

## **The Shrubberies School PSHE Policy – including RSE**

### **Introduction**

The school's policy is designed to reflect best practice, statutes and statutory guidance to assist the achievement of the aims, ethos and values of the school.

Personal, social, health education (PSHE) is an important and necessary part of all pupils' education. All schools should teach PSHE, drawing on good practice. 'It is an entitlement for ALL young people regardless of gender, sexuality, religion, faith and those with physical, learning or emotional difficulties.' (Children and Social Work Act 2017)

In the Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education, and Health Education in England paper (2019), The DfE states that 'Relationships Education, RSE (Relationships and Sex Education) and Health Education must be accessible for all pupils' and that ALL pupils are entitled to "high quality teaching that is differentiated and personalised'. Mainstream schools and special schools have a duty to ensure that children with SEND are properly included in RSE.

### **Statutory requirements:**

As a special school we must provide relationships and health education to all our primary pupils, as appropriate to their SEND, per section 34 of the Children and Social work act 2017. We must also provide relationships, health and sex education to all our secondary pupils as appropriate to their SEND, as per section 34 of the Children and Social work act 2017.

The Headteacher and governors acknowledge the school's legal duties under the Equality Act 2010 as well as Safeguarding Procedures and Keeping Children Safe in Education.

This policy is written in accordance with the DfE Guidance on Sex and Relationship Education, Sept 2021.

### **Consultation has taken place:**

This policy has been discussed within the Senior Management Team. Teachers have been consulted during teachers' meetings. Governors' have also reviewed this policy.

### **Disseminating the policy to school community:**

If requested, this policy will be available to all parents and staff via email and it can be located on the school website. This policy will be discussed and presented to pupil representatives such as Student Voice group and the School Council.

### **Management and organisation of RSE:**

The Governing Body has the responsibility to review and approve the RSE Policy and curriculum that sits within the wider PSHE programme of study across school.

- The Headteacher and Senior Management Team offer supervision and support to the Aspect Leads responsible for PSHE/RSE across the school and acts on all Safeguarding concerns across school.
- The Aspect Leads support staff where RSE is delivered within the wider PSHE framework. They will provide teachers with a curriculum pathway and will offer support and signpost to resources in this subject area

### **Equal Opportunities**

The school strongly believes that all pupils should have access to RSE that is relevant to their needs. Equal Opportunities are in line with the School's Equality Policy.

### **Curriculum Intent:**

At the Shrubberies School we have adapted a PSHE programme of study from the PSHE Association SEND framework to create a broad and balanced curriculum for all pupils within our school.

It promotes pupils spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and to prepare all pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life.

We aim to provide high quality, sensitive teaching that is differentiated to meet individual needs and circumstances.

### **Curriculum Implementation:**

The implementation of our pathway is based on the PSHE Association SEND framework and includes the key elements of relationship, sex and health education as follows:

#### **Relationships (Primary)**

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

#### **Relationships (Secondary)**

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

#### **Physical Health and mental wellbeing (primary and secondary)**

- Mental well being
- Internet safety and harms
- Physical health and fitness
- Healthy eating
- Drugs, alcohol and tobacco
- Health and prevention
- Basic first aid
- Changing adolescent body

### **Language:**

It is good practice to use medically correct terms for genitalia and sexual parts of the body, for example vulva, vagina, penis and testicles. The use of respectful language which challenges sexism, homophobia and other forms of prejudice can be established in RSE and will have benefits for the whole school community, both in and out of lessons.

### **All staff will:**

- Use inclusive language (such as partner instead of boyfriend or girlfriend)
- Use correct terminology as this is deemed good practice
- Openly teach pupils what 'slang' words mean (where appropriate) and explain that some are offensive
- Avoid using slang words

**Curriculum Impact:**

- Shrubberies pupils will be better informed and have the skills they need to keep themselves safe and happy.
- They will feel positive and more confident about their future.
- Pupils will develop skills to support with their preparation to adulthood

Effective RSE can also help to identify and report safeguarding concerns.

**At The Shrubberies School, RSE/PSHE is taught through:**

- Regular timetabled sessions as part of the Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) curriculum.
- Explicitly embedding RSE values and skills across the curriculum.
- Special events, e.g. Anti-bullying week and values days.
- Circle times and reflection.
- Where appropriate, small focus groups and nurture groups.
- Visits from qualified/experienced external agencies/individuals.
- Incidental learning as different opportunities arise.

A wide range of resources will be used to meet the cognitive and developmental needs of individual pupils and promote active learning. Resources are regularly reviewed and updated in line with local and national guidance and include those recommended by the Gloucestershire Healthy Living and Learning (GHLL).

**Parents' right to withdraw:****Primary age pupils:**

- Parents do not have the right to withdraw their children from relationships and health education.
- Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the non-statutory/non-science components of sex education within RSE.
- Parents who wish to withdraw their child from any aspect of the school's RSE programme should notify the Head Teacher in writing.
- Alternative work will be given to pupils who are withdrawn from sex education.

**Secondary age pupils:**

- Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the non-statutory/non-science components of sex education within RSE up to and until 3 terms before the child turns 16. After this point, if the child wishes to receive sex education rather than being withdrawn, the school will arrange this.
- Parents who wish to withdraw their child from any aspect of the school's RSE programme should notify the Head Teacher in writing.

**However, there may be exceptional circumstances where the head teacher may want to take a pupil's specific needs arising from their SEND into account when making this decision.**

**Confidentiality Disclosure:**

Any disclosure will be responded to in accordance to the schools Safeguarding Policy.

**Assessment:**

Teaching and learning of RSE will be assessed by:

- Ongoing teacher assessment against the School's PSHE pathway
- Pupil self-assessment where appropriate
- Observations of pupil interactions
- EHCP outcomes

**Monitoring arrangements:**

The delivery of RSE is monitored by SLT and the Aspect Lead through:

- Learning walks
- Planning scrutiny
- Earwig evidence
- Lesson planning and observations
- Teacher monitoring
- Pupil feedback
- Contact with parents

**REVIEW:**

This policy will be reviewed annually and, should significant amendments result from whole school discussion, then the policy will be presented to the governing body for approval. This Policy Statement is considered part of the Terms and Conditions of Employment for all staff at The Shrubberies

Reviewed by Sarah Williams and Jayne English November 2023