



Frodsham Primary Academy

Relationships Policy

Ratified: to be ratified by LGC - September 2023

Next Review Date: September 2025

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Policy Responsibilities and Review

Policy type:	School
Guidance:	Keeping Children Safe in Education- September 2023
Related policies:	School Policies and Procedures: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Safeguarding and child protection policy• Frodsham Curriculum statement and guidance• Relationship education policy• Code of Conduct (Home/School Planner)• SEND Policy and statement
Review frequency:	Annually
Committee responsible:	Local Governing Committee
Chair signature:	J Brown
Changes in latest version:	KCSIE 2023 updates

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1. Definition

Relationship education is about the emotional, social and cultural development of pupils and involves learning about positive relationships, healthy lifestyles, diversity and personal identity. It involves a combination of sharing information, and exploring issues and values.

We provide relationship education that focuses on teaching the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships.

Relationship education is **not** about the promotion of sexual activity. Statutory aspects of sex education are already covered in the science curriculum (see section 4: Curriculum)

2. Aims

All schools within Warrington Primary Academy Trust teach Relationship Education following guidance from the DfE and the PHSE Association. This ensures that age appropriate learning is mapped into our programmes of study. Key elements are provided in Appendix 1 and 2 for information.

Our aims for Relationships Education are to:

- Provide a framework in which sensitive discussions can take place
- Help pupils develop feelings of self-respect, confidence and empathy
- Create a positive culture around issues of sexuality and relationships

The first of our core values is Children First – Everything we do is in the interest of children first and foremost.

3. 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](#). While we do not have to follow the National Curriculum, we are expected to offer all pupils a curriculum that is similar, including the elements of sex education contained in the science curriculum. In teaching relationship education, 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](#). Relationship education is taught in compliance with the relevant requirements of the [Equality Act 2010 and schools advice](#) and in compliance with the [SEND code of conduct](#). (see section 10: Pupils with SEND)

At Frodsham Primary School we teach relationship education as set out in this policy.

4. Curriculum

Our relationship education curriculum is set out as per Appendix 1 is part of our PSHE curriculum. The curriculum may need to be adapted in response to changes in cohorts and to reflect changes in the wider world. Any changes made will be available on our 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.

Primary sex education will be delivered as a component of the Science Curriculum **only** and pupils will be taught:

Science-KS1: notice that animals, including humans, have offspring which grow into adults.

Science-KS2: describe the differences in the life cycles of a mammal, an amphibian, an insect and a bird, describe the life process of reproduction in some plants and animals, and describe the changes as humans develop to old age.

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

5. Delivery of Relationship Education

Our Curriculum Map shown in Appendix 1 breaks down the where RSE elements fit into our PSHE curriculum.

Appendix 2 provides further detail of the content for each section.

- 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, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Trans (LGBT+) parents, families headed by grandparents, older siblings, 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).

6. Roles and responsibilities

Local Governing Body

Frodsham Academy Local Governing Body will approve the Relationships Education policy and hold the Head teacher to account for its implementation.

The Trustees

The Trustees Standards Committee will approve the Relationships Education Policy and hold the Local Governing Body to account for its implementation.

The Head teacher

The Head teacher is responsible for ensuring that RSE is taught consistently across the school, and for managing requests to withdraw pupils. Only applicable to non- statutory or non- Science sex education (see section: 8).

Key Staff

Head teacher:	Gemma Callaghan
PSHE Subject Lead:	Gemma Callaghan
Curriculum Lead:	Gemma Callaghan
Pastoral Lead:	Debbie Sutton
RSE Governor Lead:	Nikki Edwards
Designated Safeguarding Lead:	Gemma Callaghan

Staff are responsible for:

- Delivering relationship education in a sensitive way
- Modelling positive attitudes to relationship education
- Monitoring progress
- Responding to the needs of individual pupils
- Responding appropriately to pupils whose parents wish them to be withdrawn from the non-statutory/non-science components of relationship education.

PSHE may be taught by all class-based staff. Staff do not have the right to opt out of teaching RSE. Staff who have concerns about teaching relationship education are encouraged to discuss this with the Head teacher.

Pupils

Pupils are expected to engage fully in relationship education and, when discussing issues related to relationship education, treat others with sensitivity and understand the importance of equality and respect.

7. Monitoring arrangements

The delivery of relationship education is monitored by the Head teacher and other key staff through:

- Monitoring arrangements, such as: planning scrutinies, learning walks and lesson observations
- Pupils' development in relationship education is monitored by class teachers as part of internal assessment systems.
- This policy will be reviewed by Frodsham Academy Local Governing Body annually.
- At every review, the policy will be approved by Frodsham Local Governing Body.

8. Parents' right to withdraw

Parents do **not** have the right to withdraw their children from relationships education as high quality evidence based and age appropriate teaching helps prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities

and experiences of life. They can also enable promotion of spiritual, moral, social, cultural, mental and physical development.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the non-statutory/non-science components of sex education within RSE, however Frodsham Academy School does **not** teach any non- statutory or non-science components of sex education.

We do recognise that the teaching of puberty may illicit strong feelings and some parental concerns. We would welcome any conversations with parents in order to share materials and allay any concerns.

9. Policy development

This policy has been developed in consultation with staff, pupils and parents. The consultation and policy development process involved the following steps in order:

- a. Review- by a working group, consisting of staff and governors where all relevant information was considered, including relevant national and local guidance.
- b. Staff consultation – all school staff were given the opportunity to look at the draft policy and make recommendations, ask questions or make comments.
- c. Parent/ Carer consultation – parents/carers were invited to attend a meeting to consider the policy and see example resources and plans and then to give written feedback.
- d. Pupil consultation – pupils were asked what exactly they want from their relationship education and proposals were discussed in an age appropriate way.
- e. Ratification – once amendments were made, the policy was shared with the Local Governing Body for approval.

10. Pupils with SEND

When planning relationship education, staff must make reasonable adjustments to alleviate disadvantage and be mindful of the SEND code of conduct. Relationship education must be accessible for all pupils. Relationship education teaching must be differentiated and personalised to ensure accessibility.

11. Training

Staff are trained on the delivery of relationships education and the biological aspects of science as part of their induction and it is included in our continuing professional development calendar.

The Head teacher will also invite visitors from outside the school, such as school nurses or sexual health professionals, to provide support and training to staff teaching Relationships Education.

Appendix 1: Long Term Plan

Relationships education curriculum map

The Relationship Education topics will be taught as part of our PSHE rolling program- please see PSHE intent document, medium term plans and knowledge organisers on the website.

PSHE Rolling Programme	Autumn	Spring	Summer
Year A	Being Me in my World/ Healthy Me	Celebrating Difference/ Relationships	Dreams and Goals/ Changing Me
Year B	Being Me in my World/ Healthy Me	Celebrating Difference/ Relationships	Dreams and Goals/ Changing Me

RESOURCES

- Jigsaw PSHE resources (Quality Assured Mark from PSHE Association)
- Age appropriate texts from Stonewall Primary Reading list
- P.A.N.T.S resources from NSPCC
- E-safety resources from eAWARE

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
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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

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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

