

Sex Education Policy



Learning, Developing, Growing Together

**Spinfield School
Terrington Hill
Marlow
Buckinghamshire
SL7 2RE**

**Tel: 01628 473551
Fax: 01628 477652**

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Signed:	
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Spinfield Sex Education policy 2020

1. School ethos / values statement

At Spinfield School we are committed to providing a holistic approach to education which aims to support the academic, cultural, personal and social development of all our pupils. From September 2020 statutory Relationships Education and Health Education will be part of the taught curriculum within PSHE. This is an essential part of a child's education and contributes to their personal development. Sex Education is not statutory at primary, but recommended by the DfE. We teach Sex Education as part of our Relationships Education within the planned PSHE curriculum.

2. Aims of the Sex Education policy

All primary schools offering Sex Education are required to define any sex education they choose to teach other than that covered in the science curriculum, outline the subject content, how it will be taught and who is responsible for teaching it, and state the parental / carers right to withdraw from non-statutory sex education lessons and the protocols established by the school to facilitate this. Schools are also required to consult with parents with regards to the policy and to work with parents, offering support in talking to their children about sex education and how to link this to what is being taught in school. It is the statutory responsibility of the governing body to ensure the school has a compliant and up to date Sex Education Policy.

The aim of this policy is to:

- Provide information to staff, parents and carers, governors, pupils and other agencies regarding the organisation, content and approach to teaching of Sex Education
- Help parents and carers to understand what is covered in Sex Education and support them to work with their child to secure the very best outcomes for all pupils
- Demonstrate how the school meets legal requirements with regards to teaching Sex Education

Legal Requirements

To comply with The Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education (England) Regulations 2019, made under sections 34 and 35 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017, make Relationships Education compulsory for all pupils receiving primary education. They also make Health Education compulsory in all schools except independent schools.

To comply with the Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education statutory guidance from the DfE (June 2019)

To comply with the requirements to have an up to date Sex Education policy /RSE policy developed in consultation with pupils, parents and carers (Education Act 1996) and in line with the DfE statutory guidance on Relationships Education, RSE and Health Education(June 2019)

To have due regard to the Equality Act (2010) which requires schools to prevent discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relation between different groups . The protected characteristics that apply to school age children are disability, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity.

To fulfil statutory safeguarding duties and ensure any safeguarding issues arising from Relationships/ Sex Education teaching are identified and followed in accordance with the school safeguarding policy

3. Parents'/ carers right to withdraw

At Spinfield School we teach Sex Education as part of our Relationships and PSHE curriculum. As Sex Education is not statutory at primary we wish to state the right of parents and carers to withdraw their child from designated Sex Education lessons. We encourage parents/ carers to make an appointment to come in and speak to the class teacher and head teacher about any concerns they may have. Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing.

Parents and carers do not have the right to withdraw their child from PSHE which includes statutory Relationships Education and Health Education (including the changing adolescent body/puberty). The science curriculum also includes content on human development, including reproduction, which there is no right to withdraw from. We highly recommend all students receive the full PSHE curriculum.

4. Development of the policy

This policy was developed by the PSHE lead in consultation with school governors, parent representatives from each class and pupils. This policy links to the PSHE policy, Relationships Education Policy, Child Protection Policy, Anti-Bullying Policy, Equalities policy and the School Behaviour policy.

We aim to work collaboratively with parents/carers to ensure pupils receive Sex Education lessons that are relevant and age appropriate and sensitive to the needs of the community we serve. We welcome parents and carers to make an appointment to come in to discuss any aspect of this policy and the provision in school.

5. Definition of Sex Education

Sex Education at Spinfield school is taught through the PSHE curriculum as part Relationships Education. Sex education is taught in addition to the statutory science curriculum and provides factual and age appropriate knowledge about conception and birth. In preparation for the secondary RSE curriculum, sex education teaches pupils to recognise the difference between intimate and non-intimate relationships, promotes healthy committed relationships including marriage, consent and the values and responsibilities required to build healthy adult relationships. It also teaches pupils the legal age for marriage and consensual sexual relationships, to recognise their right to their own physical and emotion personal space, how to keep themselves safe, and how to report concerns or issues. Puberty Education is part of statutory Health Education and parents/cares do not have the right to withdraw their child from this aspect of the curriculum.

6. The Curriculum

Intent

Why teach Sex Education?

The DfE states in the statutory Relationships, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education guidance (page 23)

‘It is important that the transition phase before moving to secondary school supports pupils’ ongoing emotional and physical development effectively. The department continues to recommend therefore that all primary schools school have a sex education programme tailored to the age and the physical and emotional maturity of the pupils. It should ensure that both boys and girls are prepared for the changes that adolescence brings and – drawing on knowledge from the national curriculum for science – how a baby is conceived and born’.

High quality Sex Education will support pupils to :

- Be taught factual and correct information about this how a baby is conceived and born
- Explore in a safe and managed environment questions they may have about puberty and give them an age appropriate understanding of sexual development
- Understand that all intimate relationships should be consensual and based on love and respect
- Understand the law and be taught that intimate relationships are for consenting adults
- Understand the importance of marriage and committed relationships and learn about different cultural and religious approached to this
- Recognise and establish their own personal boundaries, and privacy relating to their own bodies and taught the scientific vocabulary for all body parts
- Dispel myths and incorrect information about sex and how a baby is conceived and born
- Recognise unhealthy relationships, inappropriate behaviour and to report concerns or abuse, (including signposting to trusted online support services such as Childline)
- Ask a trusted adult rather than go on line with regards to any concerns or questions they may have and avoid viewing any inappropriate material or entering into social media conversations

Implementation

Sex Education is delivered through the Relationships curriculum as part of PSHE education. The Relationships Education, RSE, and Health Education (England) Regulations 2019 have made Relationships Education compulsory in all primary schools. Sex education is not compulsory in primary schools. The national curriculum for science also includes subject content in related areas, such as the main external body parts, the human body as it grows from birth to old age (including puberty) and reproduction in some plants and animals. All primary schools should have a sex education programme tailored to the age and the physical and emotional maturity of the pupils. It should ensure that both boys and girls are prepared for the changes that adolescence brings and – drawing on knowledge of the human life cycle set out in the national curriculum for science - how a baby is conceived and born. As well as consulting parents more generally about the school’s overall policy, primary schools should consult parents before the final year of primary school about the detailed content of what will be taught. This process should include offering parents support in talking to their children about sex education and how to link this with what is being taught in school.

Teaching needs to take account of the developmental differences of children. 68. Where a maintained primary school chooses to teach aspects of sex education (which go beyond the national curriculum for science), the school must set this out in their policy and all schools should consult with parents on what is to be covered. Primary schools that choose to teach sex education must allow parents a right to withdraw their children.

The head teacher must comply with a parent’s wish to withdraw their child from sex education beyond the national curriculum for science.

Spinfield School must ensure that their teaching and materials are appropriate having regard to the age and religious backgrounds of their pupils.

Spinfield School will also want to recognise the significance of other factors, such as any special educational needs or disabilities of their pupils.

Distancing techniques are used in PSHE education, which provide depersonalised examples which support children to explore what is being taught without sharing their own personal experiences in the lesson.

What we use – PSHE Association programme of study

Who All teachers will deliver the PSHE curriculum

When - a timetabled session, once a week

How delivery and content will be made accessible to all pupils including SEND - Teachers who are delivering the PSHE curriculum will consider the appropriateness of a session in relation to a child with a specific need. If necessary, the lesson will be adapted and the content will be modified and delivered in a small group or 1:1.

Where you can view curriculum information – Our PSHE curriculum can be found on the school website. Parents/carers can request paper copies of the overview.

Managing Difficult Questions

All aspects of PSHE are underpinned by shared and understood ground rules with lessons being delivered in a safe and well managed environment . Pupils are encouraged to ask questions and raise issues in a respectful and appropriate manner. Some questions or issues raised may not be appropriate to answer in whole class lessons and these will be followed up separately on an individual or group basis. A question box is available for pupils who do not feel confident to ask questions or wish to have a separate conversation with a member of staff. Given ease of access to the internet, children whose questions go unanswered may turn to inappropriate sources of information. We also respect that some questions are better addressed at home with parents/ carers and the school will share information with parents/carers on an individual basis should the need arise.

Whilst it is vital to have trust and openness we cannot offer total confidentiality to pupils. Any disclosures or areas of concern will be followed up in accordance with our safeguarding procedures.

Impact

High quality sex education will enable our pupils to:

- Have a factual and age appropriate understanding of how babies are made and born
- Understand that intimate and sexual relationships are a natural part of adult life
- Know who to talk to if they have further questions about sex and intimate relationships
- Be aware of and respect different types of relationships in accordance with the Equalities Act
- Know they will continue to learn about sex education in their secondary school
- Keep themselves safe on line, recognising risks, harmful content, and online contact and be able to report any concerns at the earliest stage
- Know how to keep safe by recognising any inappropriate behaviour from others
- Report concerns or abuse and have the confidence, knowledge and vocabulary to do so

7. Confidentiality and safeguarding

Any personal disclosures made by pupils will be followed up in accordance with the school's child protection policy. Teachers will report any safeguarding concerns to the DLS and share concerns with parents/carers according to the school's safeguarding procedures .

8. Roles and responsibilities

The Governing Body will approve the policy and hold the Headteacher to account for its implementation.

The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring PSHE including Sex Education is taught consistently across the school and for managing requests with regards to the parental right to withdraw from non-statutory Sex Education.

The PSHE lead is responsible for leading and managing the subject. Teachers are responsible for delivering PSHE.

Pupils are expected to fully engage with PSHE provision including sex education and treat others with respect.

9. Working with parents and carers

We keep parents/ carers informed about when sex education will take place. A class letter is published at the beginning of each term which details the content of the programme of study. Parents /carers are welcome to make an appointment to view materials used to teach sex education.

10. Working with outside agencies and visiting speakers

All outside agencies and visitors will be vetted in accordance with our Safeguarding/Child Protection policy. It will be normal practise for a member of school staff to be present in a meeting with the child and outside provider to offer support and to understand the content of the session and any potential follow-up work that needs to be carried out.

11. Monitoring , evaluation and training

Sex education will be monitored and evaluated by the PSHE lead , SLT and Governors in line with the monitoring cycle agreed by the school. The Sex Education policy will be reviewed annually.

To ensure staff are confident to deliver all aspects of the PSHE curriculum including sex education, access to online, in school, local and national training will be made available in accordance with the school's CPD programme for staff development.

Appendix 1 Sex Education Curriculum

Spinfield School will use the PSHE Associations Programme of study, see example below. Aspects of this topic will be taught in the science curriculum – which is statutory.

<p>Summer 1 & 2</p> <p>What will change as we become more independent?</p>	<p>Relationships</p> <p>Different relationships, changing and growing, adulthood, independence, moving to secondary school</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> that people have different kinds of relationships in their lives, including romantic or intimate relationships that people who are attracted to and love each other can be of any gender, ethnicity or faith; the way couples care for one another 	<p>Medway Public Health Directorate - Primary RSE lessons (Y6)</p> <p>Betty - It's perfectly natural</p>
<p>Teaching about FGM could be included in units on health, keeping safe, safe relationships, privacy, body parts (including external genitalia). See our Addressing FGM in schools information sheet for further information</p>			
<p>How do friendships change as we grow?</p>	<p>PoS refs: H24, H30, H33, H34, H35, H36, R2, R3, R4, R5, R6, R16</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> that adults can choose to be part of a committed relationship or not, including marriage or civil partnership that marriage should be wanted equally by both people and that forcing someone to marry against their will is a crime how puberty relates to growing from childhood to adulthood about the reproductive organs and process - how babies are conceived and born and how they need to be cared for that there are ways to prevent a baby being made² how growing up and becoming more independent comes with increased opportunities and responsibilities how friendships may change as they grow and how to manage this how to manage change, including moving to secondary school; how to ask for support or where to seek further information and advice regarding growing up and changing 	<p>NSPCC - Making sense of relationships (KS2)</p> <p>PSHE Association - Mental health and wellbeing (KS2 - Y5/6), lesson 3, Feelings and common anxieties when transitioning to secondary school</p> <p>Rise Above - Transition to secondary school</p>

Appendix 2 Ground rules

- No personal questions or sharing of private information.
- You have the right to pass on a question.
- No question is silly or stupid.
- Use dictionary words whenever possible.
- Post the list in the classroom and refer to it as needed.

There is a balance between encouraging pupils to talk about real life and over disclosure of private information. Encourage pupils to use the phrase "Someone I know..." instead of the person's name if sharing information of a personal nature.

It may be helpful to frame the ground rules in a creative way, such as:

G...Giggling is okay but laughing at others is not

R...Respect for myself and others is important

O...Option to pass on answering questions is available to all

U...Use dictionary words when describing the body

N...No question is a silly question!

D...Do use "Someone I know..." instead of the person's name

Appendix 3 – DfE guide for parents

DfE information for parents

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education/relationships-education-primary>

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/812593/RSE_primary_schools_guide_for_parents.pdf

Statutory Guidance

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education/relationships-education-primary>