

CYRIL JACKSON PRIMARY SCHOOL PSHE POLICY

Every child has the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters... and to have their views considered and taken seriously. (article 12)

Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures, and the environment. (article 29)





WHAT IS PSHE?

Under section 78 of the Education act 2002 a PSHE curriculum:

Promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils

Prepares pupils for the opportunities responsibilities and experiences of later life

The 2019 document *Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education* outlines the **statutory** relationship and health objectives that **must** be covered by every primary school to ensure the pupils are being taught knowledge that enables “*them to make informed decisions about their wellbeing, health and relationships and to build their self-efficacy.*”

Page 7, *Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education*, Department For Education, 2019.



WHAT IS RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION?

According to *Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education*, the focus in primary school should be on teaching the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships, with particular reference to friendships, family relationships, and relationships with other children and with adults.

The focus will be on ensuring that children are taught how to establish safe and fulfilling relationships, both inside and outside of familiar relations, as well as online. Through positive relationships, the personal characteristics of self-respect and self-worth will be developed, alongside a whole range of other positive traits to encourage children to become active, social participants.

Statement 45, Page 19, *Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education*, Department For Education, 2019.



WHAT IS HEALTH EDUCATION?

Article 24: *Every child has the right to the best possible health. Governments must provide good quality... education on health and well-being so that children can stay healthy.*

Health Education looks to ensure that children are prepared for the physical and mental changes that will happen to their bodies as they get older. The national curriculum for Science (coverage of which is **statutory**) 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.

Sex education is **non-statutory** in primary schools. Cyril Jackson has chosen to include sex education in their PSHE curriculum to:

- a) ensure that pupils are aware of changes that will happen with their bodies and to allow pupils to open a dialogue to share any of their concerns or worries;
- b) help bridge the transition from Year 6 to Year 7. Sex education is statutory at secondary school and it is our belief that primary school should support Key Stage 3 learning where possible to ensure that pupils are not left feeling confused or alarmed by information (either from educators or peers);
- c) support the teaching of statutory Health education around puberty and menstruation.



CONFIDENTIALITY

As a general rule, the teacher or staff member concerned will maintain the child's confidentiality. **However, if the person concerned believes that the child is at risk or in danger, s/he will inform the Designated Child Protection Officer/s.** The children concerned will be made aware that confidentiality is being breached and the reasons why. The teacher or member of staff will support the child throughout the process.



Answering difficult questions

Pupils could ask teachers questions which go beyond the the provisions set out in the Relationship Education guidance. In this instance, teachers are advised to reassure pupils that they have heard/ read their question and explain why they cannot answer it (that it is not something that will be covered at this stage in their education). Teachers are then advised to speak to the pupil's parents and to inform them of their child's questions.

It is good practice to talk to the pupil(s) concerned before involving a parent or carer—to explain that it is in their best interests to talk to their parent(s) or a trusted adult. If a child refuses or rejects talking to their parent or carer, this should be taken seriously and discussed with the **designated safeguarding lead** and acted upon in accordance with the school's confidentiality policy.

It is important to note that a disclosure regarding sexual orientation or gender identity is not, in itself, a safeguarding issue and does not need to be reported to anyone, including parents/carers.

Where possible, teachers are advised to allow pupils time to write down any questions that they may have to ensure that pupils feel safe and confident to ask questions instead of turning to unreliable sources (such as other pupils or the internet).



CHILD WITHDRAWAL

Parents have the right to request that their child be withdrawn from some or all of sex education delivered as part of the Health Education provision. However, content that belongs to the Science curriculum (main external body parts, the human body as it grows from birth to old age (including puberty) and reproduction in some plants and animals) is a statutory requirement and thus there is **no right to withdraw**.

The **Relationships Education or Health Education** (aside from the Sex Education provision) is **statutory content as such there is no right to withdraw**.

Parents have the **right to withdraw their child from some or all of the sex education lessons**. If a pupil is excused from sex education, it is the school's responsibility to ensure that the pupil receives appropriate, purposeful education during the period of withdrawal.