of sex education (appropriately tailored to the age, physical and emotional maturity of the pupils) and can continue to do so under the new statutory framework, providing this is outlined in the school's policy. Particular attention should be paid to the latter years of primary school and ensuring pupils are well prepared for the transition

to secondary school. With that in mind, primary schools should consult with parents before the final year/s of primary school about the detailed content of what will be taught, including offering parents support in talking to their children about sex education and how to link this with what is being taught in school.

This policy has been developed in consultation with parents, pupils and staff from the school to ensure that it meets the school community. The policy is available on the relevant school website and is reviewed and approved by the governing body annually.

The policy will be reviewed in Summer Term 2026. The school will gather parent and pupil voice through electronic newsletter forms and pupil conferencing.

1. Policy aims

Through the delivery of high quality, evidence-based and age-appropriate RSE and Health Education, the school aims to help prepare pupils for the onset of puberty, give them an understanding of sexual development and the importance of health and hygiene, create a positive culture in relation to sexuality and relationships and to ensure pupils know how and when to ask for help and where to access support. By the end of their education the school hopes pupils will have developed resilience and feelings of self-respect, confidence and empathy in preparation for the responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

2. Definitions

Relationships education

Relationships education is about pupils being taught different relationships including about friendships, family and the people that can help them. Respect for others is also taught in an age-appropriate way with a focus on healthy relationships that pupils will encounter. This also applies to online relationships to ensure that children are safe when online and how others can use their information in a way that they may not expect.

This teaching will include different types of family that provide a nurturing environment for children, including for example single parent families, families headed by grandparents, adoptive parents, LGBTQ+ parents among others. The purpose of this is to ensure that there is no stigmatisation of different families and to show people come from different backgrounds.

Relationships and sex education (RSE)

RSE is lifelong learning about physical, sexual, moral and emotional development. It is about teaching sex, sexuality and sexual health in a way that gives pupils the confidence to make sound decisions when facing risks and other challenges. It includes teaching about friendship, the importance of caring, stable and mutually supportive relationships with another person, and how to control and understand feelings that come with being in a relationship.

RSE does not encourage early sexual experimentation. It teaches children and young people to understand human sexuality and to respect themselves and others, to build self-esteem and understand the reasons for delaying sexual activity so that they can develop safe, fulfilling and healthy sexual relationships, at the appropriate time.

RSE will outline that there are different types of committed, stable relationships, the characteristics and legal status of other types of long-term relationships, the importance of marriage as a relationship choice and why it must be freely entered into, how relationships might contribute to human happiness and the

their importance for raising children, as well as highlighting the roles and responsibilities of parents with respect to raising children, characteristics of successful parenting and how to judge when relationships have become unsafe as well as how to seek help or advice and report concerns about others.

3. Roles and responsibilities

Governors will monitor and evaluate the impact of the policy by reviewing pupils' progress in achieving the expected educational outcomes. They will hold the Headteacher to account for the implementation of the policy.

The Headteacher with support from their respective Senior Leadership Team, will ensure that staff are supported and up to date with policy changes. They will ensure that RSE and Health Education is well led, effectively managed and well planned across various subjects (to avoid unnecessary duplication of topics) and that the quality of provision is subject to regular and effective self-evaluation. The Headteacher will ensure that teaching is age appropriate, delivered in ways that are accessible to all pupils with SEND and that the subjects are resourced, staffed and timetabled appropriately. They will ensure that teaching

delivered by any external organisation is age appropriate and accessible for pupils and will liaise with parents regarding any concerns or opinions regarding RSE and Health Education provision and will manage parental requests for withdrawal of pupils from non-statutory, non-science components of RSE.

Staff

Teachers of RSE and Health Education will ensure that they are up to date with school policy and curriculum requirements regarding sex education and will attend and engage in professional development training. Teachers will encourage pupils to communicate concerns regarding their social, personal and emotional development in confidence, listen to their needs and support them seriously. Support will be offered in terms of subject knowledge and professional development.

Parents

The school expects parents to share the responsibility of sex education and support their children's personal, social and emotional development. We encourage parents to create an open home environment where pupils can engage, discuss and continue to learn about matters that have been raised through school PSHE curriculum. Parents are also encouraged to seek additional support in this from the school where they feel it is needed. The school website will have a dedicated page to provide advice and information.

Orchard Meadow: [Information Page and Safeguarding](#)

Pupils

Pupils are expected to attend sex education classes that are in their school timetable and take them seriously. Although they are not assessed through examination, these classes are still a very important part of the curriculum and a tool to aid personal development and the school expects pupils to recognise this. Pupils should support one another with issues that arise through RSE. Listening in class, being considerate of other people's feelings and beliefs. Complying with confidentiality rules that are set in class are key to effective provision. Pupils who regularly fail to follow these standards of behaviour will be supported in line with the **school behaviour policy** (this can be accessed through the school's website).

We also hope that pupils will feel comfortable to talk to a member of staff, in confidence, regarding any concerns they have in school related to relationships, sex education or otherwise.

4. Implementation and curriculum

It is important that the school implements the Relationships, Sex and Health policy consistently throughout

the school year and provides effective provision throughout classrooms. We encourage teachers to provide classes that are specific to the needs of the pupils in that class, and responsive to their behaviour and development.

Through this aspect of our curriculum we aim to explore different attitudes, values and social labels, and develop skills that will enable our pupils to make informed decisions regarding RSE and Health Education. It is important that pupils know the difference between fact, opinion and belief.

The Relationships and Health Education will be delivered in the PSHE curriculum and science. The school understands that different pupils of the same age may develop at different stages and staff will be able to plan provision to take into account these differences.

Appendix 1 sets out the themes that will be taught to pupils before the end of primary. Given the age of primary pupils, the focus of the curriculum is around relationships of pupils, with their family members, friends and online relationships.

[The school does provide sex education beyond the national curriculum for science, with details on content included at the end of Appendix 1.]

The school wishes to promote pupils' health and well-being by encouraging self-control, their ability to self-regulate and strategies for doing so. This will enable pupils to become confident in their ability to achieve well and persevere even when they encounter setbacks or when their goals are distant, and to respond calmly and rationally to setbacks and challenges. The school believes that an integrated, whole-school approach to the teaching and promotion of health and wellbeing will have a positive impact on behaviour and attainment. Health Education will be delivered within physical education, science, Personal, Social and Health Education, assemblies and themed days.

By the end of their primary education the school expects pupils to know the information set out in the Appendix.

Dealing with difficult questions

Staff training will include sessions on how to deal with difficult questions. There may still be times when staff are faced with a difficult question in class that they feel uncomfortable or ill equipped to answer. In this case, they may wish to put the question to one side and seek advice from the safeguarding team or Senior Leadership Team.

Ground rules in class are essential when discussing sensitive subject matter. Some strategies staff may use to support this might be:

- an anonymous question box; this will enable pupils to feel more comfortable to ask questions without being identified
- making the classroom a zone of silence; this means that whatever is discussed in the classroom stays in the classroom and should not be brought up at any other time. We hope this will give pupils the sense that they are in a safe zone to speak freely about sex and relationships.

Pupils with special educational needs

The school works hard to ensure that all aspects of the school curriculum are inclusive and support the needs of pupils of all ranges of abilities. Staff should differentiate lessons to ensure that all members of the class can access the information fully, and this is no different when it comes to RSE and health education. The school will use a variety of different strategies to ensure that all pupils have access to the same information. Some of these include:

- use of expert guest speakers e.g school health nurses
- using visual aids such as film
- practical supporting activities
- social stories
- group and paired activities

Withdrawal from RSE

The school hopes that parents will feel comfortable with, and understand the importance of, the education provided to their children as described in this policy.

Parents of children in primary school have the right to withdraw their child from sex education and should state this in writing and send it to the Headteacher.

Before withdrawing or making a request, the Trust strongly urges parents to carefully consider their decision as sex education is a vital part of the school curriculum and supports child development. Parents cannot withdraw their child from Relationships or Health Education or the elements on human growth and reproduction which fall under the National Curriculum for science.

If a pupil is excused from sex education the school will ensure that the pupil receives appropriate, purposeful education during the period of withdrawal.

Complaints

Parents or carers who have complaints or concerns regarding the RSE curriculum should contact the school and follow the school's complaints policy.

Equal opportunities

The School has duties under the Equalities Act 2010 to ensure that pupils are not discriminated against because of their sex, race, disabilities, religion or belief, sexual orientation, gender reassignment or pregnancy or maternity. [RSE or Relationships] and Health Education lessons provide a good background for talking openly and freely about the diversity of personal, social and sexual preferences. Prejudiced views will be challenged, and equality promoted. Any bullying that relates to sexual behaviour or perceived sexual orientation will be dealt with swiftly and seriously. This is the case for bullying of any kind and the procedures regarding this are outlined in the school's behaviour policy. (This can be accessed through the school website)

Safeguarding and confidentiality

We hope to provide a safe and supportive school community where pupils feel comfortable seeking help and guidance on anything that may be concerning them about life either at school or at home. Training around confidentiality will be provided to all teachers.

It may be the case that discussion around what is acceptable and not acceptable in relationships may lead to the disclosure of a child protection issue. If this is the case, the school's **child protection and safeguarding procedure** will be followed (this can be found on the school website).

5. Monitoring, review and evaluation

The educational and personal needs of our pupils develop in line with varying societal pressures and economic change. Our aim is to provide RSE that is relevant and tailored to meet the needs of our pupils, depending on their age and stage of personal development. For this reason, we review the RSE curriculum yearly and will inform parents of any revisions to the school's policy or sex education curriculum.

We aim to monitor the effectiveness of our provision through:

- Regular feedback from pupils
- Regular feedback from parents
- Feedback from staff
- Classroom observations.
- Feedback from outside providers

The school will review this policy annually, evaluating its effectiveness by taking into account feedback from pupils, staff and parents, as well as what has come to light through classroom observations and information we receive from national reports and curriculum reviews.

6. 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 and emotional development, including matters raised by or relating to sex and relationships education. 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.

Appendix 1 – Relationships Education Primary stage curriculum

Families and people who care for me	• 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 • that stable, caring relationships, which may be of different types, are at the heart of happy families, and are important for children's security as they grow up • that marriage represents a formal and legally recognised commitment of two people to each other which is intended to be lifelong • how to recognise if family relationships are making them feel unhappy or unsafe, and how to seek help or advice from others if needed
Caring Friendships	• 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	• 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	• 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	• 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 • 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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Sex Education

The National Curriculum for Science covers:

- Naming the main external parts of the human body,
- The human body as it grows from birth to old age (including puberty),
- Processes of reproduction and growth in animals and
- Reproduction in some plants.

Sex Education

Parental right to withdraw children

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from some of the sex education provided, but not from the relationship's education. The Headteacher (Mrs Richards) will automatically grant a request to withdraw a pupil from named sex education sessions delivered in Orchard Meadow School. Parents are informed of their right to withdraw their child through this policy and on the invitation to attend an information session prior to the curriculum being taught. Full details of the content from which a child can be withdrawn are found below in the teaching and learning objectives. If a pupil is withdrawn from sex education, the teaching staff will ensure that the pupil receives appropriate, purposeful education during the period of withdrawal – this may be via an online learning platform.

Curriculum Coverage

Topics in bold are those that carry the parental right to withdraw a child from. All other topics compulsory and parents do not have the right to withdraw. However, parents will be given the opportunity to review resources annually and ask any questions prior to delivery.

The following topics are covered throughout the school:

<u>Key Stage 1</u> • Friendships and feelings. • Different families. • My brilliant body. • Keeping clean and taking care of myself. • Naming body parts. • Keeping safe.	<u>Lower Key Stage 2</u> • Gender stereotypes and aspirations • Me, myself and I • What makes a good friend? • Families and getting on with our families. • My personal and private body parts and keeping safe. • Body care • Is it risky? • People who can help us on and offline.
<u>Upper Key Stage 2</u> • On and offline friendships • Friendships and secrets • Friendships and pressure • Keeping safe – safe and unsafe touch • Keeping safe – online images • Changes at puberty	

- Periods (menstruation)
- Wet dreams and masturbation
- Making babies – sexual intercourse
- **Making babies – assisted fertility and multiple births**
- **Marking babies – pregnancy and birth**
- Identity and prejudice
- Equality and the law
- Getting help

Session Delivery

Sex Education lessons will be taught by an adult who is familiar to the class in order to establish an environment where children feel comfortable to join in with class discussion and feel able to ask any questions that they may have. Before delivery, teachers establish a set of ground rules to ensure that expectations of respect and positive behaviour. At Orchard Meadow School, we teach children in same-sex lessons. In every classroom, children can write anonymous questions relating to the content of the lessons to enable them to feel able to seek clarity and obtain factual information. Where a child asks a question that covers content that exceeds the agreed curriculum content, teachers will explain that this information is not on the curriculum that we can provide. If deemed appropriate, teachers will contact parents after a session to inform them of questions asked by their child to enable further exploration at home. Normal safeguarding procedures apply; if a child raises concerning issues, the information will be passed to our Welfare Team.

The delivery of the content will be made accessible to all relevant pupils, including those with SEND by ensuring:

1. Normal adjustments made for specific children in order to access their learning will also be made in Relationships and Sex Education.
2. The resources selected to support the delivery of the content have been so due to their child friendly, age-appropriate formation.
3. Adult support and follow-up work will be delivered where necessary.

The curriculum content and delivery will be monitored by a Leader and members of the Senior Leadership Team where appropriate. The religious background of all pupils will be taken into account when planning teaching and materials, so that sensitive topics are handled appropriately. The core British Values of mutual respect, tolerance and personal freedom underpinned with factual information forms the bedrock of our Relationships and Sex Education curriculum. All sex and relationship education teaching will meet the requirements of equality law.

Complaints

Any complaints about the Relationships and Sex Education programme should be made in accordance with Orchard Meadow's usual complaints procedure.

