

WOOD FOLD PRIMARY SCHOOL

RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION POLICY



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Contents

1. Aims	3
2. Statutory requirements	3
3. Policy development.....	3
4. Definition	4
5. Curriculum	4
6. Delivery of RSE.....	5
7. Roles and responsibilities	6
8. Parents' right to withdraw.....	7
9. Training.....	7
10. Monitoring arrangements.....	7
11. Confidentiality	8
12. Special Needs.....	8
13. Equal Opportunities	8
14. Further Policies	8
Appendix 1: RSE Curriculum map	9
Appendix 2: By the end of primary school pupils should know	11
Appendix 3: Parent form: withdrawal from sex education within RSE.....	14

1. Aims

Wood Fold Primary School considers that Sex and Relationships Education (RSE) is an integral part of the Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) and Citizenship curriculum, and is linked to that for Science. We aim to offer pupils a carefully planned programme on human development, relationships, sexuality and family life within a safe, comfortable atmosphere and in a relaxed relationship between teacher and pupil. The programme is set within a moral framework and matched to the pupils' level of maturity.

The aims of relationships and sex education (RSE) at Wood Fold are to:

- Provide a framework in which sensitive discussions can take place
- Prepare pupils for puberty, and give them an understanding of sexual development and the importance of health and hygiene
- Help pupils develop feelings of self-respect, confidence and empathy
- Create a positive culture around issues of sexuality and relationships
- Teach pupils the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies

2. Statutory requirements

As a maintained primary school we must provide relationships education to all pupils as per section 34 of the [Children and Social work act 2017](#).

Although we are not required to provide sex education, we do need to teach the elements of sex education contained in the science curriculum.

In teaching RSE, we must give regard to the [guidance](#) issued by the secretary of state as outlined in section 403 of the [Education Act 1996](#).

At Wood Fold Primary School we teach RSE as set out in this policy.

3. Policy development

This policy has been developed in consultation with governors, staff, pupils and parents. The consultation and policy development process involved the following steps:

1. Review – a small working group pulled together all relevant information including relevant national and local guidance on RSE.
2. The working party looked at this guidance alongside the Jigsaw PSHE Scheme which is followed in school, to ensure all aspects were covered.
3. Governor/ staff consultation – all school staff were given the opportunity to look at the policy and make recommendations and the policy was discussed at a Governors meeting.
4. The policy is emailed out to parents with the opportunity for them to provide feedback via an online form

5. Ratification – once amendments were made, the policy was shared with governors and staff and ratified.

4. Definition

RSE is about the emotional, social and cultural development of pupils, and involves learning about relationships, sexual health, sexuality, healthy lifestyles, diversity and personal identity. RSE involves a combination of sharing information and exploring issues and values. RSE is not about the promotion of sexual activity.

5. Curriculum

We teach RSE through different aspects of the curriculum and carry out the main RSE teaching through our PSHE curriculum, which includes resources from the PSHE Association which have been informed by DfE guidance on Relationships, Sex and Health Education.

We also teach RSE through other subject areas (eg Science, PE and R.E.), where we feel that they contribute significantly to a child's knowledge and understanding of his or her own body, and how it is changing and developing. Linked with R.E. children reflect on family relationships, different family groups and friendship. They learn about rituals and traditions associated with birth, marriage and death and talk about the emotions involved.

Since RSE incorporates the development of self-esteem and relationships, pupils' learning does not just take place through the taught curriculum but through all aspects of school life including the playground. It is important that all staff understand they have a responsibility to implement this policy and promote the aims of the school at any time they are dealing with children. Teachers will use their professional judgement when addressing issues in RSE. Careful consideration will be given to the wide and varied experience and backgrounds of the pupils in their care.

Science Curriculum

Significant aspects of relationship and sex education remain part of the National Curriculum for Science. These will be taught to all pupils. (*Parents are unable to withdraw pupils from such lessons.*)

Key Stage 1 (5-7)

- That humans move, feed, grow, use their senses and reproduce
- To name the main external parts of the body
- That humans grow from babies into children and then into adults, and that adults can produce babies

- To recognise similarities and differences between themselves and other pupils

Key Stage 2 (7 – 11)

- That the life processes common to humans and all animals include nutrition, growth and reproduction
- The main stages of the human life cycle.

In Year 5 we place a particular emphasis on RSE, as many children experience puberty at this age. Lessons are taught as same sex sessions to ensure that pupils feel comfortable to ask questions should they want to. We teach the children about the parts of the body and how they work. We also explain what will happen to their bodies during puberty and how their bodies change, what menstruation is, and how it affects women. We always teach these with due regard for the emotional development of the children (as stated earlier in this policy). We encourage the children to ask for help if they need it and there are opportunities for single sex question sessions. Teachers do their best to answer all questions with sensitivity and care.

By the end of Key Stage 2, we ensure that both boys and girls know about the life cycle and sexual intercourse. Our curriculum is set out as per Appendix 1 but we may need to adapt it as and when necessary.

We have developed the curriculum in consultation with parents, pupils and staff, taking into account the age, needs and feelings of pupils. If pupils ask questions outside the scope of this policy, teachers will respond in an appropriate manner so they are fully informed and don't seek answers online.

6. Delivery of RSE

RSE is taught within the personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education curriculum. Biological aspects of RSE are taught within the science curriculum, and other aspects are included in religious education (RE).

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

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

- Being safe

Sex education (Years 5 & 6) focuses on giving pupils the information they need to help them develop healthy, nurturing relationships of all kinds including:

- Families
- Respectful relationships, including friendships
- Online and media
- Being safe
- Intimate and sexual relationships

For more information about our RSE curriculum, see Appendices 1 and 2. These areas of learning are taught within the context of family life taking care to ensure that there is no stigmatisation of children based on their home circumstances (families can include single parent families, LGBT parents, families headed by grandparents, adoptive parents, foster parents/carers amongst other structures) along with reflecting sensitively that some children may have a different structure of support around them (for example: looked after children or young carers).

7. Roles and responsibilities

7.1 The governing board

The governing board will approve the RSE policy and hold the headteacher to account for its implementation.

7.2 The headteacher

The headteacher is responsible for ensuring that RSE is taught consistently across the school, and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from non-statutory/non-science components of RSE (see section 8).

7.3 Staff

Staff are responsible for:

- Delivering RSE in a sensitive way
- Modelling positive attitudes to RSE
- Monitoring progress
- Responding to the needs of individual pupils
- Responding appropriately to pupils whose parents wish them to be withdrawn from the non-statutory/non-science components of RSE

Staff do not have the right to opt out of teaching RSE. Staff who have concerns about teaching RSE are encouraged to discuss this with the headteacher.

RSE lessons will be taught by the class/ year group teachers.

7.4 Pupils

Pupils are expected to engage fully in RSE and, when discussing issues related to RSE, treat others with respect and sensitivity.

8. Parents' right to withdraw

It is our hope that parents would wish their children to be involved in the schools positive and prudent programme of relationship and sex education. However, we do recognise that parents have the right to withdraw their children from the non-statutory/non-science components of sex education within RSE. Parents do not have the right to withdraw their children from relationships education.

Parents will be informed in Year 5 and Year 6 when the expected teaching of sex education will take place, in order that they have time to decide upon whether or not to withdraw their child from the sessions. Teachers in Year 5 and Year 6 also hold parent workshops with parents to inform them on the content of what will be covered so that parents can make an informed judgement.

Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing using the form found in Appendix 3 of this policy and addressed to the headteacher.

Alternative work will be given to pupils who are withdrawn from sex education.

9. Training

Staff are trained on the delivery of RSE as part of their induction and it is included in our continuing professional development calendar.

The headteacher will also invite visitors from outside the school, such as school nurses or sexual health professionals, to provide support and training to staff teaching RSE.

10. Monitoring arrangements

The delivery of RSE is monitored by the PSHE lead & the leadership team through:

- Planning scrutinies
- Learning walks
- Observations
- Book scrutinies.

Pupils' development in RSE is monitored by class teachers as part of our internal assessment systems.

This policy will be reviewed by the PSHE lead and Headteacher every 2 years. At every review, the policy will be approved by the governing body.

11. Confidentiality

Teachers conduct sex education lessons in a sensitive manner. However, if a child makes a reference to being involved, or likely to be involved in sexual activity, then the teacher will take the matter seriously and deal with it as a matter of child protection. Teachers will respond in a similar way if a child indicates that they may have been a victim of abuse. In these circumstances, the teacher will talk to the child as a matter of urgency following the Child Protection and Safeguarding protocol. If the teacher has concerns, they will draw these to the attention of the designated safeguarding lead for child protection, or the Head Teacher.

12. Special Needs

Pupils with special educational needs will be given the opportunity to fully participate in RSE lessons, and a differentiated programme will be provided where necessary, to ensure that all pupils gain a full understanding.

13. Equal Opportunities

RSE will be given to ensure quality of access for all pupils, regardless of gender, race or disability, so giving equal opportunities and avoiding discrimination.

14. Further Policies

In conjunction with this policy, please also see:

- Behaviour policy and procedures
- Safeguarding policy
- Anti-bullying policy and procedures
- Confidentiality procedures
- Teaching and Learning Policy
- Curriculum Policy
- Science policy
- P.E.
- R.E.
- P.S.H.E. and Citizenship (Jigsaw)

Appendix 1: RSE Curriculum map

PSHE RSE Content

The grid below shows specific RSE content for each year group:

Age

4-5	Family life; making friends; falling out and making up; being a good friend; dealing with bullying; growing up - how have I changed from baby to now.
5-6	Recognising bullying and how to deal with it; celebrating differences between people; making new friends; belonging to a family; being a good friend; physical contact preferences; people who help us; qualities as a friend and person; celebrating people who are special to me; life cycles – animal and human.
6-7	Assumptions and stereotypes about gender; understanding bullying; standing up for self and others; making new friends; gender diversity; celebrating difference and remaining friends; learning with others; group co-operation; different types of family; physical contact boundaries; friendship and conflict; secrets (including those that might worry us); trust and appreciation; expressing appreciation for special relationships; life cycles in nature; growing from young to old; increasing independence.
7-8	Seeing things from others' perspectives; Families and their differences; family conflict and how to manage it (child-centred); witnessing bullying and how to solve it; homophobic bullying; recognising how words can be hurtful; giving and receiving compliments; respect for myself and others; healthy and safe choices; family roles and responsibilities; friendship and negotiation; keeping safe online and who to go to for help; being aware of how my choices affect others; awareness of how other children have different lives; expressing appreciation for family and friends.
8-9	Challenging assumptions; judging by appearance; accepting self and others; understanding influences; understanding bullying including the role of the bystander; problem-solving in relationships; identifying how special and unique everyone is; first impressions; working in a group; celebrating contributions of others; healthier friendships; group dynamics; assertiveness; peer pressure; celebrating inner strength; jealousy; love and loss; memories of loved ones; getting on and falling out.

9-10 Cultural differences and how they can cause conflict; racism; rumours and name-calling; types of bullying; enjoying and respecting other cultures; body image; self-recognition and self-worth; building self-esteem; safer online communities; rights and responsibilities online; online gaming and gambling; reducing screen time; dangers of online grooming; SMART internet safety rules, puberty and feelings.

Sex education will cover:

- **Consent**
- **Appropriate and inappropriate touch**
- **Personal Boundaries**
- **The parts of the body and how they function**
- **What will happen to their bodies during puberty (physical, emotional and biological changes)**
- **What menstruation is, and how it affects women**
- **Personal Hygiene**

10-11 Children's universal rights; feeling welcome and valued; choices, consequences and rewards; group dynamics; democracy, having a voice; anti-social behaviour; role-modelling; perceptions of normality; understanding disability; understanding what transgender means; power struggles; understanding bullying; inclusion/exclusion; difference as conflict; difference as celebration; empathy; exploitation, including 'county-lines' and gang culture; love and loss; managing feelings; power and control; assertiveness; technology safety; responsibility with technology use; self-image, body image;.

Sex education will cover:

- **Revisit consent**
- **Revisit on puberty (physical, emotional and biological changes)**
- **Develop an awareness of their own body image**
- **Attraction to others**
- **Conception**
- **The life cycle and sexual intercourse.**

Appendix 2: By the end of primary school pupils should know

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Families and people who care about me	<ul style="list-style-type: none">That families are important for children growing up because they can give love, security and stabilityThe 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 livesThat 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 careThat 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 upThat marriage represents a formal and legally recognised commitment of two people to each other which is intended to be lifelongHow 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">How important friendships are in making us feel happy and secure, and how people choose and make friendsThe characteristics of friendships, including mutual respect, truthfulness, trustworthiness, loyalty, kindness, generosity, trust, sharing interests and experiences and support with problems and difficultiesThat healthy friendships are positive and welcoming towards others, and do not make others feel lonely or excludedThat 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 rightHow 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

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
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

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
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 • 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

Appendix 3: Parent form: 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	<i>Include notes from discussions with parents and agreed actions taken. Eg: Joe Bloggs will be taking part in all relationships lessons and during the sex education lessons, he will be working independently on a project in the Year 5 classroom</i>