



Nether Green Junior School

**POLICY FOR
RELATIONSHIPS,
SEX & HEALTH
EDUCATION**

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Appropriate and responsible RSHE is an important element in the work of schools in preparing pupils for life. It calls for careful and sensitive treatment. It aims to prepare young people to meet changes in their lives with not only information, but the skills and confidence to make informed choices.

RSHE in our school is not seen or taught as an isolated subject. The staff endeavour to create an atmosphere where children feel comfortable and are able to question and talk openly. Children are encouraged in a variety of ways and across different areas of the curriculum, to develop positive attitudes of understanding and responsibility which will enhance their lives and relationships as young children in preparation for adolescence and subsequently adulthood.

Meeting 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 Nether Green Junior School we teach RSE as set out in this policy.

We do not have to follow the National Curriculum but we are expected to offer all pupils a curriculum that is similar to the National Curriculum including requirements to teach science which would include the elements of sex education contained in the science curriculum.

In teaching RSE, we are required by our funding agreements to have regard to [guidance](#) issued by the secretary of state as outlined in section 403 of the [Education Act 1996](#).

Definition

- RSHE is about the emotional, social and cultural development of pupils, and involves learning about relationships, sexuality, healthy lifestyles, diversity, personal identity and changes humans go through as they grow.
- RSHE involves a combination of sharing information, and exploring issues and values.
- RSHE teaches children how babies are conceived and born. (non-statutory)

Aim

The aim of Relationships, Sex and Health education (RSHE) at our school is to:

- Provide a framework in which sensitive discussions can take place
- Prepare pupils for puberty, and give them an understanding of sexual 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

Curriculum

- Nether Green Junior school will be delivering the Sheffield scheme of work.as part of our Life Skills curriculum. (See appendix 1)
- The Sheffield scheme of work has been produced after extensive consultation with academics, public health professionals, teachers, NHS representatives, religious leaders of many faiths and representatives of the LGBT+ Community.
- The scheme has been deeply influenced by national and local research and good practice, particularly from the PSHE association.
- The scheme is based on the Sheffield Online Safety Curriculum which has been overwhelmingly positively received by schools both in Sheffield and nationally.

Community Consultation

- 24 community consultation events were held with faith and community leaders and groups, parents and young people.
- These sessions were by invitation only and were designed to encourage confidence in the curriculum by informing individuals who are influential in their localities so that they could correct misconceptions, alley fears and importantly make suggestions to make the curriculum more inclusive.
- The aim was to avoid tensions that have occurred nationally and also to assist schools with their consultations around policy and implementation of the statutory guidance.
- The curriculum has been presented to SACRE. (Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education)
- Governors and Parents/Carers at Nether Green have been consulted with opportunity to give feedback or ask questions.
- Staff have been consulted and trained in using the scheme

Delivery of RSHE

RSHE is taught within our school's Life Skills curriculum. Other aspects are included in Science and Computing.

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

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, step-families, families headed by grandparents, adoptive parents, and 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).

We teach sexual orientation to children in Year 6 during the lesson -'How can I accept my friends for who they are?'- to ensure there is no stigmatisation and so that all children have the knowledge they need to be tolerant, accepting and open-minded members of society.

For children with special educational needs and/or disability, learning is differentiated using the same quality first teaching strategies for other curriculum areas. For individual children with specific needs, the content and sequence of the curriculum is shaped to meet their specific needs at different developmental stages.

Pupils are expected to engage fully in RSHE and, when discussing issues related to RSHE, treat others with respect and sensitivity.

Primary sex education will focus on:

- Preparing boys and girls for the changes that adolescence brings
- How a baby is conceived and born (non - statutory)

Teachers have authority to give information, but not to offer advice. Children's questions are treated sensitively and simply, often without requiring highly sophisticated or complicated responses. If an individual pupil raises a particularly explicit issue, teachers should exercise their discretion and judgement about how to deal with it. In this case, teachers may choose to discuss the child's concerns first with the parents to see how they would like the matter handled. Where the parents wish them to do so, it may be appropriate to respond individually to the child's question outside the classroom. We do not, however, intend to take over the role of parents but wish to work with them.

Teachers must never promise confidentiality but should handle a sensitive question with tact and if necessary inform the Child Protection Liaison Officer. All situations involving any form of abuse or child protection MUST be referred immediately to the school's Child Protection Liaison Officer. Other outside agencies can be contacted for support and information.

Parents' right to withdraw

Parents do not have the right to withdraw their children from relationships education but do have the right to withdraw their children from the non-statutory components of sex education within RSHE. Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing and addressed to the head teacher. Alternative work will be given to pupils who are withdrawn from sex education.

Roles and responsibilities

The governing board will approve the RSHE policy, and continue to review its implementation in the school.

The head teacher

The head teacher is responsible for ensuring that RSHE is taught consistently across the school, and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from non-statutory components of RSHE.

Staff

Staff are responsible for:

Delivering RSHE in a sensitive way

Modelling positive attitudes to RSHE

Monitoring progress

Responding to the needs of individual pupils

Responding appropriately to pupils whose parents wish them to be withdrawn from the non-statutory components of RSHE

Staff do not have the right to opt out of teaching RSHE. Staff who have concerns about teaching RSHE are encouraged to discuss this with the head teacher.

All class teachers are responsible for teaching RSHE in our school.

Pupils

Pupils are expected to engage fully in RSHE and, when discussing issues related to RSHE, treat others with respect and sensitivity.

Monitoring arrangements

The delivery of RSHE is monitored by the lead teacher in this area through a “deep dive approach” in line with the schools approach for subject monitoring.

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