

Wootton St Peter's CE of Primary School



Relationship's Education (Primary) (PSHE)

Date Adopted by Governing Body: March 2025

Date to be Reviewed: March 2026

Signed Chair of Governors

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'M. S. Varnom'.

Mike Varnom

Signed Headteacher

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Charles Pitt'.

Charles Pitt

RSE is vital for the personal, social and emotional development of our pupils. It equips children and young people with the information, skills and values they need to have safe, respectful and enjoyable relationships and empowers them to take responsibility for their sexual health and well-being.

All children and young people have a right to a holistic, inclusive and needs-led RSE. Through providing high quality RSE we are upholding the ethos and values of our school and its commitment to equality and celebration of difference. By unlocking hearts and minds to a love of learning and love for one another. In the Christian tradition we walk in the footsteps of St Peter to nurture the well-being and development of everyone in the community, enabling adults and children of all faiths to reach their potential.



1. How this Policy was developed

This policy was written by Michaela Hicks (PSHE Lead) and developed in consultation with parents, teachers and other school staff, governors and the pupils at Wootton St Peter's Primary School. We have listened and responded to all views to help strengthen the policy, ensuring that it meets the needs of all of our pupils. It has been approved by the school's governing body.

2. Legal requirements of schools

It is now a statutory requirement for primary schools to deliver Relationships Education and the Department of Education (DfE) encourages schools to deliver Sex Education that ensures both boys and girls are prepared for the changes 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.

Health Education is also statutory in all schools¹.

We at Wootton St Peter's Primary school acknowledge that under the Education Act 2002/Academies Act 2010 all schools must provide a balanced and broadly-based curriculum and wish to have a policy that not only covers the statutory content but

covers all aspects of our Personal, Social, Health Economic (PSHE) education provision. The information below complies with our statutory obligations to deliver RSE under sections 34 and 35 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017.

3. What Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education including Relationships Education, is:

Our PSHE education, including statutory Relationships and Health education, as recommended by the DfE, provides a framework through which key skills, attributes and knowledge can be developed and applied. This promotes positive behaviour, good mental health and wellbeing, resilience and achievement, helping children to stay safe online, develop healthy and safe relationships, making sense of media messages, challenging extreme views and having the skills and attributes to negotiate and assert themselves now and in the future.

The school's PSHE provision supports the school's aims of developing confident citizens and successful learners who are creative, resourceful and able to identify and solve problems. The social and emotional development of pupils is embedded throughout the entire school's curriculum and culture. The school has a powerful combination of a planned thematic PSHE program, built around a spiral curriculum of recurring themes, designed to:

1. Give pupils the knowledge and develop the self-esteem, confidence and self-awareness to make informed choices and decisions;
2. Encourage and support the development of social skills and social awareness;
3. Enable pupils to make sense of their own personal and social experiences;
4. Promote responsible attitudes towards the maintenance of good physical and mental health, supported by a safe and healthy lifestyle;
5. Enable effective interpersonal relationships and develop a caring attitude towards others;
6. Encourage a caring attitude towards and responsibility for the environment;
7. Help our pupils understand and manage their feelings, build resilience and be independent, curious problem solvers;
8. Understand how society works and the laws, rights and responsibilities involved.

We know there is a proven link between pupils' health and wellbeing, and their academic progress. Crucial skills and positive attitudes developed through comprehensive Personal, Social, Health and Economic education are critical to ensuring children are effective learners.

4. How PSHE education, including Relationships Education, is provided and who is responsible for this

At Wootton St Peter's Primary School we use SCARF, a comprehensive scheme of work for PSHE and Wellbeing education. An overview of SCARF can be found in our appendices². It covers all of the DfE's new statutory requirements for Relationships Education and Health Education, including non-statutory Sex Education, and the PSHE Association's Programme of Study's recommended learning opportunities, as well as contributing to different subject areas in the National Curriculum.

We follow the six suggested half termly units and adapt the scheme of work where necessary to meet the local circumstances of our school, for example, we may use our local environment as the starting point for aspects of our work. Democratic Circle Time is used for consultation as part of our planning, to ensure pupil voice is considered and fed into the planned programme.

Our PSHE subject lead, works in conjunction with teaching staff in each year group and is responsible for ensuring that all staff are equipped with the knowledge, skills and resources to deliver PSHE education confidently. Teachers can access a range of teaching support resources within SCARF, including guidance documents and teacher training films. Any teacher wanting further support should contact the PSHE subject lead in the first instance to discuss their training needs.

Class teachers follow the suggested six half termly units provided by SCARF for each year. Lessons can be a weekly standalone PSHE lesson or be cross curricular. The lesson plans list the specific learning objectives for each lesson and provide support for how to teach the lessons; class teachers and our PSHE lead often discuss this on an informal basis.

We have chosen SCARF as our PSHE resource because the lessons build upon children's prior learning; we have assessed the content and feel that it is relevant and sensitive to the needs of the children. There is planned progression across the SCARF scheme of work, so that children are increasingly and appropriately challenged as they move up through the school. Assessment is completed by the class teacher using the SCARF Summative Assessment 'I can...' statements, alongside the lesson plan learning outcomes to demonstrate progression of both skills and knowledge.

What is being taught

In the appendices can be found the SCARF medium term planning for both Key stage 1 and 2 and the Early Years Foundation Stage as well an overview of our Science programmes of study.

The Early Years Foundation Stage

In the Early Years Foundation Stage, PSHE education is about making connections; it's strongly linked to child-led activities, including play. PSHE is taught through activities that

are part of topics, as well as on an individual basis to develop personal skills such as dressing, feeding and toileting. Positive experiences are built through daily opportunities, to share and enjoy a range of different activities. Children are given the opportunity to engage in social activities, as members of a small group or occasionally during whole-school activities.

KS1 and KS2

The SCARF programme divides the year into 6 themed units:

1. Me and My Relationships: includes content on feelings, emotions, conflict resolution and friendships;
2. Valuing Difference: a focus on respectful relationships and British values;
3. Keeping Myself Safe: looking at keeping ourselves healthy and safe
4. Rights and Responsibilities: learning about money, living the wider world and the environment;
5. Being My Best: developing skills in keeping healthy, developing a growth mindset (resilience), goal-setting and achievement;
6. Growing and Changing: finding out about the human body, the changes that take place from birth to old age and being safe.

Children are encouraged to engage in activities that promote an understanding of themselves as growing and changing individuals, and as members of a wider community, based on their own first hand experiences. These activities also encourage pupils to understand how their choices and behaviours can affect others. They are encouraged to play and learn alongside – then collaboratively with – their peers. They may use their personal and social skills to develop or extend these activities. Children are also given the opportunity to make choices about their health and environment and are encouraged to develop a caring attitude towards others.

Within National Curriculum Science in Y2, the children learn that animals, including humans, have offspring that grow into adults. They should be introduced to the concepts of reproduction and growth, but not how reproduction occurs. In Y5, children are taught about the life cycles of humans and animals, including reproduction. They also learn about the changes that happen in humans from birth to old age. This includes learning what happens in puberty.

It is important that the transition phase before moving to secondary school supports pupils' ongoing emotional and physical development effectively. The DfE recommends that all primary schools should have a sex education programme, tailored to the age and the physical and emotional maturity of the pupils. Within our non-statutory sex education that takes place in Y6 children will learn about how a baby is conceived, whether through sexual intercourse or IVF. This information builds on content they have previously learnt in the programme about relationships, puberty changes and reproduction; it lays the foundations for their ongoing Relationships and Sex Education in their secondary phase.

Working with visitors and external agencies

'Working with external organisations can enhance delivery of these subjects, bringing in specialist knowledge and different ways of engaging with young people [...] It is important to agree how confidentiality will work in any lesson and that the visitor understands how safeguarding reports should be dealt with in line with school policy.'

- [Department for Education](#) (2019, p.18)

From time-to-time Wootton St Peter's School may invite external experts and visitors to deliver parts of our RSE scheme of work. External visitors will be selected in order to enrich and supplement our RSE by bringing particular skills, methods and expertise to the classroom and the whole school. A teacher will always be present throughout these lessons to build on the pupil's learning after the session/s as well as answer any questions the pupils may subsequently have. Any external visitor will be expected to comply with this policy and other related policies, including the school's confidentiality and child protection policy.

We will also ensure that:

- There is appropriate planning, preparatory and follow up work for the session
- The visitor understands the cohort of children involved, including the different ability levels and diversities in identities across protected characteristics. They will also be made aware of any specific issues relating to child protection.

We will also use resources provided by external agencies, where appropriate, to deliver aspects of Relationships and Sex Education including the Primary School Nursing Team, Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust.

How PSHE education, including Relationships Education, is taught

PSHE lessons are taught by their class teacher once a week in their timetabled PSHE lesson, throughout the whole year in their usual classes, in mixed sex groupings, using a range of interactive teaching methods, e.g. activity sheets, films, songs, online games, and drama techniques.

To ensure that children feel comfortable to learn about a range of topics, we create a safe learning environment using a group agreement at the beginning of lessons or topics. This includes a confidentiality statement understood by adults and children. The teachers will also use a range of skills, including distancing techniques and the anonymous question box. Teachers will answer children's questions factually and honestly in an age appropriate way and respond to any disclosures following the schools safeguarding procedures/child protection policy which can be found on our school website.

The programme will be delivered in a non-judgemental, factual way, using the correct medical terms where appropriate (e.g for external body parts). School staff will not express or be expected to express their personal views or beliefs when delivering the programme.

Support is provided to children experiencing difficulties on a one-to-one basis, via our ELSA Lead. Relevant leaflets, websites and posters can be found on display referring pupils to sources of help and advice, alongside suitable books which can be found in the library.

We will also supplement learning using a whole school approach through Assemblies, celebrations and events.

5. How PSHE education is monitored, evaluated and assessed

'Schools should have the same high expectations of the quality of pupils' work in these subjects as for other curriculum areas.' (Department for Education 2019 P.43)

We use three methods of monitoring and assessing learning within PSHE at Wootton St Peter's School:

SCARF Progress

For each of the six units we carry out a specially designed pre- and post-unit assessment activity. Conducted twice, first at the beginning of the unit to determine where the children are at; and then again at the end of the unit, enabling us to monitor progress, record key points and identify areas for further development. This both teacher and child to see what progress has been made over the course of each half- termly unit of lesson plans.

SCARF Success

At the end of a unit we consider a range of 'I can' statements, which summarise children's learning against the unit's key learning outcomes.

Wearing my SCARF

This approach encourages children to reflect personally on their learning. They can record what they found helpful, thought-provoking, challenging and where their learning might take them to next. This also plays a key role in helping us to evaluate the programme.

This method of recording also enables the teacher to make an annual assessment of progress for each child, as part of the child's annual report to parents. We pass this information on to the next teacher at the end of each year.

The monitoring of the standards of children's work and of the quality of PSHE education is the responsibility of the PSHE subject lead. The work of the subject lead also involves supporting colleagues in the teaching of PSHE education and being informed about current developments in the subject.

The PSHE education subject lead gives the head teacher an annual summary report in which teaching and learning of the subject is evaluated. Areas for development are also identified. The PSHE education subject lead has specially-allocated regular management time, enabling them to review evidence of the children's work and monitor any assessments made.

6. How the delivery of the content will be made accessible to all pupils.

It is not our school's policy to withdraw pupils with special educational needs from PSHE education to catch up on other national curriculum subjects: these aspects of personal and social development are as important to all pupils as their academic achievement, and contribute to it. Lesson plan content will be adapted and extra support provided where necessary to ensure all pupils are enabled to develop key skills, attributes and knowledge developed through the PSHE education programme. Work in PSHE takes into account the targets set for individual children in their Individual Education Plans (IEPs).

SCARF lesson plans are flexible and allow for teachers, who are skilled in adapting curriculum content to meet the needs of the children in their class, to adjust their content in order to meet the learning outcomes.

Our school ensures that the Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) elements of the PSHE education programme are relevant to all pupils; whatever their gender identity. All pupils learn together about all the changes that someone may experience as they go through puberty to help develop empathy and understanding and to reduce incidences of teasing or stigma. This will also ensure any child that identifies as transgender will have access to RSE that is relevant to the puberty they are likely to experience.

Our school acknowledges different ethnic, religious and cultural attitudes, as well as recognising that pupils may come from a variety of family situations and home backgrounds. These different families are acknowledged through our teaching and the use of resources that promote diversity and inclusion in Relationships Education.

Research shows that, on average, about 4% of pupils will go on to define themselves as gay, lesbian, bi-sexual or pansexual (GLBP). It is possible that some pupils will also have GLBP parents/carers, brothers or sisters, other family members and/or friends. Our PSHE education acknowledges this through scenarios, in a sensitive, honest and balanced consideration of sexuality. This helps create a safe environment for all pupils and staff. The public sector equality duty, created under the Equality Act, requires schools and other public authorities to eliminate discrimination and to advance equality in its everyday business, in the design of its policies and curriculum. Schools have a legal responsibility for eliminating discrimination; to do this, schools are required to raise pupils' awareness of diversity and promote respectful relationships with those who are different from them. Our school's policy on anti-bullying, equality, diversity and inclusion can be found on our website.

7. Pupil Voice

'Listening and responding to the views of young people will strengthen the policy ensuring that it meets the needs of all pupils' Department for Education 2019 p.12

Pupil Voice is central to the culture and ethos of our school. We use pupil voice to evaluate how relevant and engaging RSE is to children's lives. We use Democratic Circle Time and focus groups to ask questions and research opinions.

Throughout our RSE scheme of work we embed pupil voice practices to enable pupils to express their views on the range of topics and issues that RSE covers and to ensure that they listen to other opinions and evidence, reflect on their own perspectives and take a broader view.

We want to ensure that all pupil voices are heard but that those views that are hurtful, offensive or exclusionary do not dominate and are addressed appropriately and without delay. We want to ensure a culture where human rights, social justice, inclusion and diversity are promoted.

RSE explores a range of issues that may provoke questions from pupils. We view questions as a positive sign that pupils are engaged with what is being taught and feel able to express natural curiosities about themselves, their bodies and relationships with others.

To ensure pupils have every opportunity to ask any question they might have and to avoid loss of dignity for all, school staff may offer pupils the chance to contribute questions anonymously in advance of specific lessons (e.g. on puberty). This will enable staff to research questions and respond with factually accurate information.

As much as possible, where a question is relevant to the whole class, we will answer it to the whole group. There may occasionally be the need to deal with a question outside of the classroom if it is not suitable for the entire class. If school staff do not feel in position to immediately address questions, they may defer a question and seek more information before responding to pupils.

Questions will always be answered in an age and developmentally appropriate way and take into account whether a parent/carer has requested their child to be removed from sex education lessons. If school staff have concerns about pupil contributions or questions, they will inform parents/carers as appropriate.

8. Working with parents/carers

'All schools should work closely with parents when planning and delivering these subjects. Schools should ensure that parents know what will be taught and when.'

- [Department for Education](#) (2019, p.17)

'All schools must have in place a written policy for [...] RSE. Schools must consult parents in developing and reviewing their policy.'

- [Department for Education](#) (2019, p.11)

Successful teaching of RSE involves parents/carers and schools working together. We also believe that parents/carers can play an important role in the RSE of their children through exploring discussions at home that have taken place in school.

Our RSE policy has been developed through consulting parents and carers.

See below for how we work with parents/carers to ensure that they are aware of what we teach and when.

- Parents' evenings
- Inductions to the school
- Welcome packs
- Sharing copies of the policy in face-to-face meetings and/ or through emails
- Letters to parents/carers giving information about when RSE will be delivered to certain classes.

If parents/carers have any concerns or special circumstances that the school should be aware of, or would like any further information about the curriculum, we can designate a time for

them to come into school and address any issues. We may share examples of key resources we use with parents/carers to reassure them of the content and to enable them to continue the conversations started in class at home. If parents/carers wish to view resources, this can be arranged via the school office.

Parental right to request their child be excused from sex education⁴

'All schools should work closely with parents [...] and clearly communicate the fact that parents have the right to request that their child be withdrawn from some or all of sex education delivered as part of statutory RSE.'

- [Department for Education](#) (2019, p.17)

As outlined within the Statutory Guidance, parents/carers have the right to request their child be withdrawn from all or part of sex education lessons that are delivered as part of RSE. Parents/carers do not have a right to withdraw their child from Relationships Education. Parents/carers do not have the right to withdraw their child from any sex education delivered as part of the Science curriculum. Parents do not have the right to withdraw their child from Health Education. Although parents/carers have the right to request to withdraw their child from any or all of sex education as part of Relationships Education, it is our aim to encourage parents to see the value of RSE learning and its contribution to keeping children safe, developing their emotional, social and physical wellbeing and for promoting equality and social justice.

Should a parent decide that they do not wish their child to take part in any of these lessons, we would ask that they first speak to the headteacher to discuss their concerns. The headteacher will discuss the request with the parent/carer to fully understand and address any concerns/objections to the content of the curriculum.

If parents/carers do decide to withdraw their child, they should inform the headteacher in writing and the school will keep a record of this.

We will remind parents annually that the request to withdraw is still in place and invite them to confirm whether they still want it.

9. Dissemination of the Policy

This policy has been made accessible to parents, teachers and other school staff, governors through the school website. Anyone wanting a printed copy or the policy should make a request to the school office. Should the policy be required in other languages, please contact the school office.

Should further information about PSHE education be required, please contact the PSHE education lead Michaela Hicks.

10. Policy Review and Development Plan

We regularly monitor and evaluate our RSE Scheme of work to ensure the quality of teaching is consistent, that the curriculum is meeting the new national requirements under the Relationships Education, RSE and Health Education guidance, and that learning outcomes are reflective of pupil need.

The policy will be reviewed every three years, in consultation with parents, teachers and other school staff, governors and pupils.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following:

- School's own Safeguarding/Child Protection policy (inc. responding to disclosures)
- School's own Confidentiality policy
- School's own Anti-bullying policy
- School's own Equality, diversity and inclusion policy
- DfE 'Keeping children safe in education' (2021)

Useful resources

Creating a safe Learning Environment.

SCARF Long Term Plan

SCARF Medium Term Plans for KS1 and KS2

SCARF Reception Medium Term Plan

Statement by the Governing Board/Trust

The governance board of Wootton St Peter's CE Primary School adopted this policy on 02/02/2022.

It will review the policy on or no later than 01/03/2023

In adopting this policy, the Governing Board recognises its responsibility for ensuring the policy is implemented effectively, including that the subjects are resourced, staffed and timetabled in a way the ensures that the school fulfils its legal obligations.

Reference:

- Department for Education (2019) *Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education*.
Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education>

This policy has drawn on:

- Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education Guidance, Department for Education (July 2019)
- Creating a PSHE education policy for your school, The PSHE Association (September 2018)
- Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) for the 21st Century, Brook, Sex Education Forum and PSHE Association - Supplementary advice to the Sex and Relationship Education Guidance DfEE (0116/2000) (2011)