

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Document Name | RSE Policy |
| Authors | Holly Floyd |
| Date approved | 11 th May 2023 |
| Current document | Version 2 |
| Review Date | May 2025 |



ASHBROOK INFANT AND NURSERY SCHOOL RSE Policy

Curriculum at Ashbrook Infant and Nursery School

We believe that all children should have the opportunity to care for the world and each other, learn together and have fun doing so.

Our curriculum promotes high expectations and offers children a rich experience, promoting their understanding of the world beyond the school environment. The ambitious nature of our curriculum ensures that all children have the opportunity to access all subjects, there is no limit to what and how they can learn and children are encouraged to explore their own interests. All children are supported through scaffolded opportunities and key vocabulary, to achieve their potential.

Children's well-being and happiness is at the heart of all we do. We provide first hand learning experiences that inspire children to develop supportive relationships, strong interpersonal skills and independence. We celebrate diversity and promote respect for our own, and the wider community.

Through our cross-curricular approach, children make links in their learning and become creative, critical thinkers.

Teamwork and a sense of responsibility are essential in achieving the positive attitudes that are needed for future learning and success.

Children leave Ashbrook Infant and Nursery School ready for Key Stage 2 and beyond. We have close links with our Junior school and provide extensive transition opportunities. Our children become resilient, confident individuals, ready for their next adventure.

What is RSE?

RSE is taught in primary and secondary schools. In Infant/Junior/Primary schools this covers Relationships and Health Education.

RSE is learning accurate information and age-appropriate skills, attitudes and knowledge about the body, reproduction, sex and sexual health. RSE also gives children and young people essential skills for building positive, enjoyable, respectful and non-exploitative relationships and staying safe both on and offline. Some aspects are taught in science, and others are taught as part of personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE).

This is a section of the statutory guidance: Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education from the Department of Education

The focus in primary school should be on teaching the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships, with particular reference to friendships, family relationships, and relationships with other children and with adults.

This starts with pupils being taught about what a relationship is, what friendship is, what family means and who the people are who can support them. From the beginning of primary school, building on early education, pupils should be taught how to take turns, how to treat each other with kindness, consideration and respect, the importance of honesty and truthfulness, permission seeking and giving, and the concept of personal privacy.

Establishing personal space and boundaries, showing respect and understanding the differences between appropriate and inappropriate or unsafe physical, and other, contact – these are the forerunners of teaching about consent, which takes place at secondary.

Respect for others should be taught in an age-appropriate way, in terms of understanding one's own and others' boundaries in play, in negotiations about space, toys, books, resources and so on.

From the beginning, teachers should talk explicitly about the features of healthy friendships, family relationships and other relationships which young children are likely to encounter. Drawing attention to these in a range of contexts should enable pupils to form a strong early understanding of the features of relationships that are likely to lead to happiness and security. This will also help them to recognise any less positive relationships when they encounter them.

The principles of positive relationships also apply online especially as, by the end of primary school, many children will already be using the internet. When teaching relationships content, teachers should address online safety and appropriate behaviour in a way that is relevant to pupils' lives. Teachers should include content on how information and data is shared and used in all contexts, including online; for example, sharing pictures, understanding that many websites are businesses and how sites may use information provided by users in ways they might not expect.

Teaching about families requires sensitive and well-judged teaching based on knowledge of pupils and their circumstances. Families of many forms provide a nurturing environment for children. (Families can include for example, single parent families, LGBT parents, families headed by grandparents, adoptive parents, foster parents and carers amongst other structures.) Care needs to be taken to ensure that there is no stigmatisation of children based

on their home circumstances and needs, to reflect sensitively that some children may have a different structure of support around them; for example, looked after children or young carers.

A growing ability to form strong and positive relationships with others depends on the deliberate cultivation of character traits and positive personal attributes, (sometimes referred to as 'virtues') in the individual. In a school wide context which encourages the development and practice of resilience and other attributes, this includes character traits such as helping pupils to believe they can achieve, persevere with tasks, work towards long-term rewards and continue despite setbacks. Alongside understanding the importance of self-respect and self-worth, pupils should develop personal attributes including honesty, integrity, courage, humility, kindness, generosity, trustworthiness and a sense of justice. This can be achieved in a variety of ways including by providing planned opportunities for young people to undertake social action, active citizenship and voluntary service to others locally or more widely.

Relationships Education also creates an opportunity to enable pupils to be taught about positive emotional and mental wellbeing, including how friendships can support mental wellbeing.

Through Relationships Education (and RSE), schools should teach pupils the knowledge they need to recognise and to report abuse, including emotional, physical and sexual abuse. In primary schools, this can be delivered by focusing on boundaries and privacy, ensuring young people understand that they have rights over their own bodies. This should also include understanding boundaries in friendships with peers and also in families and with others, in all contexts, including online.

Pupils should know how to report concerns and seek advice when they suspect or know that something is wrong. At all stages it will be important to balance teaching children about making sensible decisions to stay safe (including online) whilst being clear it is never the fault of a child who is abused and why victim blaming is always wrong. These subjects complement Health Education and as part of a comprehensive programme and whole school approach, this knowledge can support safeguarding of children.

At Ashbrook Infant and Nursery School we aim to:

- Provide a framework in which sensitive discussions can take place
- Help children to better understand the nature of human relationships
- Give them an understanding of the importance of health and hygiene
- Help pupils develop feelings of self-respect, confidence and empathy
- Create a positive culture around issues of sexuality, relationships, gender expression and self-expression
- Teach pupils the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies
- Support the school's ethos of a nurturing caring community, ensuring equality for all

Statutory Requirements

As a maintained infant school, part of the primary phase, we must provide relationships education to all pupils as per section 34 of the Children and Social work act 2017.

We are not required to provide sex education, however, we do need to teach the elements of sex education contained in the statutory science curriculum at Key Stage 1.

In teaching RSE, we must have regard to guidance issued by the secretary of state as outlined in section 403 of the Education Act 1996.

Delivery of RSE

We aim to provide accurate information and to help to develop skills to enable children to understand differences and respect themselves and others. We hope to prevent and remove prejudice. RSE should contribute to promoting the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at school and within society, thus preparing them for the responsibilities and experiences of adult life. We will work towards this aim in partnership with parents and carers.

We carry out the main RSE curriculum in PSHE lessons, however we also teach RSE through other subject areas e.g. Science, PE and RE, where we feel that they contribute significantly to a child's knowledge and understanding of their own body, and how it is changing and developing and their own identity, or gender identity. Linked with RE, children reflect on family relationships, different family groups and friendship. They learn about rituals and traditions associated with birth, marriage and death and talk about the emotions involved. Linked with PE, children learn about healthy lifestyles and the importance of exercise.

Since RSE incorporates the development of self-esteem and relationships, pupils' learning does not just take place through the taught curriculum but through all aspects of school life including the playground. It is important then that all staff understand they have a responsibility to implement this policy and promote the aims of the school at any time they are dealing with children.

In RSE teachers need to:

Be open and honest in answering questions, as they are in other subjects. They will also answer pupil's questions factually in terms which are age appropriate. Meeting these objectives will require a graduated, age-appropriate programme of Relationships Education. Children of the same age may be developmentally at different stages, leading to differing types of questions or behaviours. Teaching methods should take account of these differences (including when they are due to specific special educational needs or disabilities) and the potential for discussion on a one-to-one basis or in small groups.

Parental rights to withdraw children

Parents will not be able to withdraw their child from **Relationships Education** in the primary phase, which includes infant schools. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the non-statutory components of sex education within RSE. The science curriculum in all maintained schools also includes content on human development, including reproduction, which there is no right to withdraw from.

Links to other policies

Due to the diverse nature of RSE, this policy should be read in conjunction with the policies on PSHE, Anti-bullying, SMSC and RE.

DFE – information on understanding relationships and health education in your child's primary school – a guide for parents.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/907638/RSE_primary_schools_guide_for_parents.pdf