



Wilkinson Primary School

Show pride and respect in all that we do

Wilkinson Primary School

Policy for RSHE

Date: October 2025



'Show pride and respect in all that we do'

By Showing Pride and Respect In All That We Do, WE WILL...



Introduction

This policy expresses the school's purpose for the teaching and learning of RSE. It sets out the aims; planning of the curriculum and assessment and monitoring based on the PSHE programmes of study (POS) for Key Stages 1 and 2 set out by the PSHE association.

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At Wilkinson Primary School, we believe that PSHE and RSE helps to give pupils the knowledge, skills and understanding they need to lead confident, healthy, independent lives, in order to become informed, active and responsible citizens.

Legal context

The law was changed with effect from September 2020 so that primary schools in England must teach relationships education and health education (The Children and Social Work Act 2017).

- The relationships education part of the new curriculum teaches what children need to learn to build positive and safe relationships with family and friends and online.
- The health education part of the new curriculum covers both physical health and mental wellbeing and teaches children how to make good decisions about their own health and wellbeing; how to recognise issues in themselves and in others; and how to seek support as early as possible when issues arise.

Sex education is not compulsory in primary schools, but:

- The new curriculum for relationships education and health education does include content on puberty. (Kapow lesson 4- year 6 – Physical and emotional changes of puberty)
- The national curriculum for science includes subject content in related areas, such as the main external body parts; the human body as it grows from birth to old age (including puberty); and reproduction in some plants and animals.

Following this change in the law, the Department for Education published Statutory Guidance for Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education (2019). This guidance requires primary schools in England to have a written relationships education policy to cover the following:

- How relationships education is delivered
- What sex education (if any) a school chooses to cover that goes beyond the national curriculum for science and relationships education. There is no equivalent requirement for a health education policy but, in line with best practice, this RSHE policy also covers health education.

This RSHE policy also supports legal requirements relating to the following:

- The Equality Act 2010.
- The Education Act 1996.
- Statutory guidance, Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023

We believe that to be effective, RSE should always be taught within a broader PSHE education/science curriculum. There is no statutory requirement for primary schools to teach sex education beyond what is required in the Science National Curriculum. However, the department for education recommends that children are taught about how a baby is conceived and born prior to leaving primary school and therefore we have included conception and birth in our content at Years 5 and 6.



Subject Aims

RSE enhances and is enhanced by learning related to topics including anti-bullying; keeping safe on and off line; keeping physically and mentally healthy, learning about drugs, alcohol and tobacco; and the development of skills and attributes such as communication skills, managing peer pressure, risk management, resilience and decision making. RSE is part of lifelong learning about the emotional, social and physical aspects of growing up, relationships, sex, human sexuality and sexual health.

RSE, within PSHE, aims to give children and young people essential skills for building positive, enjoyable, respectful and non-exploitive relationships. It enables pupils to explore their own and other's attitudes and values and builds their self-esteem and confidence to view their own sexuality positively. RSE is not about the promotion of sexual activity.

Through these subjects, we want to support all young people to be happy, healthy and safe – we want to equip them for adult life and to make a positive contribution to society.

The aims of PSHE and RSE at Wilkinson are to:

- Promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of all pupils
- Prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life
- Encourage pupils to value themselves and others
- Allow pupils to acknowledge and appreciate difference and diversity
- Teach pupils how to make informed choices
- Prepare pupils to be positive and active members of a democratic society
- Teach pupils to understand what constitutes a safe and healthy lifestyle
- Provide a framework in which sensitive discussions can take place
- Promote safety in forming and maintaining relationships
- Provide pupils with a toolkit for understanding and managing their emotions
- Provide pupils with the opportunities to consider issues which may affect their own lives and/or the lives of others PSHE (Personal, Social, Health Education) and RSE (Relationships and Sex Education) Policy
- Help pupils to identify the characteristics of healthy relationships, how relationships may affect mental and physical health; and how to stay safe online
- 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 organisation**

The school has chosen to use the Kapow Primary RSE scheme of work, which provides full curriculum coverage, including all the statutory content, for each year group.

We believe that the best practice approach is for RSE to be covered as part of a wider programme of PSHE education including additional topics such as citizenship and economic wellbeing which also contribute to personal development.

Teaching and learning

As the subject deals with real-life experiences, it is important to establish a safe and positive learning environment using the following approaches:

- Establishing clear ground rules in consultation with children. Ground rules should include confidentiality, respect for others, privacy and boundaries.
- Using distancing techniques including de-personalised discussions and role play.
- Using clear language to avoid misunderstandings.
- Avoiding prejudice and assumptions about children's abilities, desires, background and experiences.
- Dealing sensitively with unexpected questions and comments.
- Assessing and building on existing knowledge and experiences.
- Ensuring that learning is engaging, using a range of activities, including structured discussion and problem-solving.
- Providing a range of opportunities to learn, practise and demonstrate knowledge, skills and attitudes.
- Allowing time for reflection.
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Resources

Teachers will select any additional resources carefully, and the subject leader will oversee the selection. Additional resources will be:

- Up-to-date.
- Relevant to children and their age.
- Consistent with the aims and values of the school.



Equality

Under the Equality Act 2010, the school is under a legal duty to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relationships between those with protected characteristics and those without. The protected characteristics are:

- Age.
- Marriage and Civil partnership.
- Disability.
- Race.
- Religion and belief. • Sexual orientation.
- Sex.
- Pregnancy and maternity.
- Gender reassignment.

In addition, the school must consider the needs of those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

The RSE programme will meet the needs of all children. Lessons will include content that will tackle discrimination and foster good relationships.

Right to withdraw from sex education

A parent or carer cannot legally withdraw their child from any aspect of the statutory relationships education or health education.

A parent or carer does have the right to withdraw their child from sex education unless what is being taught is part of the science national curriculum.

The Kapow Primary lessons that are deemed to be sex education are:

- *Year 6: Safety and the changing body, Lesson 5: Conception*
- *Year 6: Safety and the changing body, Lesson 6: Pregnancy and birth*

The following process must be followed if a parent or carer wishes to withdraw their child from sex education:

- In advance the teacher will advise parents as to when the sex education sessions are going to be delivered in school.
- Parents/carers should contact the head teacher by email prior to the day of the lesson.
- Parents/carers will be invited in for a meeting. The meeting will give an opportunity for the school and the parent/carers to discuss concerns, share content of the sessions and to outline the impact on the children of missing sex education lessons.
- Children who are withdrawn will spend the duration of the lesson in a different classroom covering another aspect of the RSE / PSHE curriculum independently.



Delivery of PSHE and RSE

Some biological aspects of sex education are taught within the science curriculum. We believe that RSE should meet the needs of all pupils, whatever their developing sexuality or identity – this should include age-appropriate teaching about different types of relationships in the context of the law.

Pupils should receive teaching on LGBT relationships, which is delivered at Wilkinson, for example, through teaching about different types of family, including those with same-sex parents.

Pupils with SEND as far as is appropriate, should follow the same PSHE education programme as all other students. Careful consideration is given concerning the learning ability of the child, and in some cases the content or delivery will be adapted. Teachers and/or learning support assistants work with individual pupils where required, and if appropriate.

Wilkinson recommends that all children take part in PSHE/RSE lessons but do welcome any enquiries from parents/ carers regarding the content of the lessons and if necessary, parents can withdraw their child from only sex education.

Date of Policy: October 2025

