



Winton Primary School

RSE Policy

Approved by: Governors

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1. AIMS

At Winton Primary we aim to provide pupils with the knowledge, understanding, attitudes, values and skills they need in order to reach their potential as individuals and within the community.

Pupils are encouraged to take part in a wide range of activities and experiences across and beyond the curriculum, contributing fully to the life of their school and communities. In doing so they learn to recognise their own worth, work well with others and become increasingly responsible for their own learning. They reflect on their experiences and understand how they are developing personally and socially, tackling many of the spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues that are part of growing up.

They learn to understand and respect our common humanity; diversity and differences so that they can go on to form the effective, fulfilling relationships that are an essential part of life and learning. The aims of relationships and sex education (RSE) at our school are 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
- Enables children to become confident, caring and respected citizens.

2. STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

As a primary academy school we must provide relationships education to all pupils as per section 34 of the [Children and Social work act 2017](#).

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](#).

At Winton 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 meeting about the policy
4. Pupil consultation – we investigated what exactly pupils want from their RSE
5. Ratification – once amendments were made, the policy was shared with governors and ratified

Involving parents and carers

The school believes that it is important to have the support of parents, carers and the wider community for the PSHE and RSE program. Parents and carers are/will be given the opportunity to find out about and discuss the PSHE/RSE program through:

- Parent/carer PSHE/RSE awareness session
- Parents'/carers' evenings
- Involvement in policy development
- Involvement in curriculum development
- Information leaflets/displays

Pupil Consultation

It is useful for pupils to be consulted on their own personal, social and citizenship development. Ask pupils either in individual classes or through the school council what sort of person they would like to be by the time they leave this school; what qualities, skills, attitudes, values are important to them as people?

- Develop this further by asking pupils how they feel the school could support them with this, what initiatives the school could implement to support this e.g. friendship benches, peer mentoring systems.

4. DEFINITION

Relationship and Sex Education is lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. RSE involves a combination of sharing information, and exploring issues and values. Effective SRE can make a significant contribution to the development of the personal skills needed by pupils if they are to establish and maintain relationships. It also enables children and young people to make responsible and informed decisions about their health and well-being.

We are mindful that parents/carers do have the legal right to withdraw their children from the RSE that is part of the PSHE program, whilst we hope they do not feel the need to do so.

5. CURRICULUM

RSE is taught and integrated into our curriculum through PSHE. Our PSHE and RSE curriculum is delivered through 'Jigsaw' and a broad overview of the RSE curriculum is set out as per Appendix 1.

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.

Primary sex education will focus on:

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

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

6. DELIVERY OF RSE

RSE is taught within the personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education curriculum, delivered through Jigsaw. Biological aspects of RSE are taught within the science curriculum, and other aspects are included in religious education (RE).

Relationship 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, 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).

The learning environment

Teachers will set aside time to establish a safe learning environment for both pupils and adult staff in the classroom. This helps pupils to feel comfortable about sharing feelings, exploring values and attitudes, expressing opinions and considering the views and opinions of others without fear of negative feedback. As well as encouraging more open discussion, it helps to ensure that teachers are prepared to deal with unexpected disclosures or inappropriate comments should they occur.

Teachers will:

- work with pupils to establish ground rules about how they will behave towards each other in discussion (see the Ground Rules section below)
- offer some opportunities for pupils to discuss issues in small groups as well as sharing views with the class
- make something available in which pupils can place anonymous questions or concerns, to avoid having to voice them in front of the class.
- provide access to balanced information and differing views to help pupils clarify their own opinions and views (while making clear that behaviours such as racism, discrimination and bullying are never acceptable in any form)
- ensure all teaching and learning is inclusive, avoids heteronormative assumptions, and meets the needs of all learners—including those with special educational needs and disabilities (and is sensitive to the religious and cultural identity of pupils)
- exercise sensitivity to the needs of individuals, as some pupils may have direct experience of some of the issues raised.
- always work within the school's policies on safeguarding and confidentiality (ensuring that pupils understand school policies on disclosure of confidential information and following up concerns in a more appropriate setting outside lessons)
- link PSHE education with the whole-school approach to supporting pupil welfare
- make pupils aware of sources of support both inside and outside the school

Teachers will ensure that the content, approach and use of inclusive language reflect the diversity of the school community and society more widely—helping every pupil to feel valued and included in the classroom.

As with any other lessons, positive behaviour management strategies will be employed throughout, however teachers may discuss how pupils might feel during the lessons before they start.

Ground rules

Ground rules will be established in PSHE lessons, including those in which RSE is taught. The purpose of this is to minimise inappropriate and unintended disclosures and comments of a negative nature made towards other pupils, whether intentional or not. They are also paramount to effectively managing discussions that might elicit strong opinions from pupils.

Examples of ground rules could include:

- Openness: We will be open and honest, but not discuss directly our own or others' personal/private lives. We will discuss examples but will not use names or descriptions which could identify anyone.
- Keep the conversation in the room: We feel safe discussing issues and we know that our teacher will not repeat what is said in the classroom unless they are concerned we are at risk, in which case they will follow the school's safeguarding policy.
- Non-judgmental approach: It is okay for us to disagree with another person's point of view but we will not judge, make fun of, or put anybody down. We will 'challenge the opinion, not the person'.
- Right to pass: Taking part is important. However, we have the right to pass on answering a question or participating in an activity and we will not put anyone 'on the spot'.
- Make no assumptions: We will not make assumptions about people's values, attitudes, behaviours, identity, life experiences or feelings. We will listen to the other person's point of view respectfully and expect to be listened to ourselves.
- Using appropriate language: We will use correct terms rather than slang terms, as they can be offensive. If we are not sure what the correct term is, we will ask our teacher.
- Asking questions: We are encouraged to ask questions and they are valued by our teacher. However, we do not ask personal questions or anything intended to deliberately try to embarrass someone.
- Seeking help and advice: If we need further help or advice, we know how and where to seek it—both in school and in the community. We will encourage friends to seek help if we think they need it.

Distancing techniques

Teachers may employ distancing techniques in lessons, such as stories, scenarios, clips from TV programs or case studies can provide fictional characters and storylines that stimulate discussion whilst 'de-personalising' discussions. This allows pupils to engage more objectively with the lesson content. The following or similar questions may be used to support distanced discussion:

- What is happening to them?
- Why might this be happening?
- How are they feeling? What are they thinking?
- What do other people think of them?
- Who could help them?
- What would you tell them to do if they asked for help?
- What could you say or do to persuade them to act differently?

Handling pupils' questions

Pupil engagement is key to the successful teaching of RSE. There may be times during class discussions where pupils wish to ask the teacher questions but may not feel comfortable doing so in front of the class. Similarly, pupils may ask a question that may not be age-appropriate.

The school believes that individual teachers must use their skill and discretion in this area and refer to the designated safeguarding lead if they are concerned.

When faced with a challenging question, teachers should:

- Thank them for the question and check they have understood what they are asking and what they think the answer is.
- Give a factual, age-appropriate answer where possible.
- Defer answering a question if needs be and consider whether senior colleagues need to be consulted to make sure they are following school policy and are mindful. What is the school policy? Is there a potential safeguarding issue?

Signposting support

Teaching will ensure that, included in lessons, is information about different sources of help for young people—both within and beyond the school. Opportunities will be provided for pupils to develop the skills to seek advice and articulate their concerns by explaining how to access help and what is likely to happen if they seek support from different services.

Confidentiality and Child Protection

As a general rule a child's confidentiality is maintained by the teacher or member of staff concerned. If this person believes that the child is at risk or in danger, she/he talks to the Designated Safeguarding Lead who takes action as laid down in the Child Protection Policy. All staff members at Winton Primary school are familiar with the policy and know the identity of the member of staff with responsibility for Child Protection issues. The child concerned will be informed that confidentiality is being breached and reasons why. The child will be supported by the teacher throughout the process. It is important to note that a disclosure regarding sexual orientation or gender identity is not, in itself, a safeguarding issue and does not need to be reported to anyone, including parents/carers.

Safeguarding

Teachers need to be aware that sometimes disclosures may be made during these sessions; in which case, safeguarding procedures must be followed immediately. Sometimes it is clear that certain children may need time to talk one-to-one after the circle closes. It is important to allow the time and appropriate staffing for this to happen. If disclosures occur, the school's disclosure and/or confidentiality policy is followed.

Differentiation/SEN

The PSHE and RSE curriculum objectives are aimed at all children. Teachers will need, as always, to tailor each lesson to meet the needs of the children in their classes. This may be through a differentiated outcome for the lesson or through a separate teaching input.

7. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

7.1 The governing body

The governing board will approve the RSE policy, and hold the headteacher to account for its implementation.

7.2 The Headteacher

The headteacher is responsible for ensuring that RSE is taught consistently across the school, and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from non-statutory components of RSE (see section 8).

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
- Responding appropriately to pupils whose parents 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 headteacher.

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/carers do not have the right to withdraw their children from Relationships and Health Education. They do have the right to withdraw their children from aspects of the Sex Education provided at Winton Primary School except for those parts included in statutory National Curriculum Science. Those parents/carers wishing to exercise this right are invited in to see the class teacher or phase leader who will explore any concerns and discuss any impact that withdrawal may have on the child. A withdrawal request should be put in writing and addressed to the headteacher. A copy of this request will be placed in the pupil's educational record. The headteacher will discuss the request with parents and take appropriate action. Once a child has been withdrawn they cannot take part in the RSE program until the request for withdrawal has been removed. Materials are

available to parents/carers who wish to supplement the school RSE program or who wish to deliver RSE to their children at home. Parents/carers have a legal right to see the school RSE policy and to be given a copy of it (Education Act 1996). Parents/carers should also be aware that schools are legally required to provide a broad and balanced curriculum. Sex and relationships topics can arise incidentally in other subjects, such as Science, and it is not possible to withdraw pupils from these relatively limited and often unplanned discussions

9. TRAINING

Staff are trained on the delivery of RSE as part of their induction and it is included in our continuing professional development calendar.

Opportunities are provided for staff to identify individual training needs on a yearly basis and relevant support is provided.

In addition to this, support for teaching and understanding PSHE issues is incorporated in our staff INSET program, drawing on staff expertise and/or a range of external agencies.

10. MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

The delivery of RSE is monitored by the school's leadership team through:

- Scrutiny of planning
- Outcomes in pupils' books
- Learning walks
- Pupil voice feedback

Pupils' development in RSE is monitored by class teachers through formative assessment.

This policy will be reviewed by the governing body annually. At every review, the policy will be approved by the governing board.

Links to other policies and curriculum areas

We recognise the clear link between this and the following policies and staff are aware of the need to refer to these policies when appropriate.

- Science curriculum
- Teaching and Learning Policy
- Equality Objectives
- Child Protection Policy

Dissemination

This policy is available on our school website where it can be accessed by the community. Training is regularly delivered to staff on the policy content. Copies are available from the school office on request from parents/carers.

Appendix 1: Curriculum map

Jigsaw: PSHE & relationships and sex education curriculum map

Puberty and Human Reproduction in Jigsaw 3-11		
FS	Growing Up	How we have changed since we were babies
Y1	My changing body	Understanding that growing and changing is natural and happens to everybody at different rates
	Boys' and girls' bodies	Appreciating the parts of the body that make us different and using the correct names for them
Y2	The changing me	Where am I on the journey from young to old, and what changes can I be proud of?
	Boys and girls	Differences between boys and girls – how do we feel about them? Which parts of me are private?
Y3	Outside body changes	How our bodies need to change so they can make babies when we grow up – outside changes and how we feel about them
	Inside body changes	How our bodies need to change so they can make babies when we grow up – inside changes and how we feel about them (animations used – shorter version Female and Male Reproductive Systems)

Puberty and Human Reproduction in Jigsaw 3-11

Y4	Having a baby	The choice to have a baby, the parts of men and women that make babies and – in simple terms – how this happens (animations used – the Female Reproductive System)
	Girls and puberty	How a girl's body changes so that she can have a baby when she's an adult – including menstruation (animations used – the Female Reproductive System)
Y5	Puberty for girls	Physical changes and feelings about them – importance of looking after yourself (animations used – the Female Reproductive System)
	Puberty for boys	Developing understanding of changes for both sexes – reassurance and exploring feelings (animations used – the Male Reproductive System)
	Conception	Understanding the place of sexual intercourse in a relationship and how it can lead to conception and the wonder of a new life (animations used – the Female and Male Reproductive Systems)
Y6	Puberty	Consolidating understanding of physical and emotional changes and how they affect us (animations used – the Female and Male Reproductive Systems)
	Girl talk / boy talk	A chance to ask questions and reflect (single sex) (animations used – the Female and Male Reproductive Systems)
	Conception to birth	The story of pregnancy and birth (animations used – the Female and Male Reproductive Systems)

Appendix 2: By the end of primary school pupils should know

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Families and people who care about me	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That families are important for children growing up because they can give love, security and stability • 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 • 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 • 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 • That marriage represents a formal and legally recognised commitment of two people to each other which is intended to be lifelong • How to recognise if family relationships are making them feel unhappy or unsafe, and how to seek help or advice from others if needed
Caring friendships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How important friendships are in making us feel happy and secure, and how people choose and make friends • The characteristics of friendships, including mutual respect, truthfulness, trustworthiness, loyalty, kindness, generosity, trust, sharing interests and experiences and support with problems and difficulties • That healthy friendships are positive and welcoming towards others, and do not make others feel lonely or excluded • 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 • 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

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Respectful relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • Practical steps they can take in a range of different contexts to improve or support respectful relationships • The conventions of courtesy and manners • The importance of self-respect and how this links to their own happiness • 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 • 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 • What a stereotype is, and how stereotypes can be unfair, negative or destructive • The importance of permission-seeking and giving in relationships with friends, peers and adults
Online relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That people sometimes behave differently online, including by pretending to be someone they are not • 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 • The rules and principles for keeping safe online, how to recognise risks, harmful content and contact, and how to report them • How to critically consider their online friendships and sources of information including awareness of the risks associated with people they have never met • How information and data is shared and used online

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Being safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What sorts of boundaries are appropriate in friendships with peers and others (including in a digital context) • 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 • That each person's body belongs to them, and the differences between appropriate and inappropriate or unsafe physical, and other, contact • How to respond safely and appropriately to adults they may encounter (in all contexts, including online) whom they do not know • How to recognise and report feelings of being unsafe or feeling bad about any adult • How to ask for advice or help for themselves or others, and to keep trying until they are heard • How to report concerns or abuse, and the vocabulary and confidence needed to do so • Where to get advice e.g. family, school and/or other sources

Appendix 3: 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	