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Next Review: March 2027

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Relationships, Sex and Health Education Policy

This School is committed to the teaching of Relationships, Sex and Health Education.

Relationships, Sex and Health Education (also referred to as PSHE)

In September 2020, the DfE made Relationships Education compulsory in all primary schools. It states, 'In primary schools, we want the subjects to put in place the key building blocks of healthy, respectful relationships, focusing on family and friendships, in all contexts, including online. This will sit alongside the essential understanding of how to be healthy.'

Relationship, Sex and Health Education will:

- Be developmental and be appropriate to the age and stage of the child. Common starting levels cannot be assumed;
- Put forward factual knowledge and encourage the exploration of facts;
- Examine opinions and concepts and encourage discussion;
- Encourage awareness, respect and responsibility for oneself and others.

Context for RSHE

We follow national and local plans including:

- The framework and guidance for Relationships, Sex Education and Health Education (September 2023);
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2023);
- OFSTED and their more prominent role in examining RSHE during inspections.

The Teaching of Relationships, Sex and Health Education.

All year groups follow three themes: 'Relationships', 'Developing Confidence and Responsibility' and 'Health and Wellbeing', which progressively builds on children's' prior learning and knowledge each year. See Progression of Skills document. EYFS follow three themes which are Relationships, Self-Regulation and Managing Self. In addition to this, we use the Yasmine and Tom online resource to deliver high-quality RSHE from Year 1 to Year 6. The teaching of RSHE is always conducted in a sensitive manner and is always age appropriate. Parents, governors, staff and pupils will be involved in the consultation process. See Consultation Process below.

Parents Right to Withdraw

Parents cannot withdraw their child from any part of the Relationships and Health Education aspects of the RSHE curriculum. Sex education is not compulsory in primary schools. This does not include what is taught as part of the science curriculum.

Statutory aspects of Sex Education within the National Curriculum Science

All schools must teach the following as part of the National Curriculum Science; parents/carers do not have the right to withdraw their child/children from this.

National Curriculum Science:

Key Stage 1:

- identify, name, draw and label the basic parts of the human body and say which part of the body is associated with each sense;
- notice that animals, including humans, have offspring which grow into adults;
- describe the importance for humans of hygiene.

Key Stage 2:

- describe the differences in the life cycles of a mammal, an amphibian, an insect and a bird;
- describe the life process of reproduction in some plants and animals;
- describe the changes as humans develop to old age.

The Teaching Methods

Ground rules will be developed during RSHE lessons based on respect. There are agreed procedures for staff to deal with sensitive and individual questions if and when they arise. It will be explained to children that if they, or anyone else, are at risk from harm, then another adult will be notified.

As far as possible, to prevent stigmatisation of any group of people or any life choices, the pro-choice approach to RSHE is adopted. This means that every issue is presented in terms of 'some people...and others...let's explore the effect these choices might have on a person's life.'

Respecting Faith and Culture

This policy has been produced with regard to current guidelines and good practice. However, it should be acknowledged that sensitivity and due regard is given to all of our families' cultural and/or secular differences and diversities. Adaptations of the resources will be open to discussion to meet the needs and requirements of the individuals involved.

Consultation Process

The content was decided in consultation with parents, governors, staff and pupils. Consideration of the pupil's social, physical and emotional maturity was considered during the development of the programme. The consultation process has aimed to involve the whole school community. The views were taken into account when developing both the RSHE policy and programme.

Confidentiality

Pupils' confidentiality is respected in all RSHE lessons and pupils are made aware of the fact that what they say in RSHE lessons will not be repeated to anyone else unless a member of staff suspects that the child or anyone else is at risk from harm. See the schools Confidentiality Policy for further details.

Safeguarding and Dealing with Sensitive Issues

At Hudson Road, safeguarding is embedded into our RSHE curriculum. Teachers need to be sure that they are aware of issues that may arise out of teaching and learning about RSHE. The protocols for discussion-based lessons with students are that:

- No one (teacher or student) will have to answer a personal question;
- No one will be forced to take part in discussion;
- When a child does voice their opinion or concern, their views are taken seriously;
- Only the correct names for body parts will be used;
- Meanings of words will be explained in a sensible and factual way;
- Teachers may use their discretion in responding to questions and may say that the appropriate person to answer the question is the parent.

Where a member of staff is concerned about safeguarding, it is his/her responsibility to follow the school's policy. See Safeguarding Policy.

Equal Opportunities Statement

Our RSHE programme aims to be inclusive of all, regardless of gender, race, religion, colour, language, culture, social circumstances, appearance, sexuality, ability or disability etc (Equality Act, 2010). Our RSHE programme responds to the needs of individual pupils and takes pupils, cultures, faiths and family backgrounds into consideration. Pupils with special educational needs and English as an additional language are given extra RSHE support by staff when required.

Monitoring and Reporting

The RSHE lead (also known as the PSHE lead) completes termly monitoring to ensure that high standards are maintained in the subject. This information is shared with the SLT, teaching staff, support staff and governors, to ensure standards in this subject continue to improve.