



# **Thackley Primary School**

## **Primary Relationships and Health Education Policy**

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### 1. Aims

At Thackley Primary we aim to educate our children about relationships and sex education (SRE) in order to:

- Provide a framework in which sensitive discussions can take place
- Prepare pupils for puberty, and give them an understanding of 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](#). However, we are not required to provide sex education but we do need to teach the elements of sex education contained in the science curriculum. In teaching RSE, we must have regard to [guidance](#) issued by the secretary of state as outlined in section 403 of the [Education Act 1996](#). At Thackley Primary we teach RSE as set out in this policy.

### 3. Policy development

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

1. Review – a member of staff or working group pulled together all relevant information including relevant national and local guidance
2. Staff consultation – all school staff were given the opportunity to look at the policy and make recommendations
3. Parent/stakeholder consultation – parents and any interested parties were invited to attend a panel about the policy.
4. Ratification – once amendments were made, the policy was shared with governors and ratified

## 4. Definition

RSE is about the emotional, social and cultural development of pupils, and involves learning about relationships, sexual health, human 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

Our curriculum is set out as per Appendix 1 using the government requirements found in Appendix 2 and is adapted 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, referring these questions to an appropriate adult at home so they are fully informed and don't seek answers online.

Primary sex education will focus on:

- Preparing boys and girls for the changes that adolescence brings
- How a baby is conceived and born within Science lessons as is required in the Science curriculum

For more information about our curriculum, see our curriculum plan in Appendix 1.

## 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).

Pupils also receive stand-alone puberty education sessions delivered by a trained health professional or an experienced class teacher under a health professional's guidance.

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

For more information about our RSE curriculum, see Appendix 1.

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 leadership team to account for its implementation.

### 7.2 The head teacher

The head teacher is responsible for ensuring that RSE is taught consistently across the school.

### 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
- 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 head teacher and PSHE coordinator.
- The PSHE coordinator is responsible for the implementation and leadership of the RSE policy and curriculum.

## **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**

Parents do not have the right to withdraw their children from relationships education. Parents are informed when puberty lessons are to take place and are invited to discuss any concerns that they may have but are made aware that they are not able to withdraw their children from this element of the curriculum. Thackley Primary School have decided not to teach the optional sex education primary information.

## **9. Training**

Staff are trained on the delivery of RSE, it is included in our continuing professional development calendar.

The head teacher will also invite visitors from outside the school, such as school nurses, to provide support and training to staff teaching RSE where necessary.

## **10. Monitoring arrangements**

The delivery of RSE is monitored by the PSHE coordinator through:

Planning development and book scrutinies.

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

Pupil interviews by the PSHE coordinator.

This policy will be reviewed by the PSHE coordinator. At every review, the policy will be approved by the governors.