

HEATHCOTE PRIMARY SCHOOL



Relationships and sex education policy

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Signed by Chair of Governors	October 2021

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AIMS OF PSHE

Heathcote Upon Avon Primary School aims to teach Personal, Social and Health Education using a whole-school approach with the aim of creating a community and environment that respects, supports and encourages each pupil.

Under section 78 of the Education Act 2002 and the Academies Act 2010, the PSHE curriculum must

- Promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society.
- Prepare pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.

Heathcote Primary School takes a comprehensive approach towards PSHE, providing a programme which offers a diligently devised Scheme of Work across all year groups supporting the development and learning capacity of each pupil.

PSHE makes a significant contribution to the promotion of young people's personal and social development. This is an essential aspect of education, supporting learning across all curriculum areas. Through the promotion of PSHE, skills are developed that our pupils need in order for them to grow and flourish as individuals and members of society. Studying PSHE contributes to helping children and young people to build their personal identities, confidence and self-esteem. It helps them to make career choices, understand managing their finances and what influences their decision making process. PSHE enables them to recognise and manage their emotions and to communicate positively in a range of different scenarios. Overall, the PSHE curriculum at Heathcote Primary School supports the 'Personal Development' and 'Behaviour and Attitude' aspects required under the Ofsted Inspection Framework, as well as contributing significantly to the Safeguarding and Equality Duties, the Government's British Values agenda and the Spiritual, Moral, Social, Cultural (SMSC) opportunities provided to all pupils.

STATUTORY RSE AND HEALTH EDUCATION

Relationships education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education (England) Regulations 2019, made under section 34 and 35 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017, make Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) compulsory for all pupils receiving secondary education.

"Today's children and young people are growing up in an increasingly complex world and living their lives seamlessly on and offline. This presents many positive and exciting opportunities, but also challenges and risks. In this environment, children and young people need to know how to be safe and healthy, and how to manage their academic, personal and social lives in a positive way."

"This is why we have made Relationships Education compulsory in all primary schools in England and Relationships and Sex Education compulsory in all secondary schools, as well as making Health Education compulsory in all state-funded schools."

"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. At secondary, teaching will build on

the knowledge acquired at primary and develop further pupils' understanding of health, with an increased focus on risk areas such as drugs and alcohol, as well as introducing knowledge about intimate relationships and sex."

"These subjects represent a huge opportunity to help our children and young people develop. The knowledge and attributes gained will support their own, and others' wellbeing and attainment and help young people to become successful and happy adults who make a meaningful contribution to society."

Secretary of State Foreword, Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education. DfE Guidance 2019 p.4-5.

"Schools are free to determine how to deliver the content set out in the DfE guidance 2019 in the context of a broad and balanced curriculum. Effective teaching in these subjects will ensure that core knowledge is broken down into units of manageable size and communicated clearly to pupils, in a carefully sequenced way, within a planned programme of lessons."

Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education. DfE Guidance p.8

"All schools must have in place a written policy for Relationships and Sex Education."

Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education. DfE Guidance p.11.

The DfE Guidance 2019 at secondary school level relates to the 'intimate and sexual relationships, including sexual health' section of the guidance and includes:

- Facts about reproductive health
- Facts about the full range of contraceptive choices
- How sexually transmitted infections (STIs) including HIV/AIDS are transmitted
- How to get further advice, including how and where to access confidential sexual and reproductive health advice and treatment
- Consent and the law

Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education. DfE Guidance page29

Heathcote Primary School include the statutory Relationships, Sex and Health Education within the PSHE curriculum as our pupils need help and advice to help them develop healthy relationships, not just those of an intimate nature, but of all kinds.

We aim to help them understand what a healthy relationship looks like and teach them what is and is not acceptable behaviour. We want to enable our pupils to understand and respect who they are and empower them with a voice which enables them to act according to their beliefs and that supports them throughout their lives.

SAFEGUARDING AND RESPONSIBILITY

PSHE and RSE work with pupils' real-life experiences and it is key that both staff and pupils are protected in these lessons. A safe and supportive environment is created by the use of ground rules;

- Listen to each other (only one person talks at a time)
- Keep to time
- Challenge the statement; not the individual making it
- The 'right' not to answer questions
- No personal questions to be asked by pupils or teachers
- If giving an example make it anonymous.
- Everyone has a right to his or her own space.
- Right to Privacy.

Many issues covered in PSHE and RSE are of a sensitive nature. The ground rules provide a safe working environment for both pupils and staff. All staff at the Heathcote Primary School receive safeguarding training.

Due to nature of the topics covered in the PSHE and RSE education programmes, all teachers are made aware of the Heathcote Primary School guidelines on confidentiality and disclosure. The boundaries around confidentiality are made explicit to learners.

EQUALITY

The PSHE and RSE policy at Heathcote Primary School promotes respect and value for each individual pupil. The DfE Guidance 2019 (p.15) states, "Schools should ensure that the needs of all pupils are appropriately met, and that all pupils understand the importance of equality and respect. Schools must ensure they comply with the relevant provisions of the Equality Act 2010 under which sexual orientation and gender reassignment are amongst the protected characteristics. Schools within our Trust are free to determine how and when they teach the pupils about LGBT content (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender) and all pupils are taught the LGBT content at a timely point as part of the curriculum.

At Heathcote Primary School, we respect the right of pupils, their families and our staff, to hold beliefs, religious or otherwise, and understand that sometimes these may be different with our approach to some aspects of RSE and Health Education.

SEND

Heathcote Primary School prides itself on its inclusive policy and how we make provision for all pupils' needs. This is no exception for PSHE and RSE. High quality teaching is differentiated and personalised to meet the needs of all pupils.

ASSESSING

As with any learning, the assessment of pupils' PSHE and RSE is important as it enables the teacher to gauge their progress and it also informs the development of the lessons. Pupils do not pass or fail this area of learning, but have the opportunity to reflect upon their personal learning experience, set goals, and record their understanding in a range of ways; posters, leaflets, reflective diaries etc. Their progress is also monitored during class discussions, group work, questionnaires / surveys and peer assessment. Pupil voice is also used to adapt and amend material for PSHE and RSE and ensure it is relevant and effective to both our learners and wider community.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The School Standards Committee

The PSHE and RSE policy will be approved by Heathcote Primary School governing body and they will hold the Executive Head Teacher to account for its implementation.

The Executive Head Teacher

It is the responsibility of the Executive Head to ensure that PSHE and RSE is taught consistently across the school.

It is also their responsibility to manage any requests to withdraw pupils from non-statutory components of RSE

Staff

The staff across Heathcote Primary School are responsible for:

- The delivery of PSHE and RSE in a sensitive way
- Modelling positive attitudes to PSHE and RSE
- Monitoring progress
- Responding to the needs of individual pupils
- Responding appropriately to pupils whose parents / carers wish them to be withdrawn from the non-statutory 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 Executive Head.

Pupils

There is an expectation that all pupils across the Heathcote Primary School fully engage in PSHE and RSE and follow the ground rules (as specified above) thus ensuring they treat others with respect and sensitivity.

Parents

All parents have access to the PSHE and RSE policy and are invited to feedback directly to the school and participate with surveys and questionnaires as part of our consultation process.

PARENTS RIGHT TO WITHDRAW FROM RSE

Primary schools

Parents' do not have the right to withdraw their children from relationships education.

Parents' have the right to withdraw their children from the non-statutory components of sex education within RSE. Students are not able to be withdrawn from the 'Health Education' topics within the new curriculum. Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing using the form found in Appendix 2 of this policy and addressed to the Executive Head. Alternative work will be given to pupils who are withdrawn from sex education.

VISITORS

Heathcote Primary School value working with external partners as they enhance the delivery of PSHE and RSE with specialist knowledge and different ways of engaging our pupils. As part of the PSHE and RSE educational package, outside visitors will be invited to deliver appropriate sessions to pupils within the Trust.

All visitors are subject to the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding policy and the credentials of visiting organisations and any visitors linked to external agencies are always checked. The School also ensures that the teaching delivered by visitors fits with the planned programme of study. The content of lessons provided by external agencies is age appropriate and accessible for all pupils and is approved by the school in advance of delivery.

As with all PSHE and RSE lessons, The School will ensure that guest speakers / visitors are aware of the confidentiality and safeguarding policy. Any matters reported by visitors to the lead teacher will be dealt with in line with the School's Safeguarding Policy

CURRICULUM DESIGN

Our curriculum is set out as per Appendix 1 but we may need to adapt it as and when necessary. Examples of lessons can also be found on our school website.

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.

The PSHE and RSE policy at the Heathcote Primary School is informed by the DfE guidance:

- Keeping Children Safe in Education
- Respectful School Communities
- Behaviour and Discipline in Schools
- Equalities Act 2010
- SEND code of practice: 0 to 25 years]
- Mental Health and Behaviour in Schools
- Preventing and Tackling Bullying including cyberbullying

- Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools
- The Equality and Human Rights Commission Advice and Guidance
- Promoting Fundamental British Values as part of SMSC in schools

Appendix 1: Curriculum Outline

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Families and people who care about me	<p>That families are important for children growing up because they can give love, security and stability</p> <p>The 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 lives</p> <p>That 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 care</p> <p>That 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 up</p> <p>That marriage represents a formal and legally recognised commitment of two people to each other which is intended to be lifelong</p> <p>How to recognise if family relationships are making them feel unhappy or unsafe, and how to seek help or advice from others if needed</p>
Caring friendships	<p>How important friendships are in making us feel happy and secure, and how people choose and make friends</p> <p>The characteristics of friendships, including mutual respect, truthfulness, trustworthiness, loyalty, kindness, generosity, trust, sharing interests and experiences and support with problems and difficulties</p> <p>That healthy friendships are positive and welcoming towards others, and do not make others feel lonely or excluded</p> <p>That 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 right</p> <p>How 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</p>

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Respectful relationships	<p>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</p> <p>Practical steps they can take in a range of different contexts to improve or support respectful relationships</p> <p>The conventions of courtesy and manners</p> <p>The importance of self-respect and how this links to their own happiness</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>What a stereotype is, and how stereotypes can be unfair, negative or destructive</p> <p>The importance of permission-seeking and giving in relationships with friends, peers and adults</p>
Online relationships	<p>That people sometimes behave differently online, including by pretending to be someone they are not</p> <p>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</p> <p>The rules and principles for keeping safe online, how to recognise risks, harmful content and contact, and how to report them</p> <p>How to critically consider their online friendships and sources of information including awareness of the risks associated with people they have never met</p> <p>How information and data is shared and used online</p>
Being safe	<p>What sorts of boundaries are appropriate in friendships with peers and others (including in a digital context)</p> <p>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</p> <p>That each person's body belongs to them, and the differences between appropriate and inappropriate or unsafe physical, and other, contact</p> <p>How to respond safely and appropriately to adults they may encounter (in all contexts, including online) whom they do not know</p> <p>How to recognise and report feelings of being unsafe or feeling bad about any adult</p> <p>How to ask for advice or help for themselves or others, and to keep trying until they are heard</p> <p>How to report concerns or abuse, and the vocabulary and confidence needed to do so</p> <p>Where to get advice e.g. family, school and/or other sources</p>

Appendix 2: 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	