

GREENHEART

LEARNING PARTNERSHIP 

Relationships and Sex Education Policy

Heathlands Primary Academy

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1. Aims

The aims of **Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)** in our schools 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
- Enable all of our pupils to live and work effectively in our diverse society

2. Statutory requirements

As academies our **primary schools** must provide relationships education to all pupils as per Section 34 of the [Children and Social work act 2017](#).

All of our **primary schools** follow the **National Curriculum**. This includes the requirement to teach **Science** including the elements of **sex education** contained within the **Science Programme of Study**. In teaching RSE, our **primary schools** are required by their funding agreements to have regard to [guidance](#) issued by the secretary of state as outlined in section 403 of the [Education Act 1996](#).

All of our **primary schools** teach **RSE** as set out in their individual **RSE Policy Statements**, reflecting the requirements of this document (the **Trust RSE Policy**), and the document *Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education: Statutory guidance for governing bodies, proprietors, head teachers, principals, senior leadership teams, teachers (DfE 2019)*.

All of our **primary schools** use the **Jigsaw PSHE Programme** to support their teaching of **RSE**, including **sex education**.

3. Policy development

Greenheart Learning Partnership (GLP) schools **must** consult with parents, staff, governors and where appropriate, children/students when developing or making changes to their RSE policies. Below is an example of what this consultation could look like:

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 Trustees and ratified*

4. Definition

RSE is about the emotional, social and cultural development of pupils, and involves learning about relationships, sexual health, sexuality, healthy lifestyles, diversity and personal identity.

RSE involves a combination of sharing information, and exploring issues and values.

5. Curriculum

Each school must develop its curriculum in consultation with parents, pupils and staff, taking into account the age, needs and feelings of pupils. Schools must ensure that if pupils ask questions outside the scope of the school's RSE policy, teachers will respond in an appropriate manner to ensure that pupils are fully informed and don't seek answers online. Schools must ensure that where teachers are unsure of the answer to a question, or are uncomfortable with its content, they know which member of staff to speak to for advice.

The RSE policy/curriculum of every GLP primary school must include a **sex education programme** tailored to the age and the physical and emotional maturity of its pupils. The school should ensure that both boys and girls are prepared for the changes that adolescence brings and – drawing on knowledge of the human life cycle set out in the National Curriculum for Science - how a baby is conceived and born.

Detailed information about each school's RSE Policy should be included in the Appendix referred to above.

6. Delivery of RSE

In GLP **primary schools** relationships education should focus 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

All GLP **primary schools** will teach a bespoke Sex Education programme in addition to what is covered in the **Science National Curriculum**. The content of this must be detailed in an appendix to the school's RSE Policy.

In all GLP schools these areas of learning must be 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).

7. Roles and responsibilities

7.1. Governance

The Partnership **Trust Board** has responsibility for the approval of RSE Policies for each school. However, the policy must be consistent with this document, the **Trust RSE Policy**. The Partnership will hold the headteacher of its school to account for the implementation of the policy.

Designated Partnership officers will monitor the implementation and impact of RSE policy in each school as part of the Partnership's ongoing challenge, support and quality assurance programme.

7.2. The Headteacher

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

7.3. Staff

Staff within GLP schools 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/as directed by the headteacher to pupils whose parents wish them to be withdrawn from the non-statutory/non-science components of RSE

Staff in GLP schools do not have the right to opt out of teaching RSE. Staff who have concerns about teaching RSE should discuss this with the school's headteacher.

Within its RSE Policy each school must clearly indicate the names/roles of those people in school who are responsible for teaching RSE.

7.4. Pupils

GLP schools must ensure that 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 of children in GLP **primary schools** do not have the right to withdraw their children from **Relationships Education**, or the **Sex Education** components of the **Science National Curriculum**.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the **non-statutory/non-science components** of sex education within RSE as outlined in the school's RSE Policy.

Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing using a standard form included as an appendix to the school's RSE Policy and addressed to the headteacher. The headteacher will discuss requests with the child's parent/carer and take appropriate action. Requests will not be discussed with the child.

Alternative work and supervision will be provided for pupils who are withdrawn from non-statutory elements of sex education.

9. Training

Staff in GLP schools must be appropriately trained on the delivery of RSE as part of their induction, and it must be included as part of each school's professional development cycle. Senior leaders will work with all staff to identify and address all training and support needs relating to the delivery of the school's RSE Policy.

The headteacher of each school will invite visitors from outside the school, such as school nurses or sexual health professionals, to provide support and training to staff teaching RSE as appropriate/required.

10. Monitoring arrangements

Each school's RSE Policy must identify a member of staff who is responsible for monitoring the delivery of RSE. The policy should include a brief statement outlining the school's arrangements for monitoring the delivery of RSE.

Pupils' development in RSE should be monitored by class teachers as part of each school's internal assessment systems.

The Partnership Trust Board will review the **Trust RSE Policy annually**.

Appendix 1: Example Curriculum map

Relationships and sex education curriculum map

Include as much detail as you can, including links to resources you'll use or sharing examples. Being transparent with parents/carers early on will make it easier for you to handle questions, concerns, or objections.

YEAR GROUP	TERM	TOPIC/THEME DETAILS	RESOURCES

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

Appendix 3: Example 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			