



THE ARUN VILLAGES FEDERATION

Enabling every child to thrive and succeed

RELATIONSHIPS, SEX AND HEALTH EDUCATION POLICY

Committee Responsible:	FGB
Person Responsible:	RSHE Subject Lead with Executive Headteacher
Date Approved by FGB:	October 2021
Date for Review:	October 2022

Signed.....

Date.....

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1. Introduction

This Relationship and Health Education Policy is based on DfE guidance June 2019 'Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education', which is statutory guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) issued under Section 80A of the Education Act 2002.

The Arun Villages Federation is committed to providing a broad and balanced educational experience for all its pupils to enable them to thrive and to succeed. Relationship and Health Education is lifelong learning about physical, moral, mental and emotional development.

2. Principles

The Arun Villages Federation:

- Wants to encourage all pupils to develop a healthier, safer lifestyle;
- Wants to encourage all pupils to respect and care for their bodies.

3. Definitions of Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE)

Relationships Education is learning about how to:

- be appreciative of existing relationships;
- form new healthy friendships; and
- enjoy strong positive, caring, relationships with good boundaries, online and in person.

This will particularly refer to family relationships (including marriage, civil partnerships and common-law relationships), friendships and relationships with peers and adults.

Defining sex education

Sex education is about reproduction: learning how babies can be made and the emotions that people experience when they are ready for close intimacy.

The national curriculum for science includes content about human body parts, growth, puberty and gestation. Parents do not have the right to withdraw from this aspect of the curriculum. In this federation we have decided that it is important to include aspects of the sex education curriculum to educate the children in our community for adulthood (and for secondary school) in their last year(s) of primary school. This will be taught in year 6.

Right to withdraw

Parents have the right to request that their child be withdrawn from some or all of sex education delivered as part of RSHE, as this is not a statutory requirement. However, it is statutory for schools to teach the Science National Curriculum. Before granting any such request the Head teacher will discuss this with parents and, as appropriate, with the child to ensure that their wishes are understood and to clarify the nature and purpose of the curriculum. We will document this process to ensure a record is kept.

Defining health education

Health education is learning about physical health and mental wellbeing so that pupils can make wise choices to ensure their own flourishing and the flourishing of others.¹ Mental Health and Wellbeing: Towards a Whole School Approach (March 2018)

4. Legal requirements on school law

This policy is supported by the following statutory guidance documents or is underpinned by statutory guidance:

- DfE guidance June 2019 'Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education', which is statutory guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) issued under Section 80A of the Education Act 2002.
- The Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education, and Health Education (England) Regulations 2019 are made under sections 34 and 35 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017.
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2018)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (July 2018)
- Children Act 1989 and 2004

- Children and Families Act 2014
- Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Code of Practice (January 2015)
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Groups Act 2006
- Equality Act 2010

5. Consultation – Parent and Pupil views

The Arun Villages Federation understands the important role parents play in enhancing their children's understanding of relationships and health. Similarly, we also understand how important parents' views are in shaping the curriculum.

A consultation took place in the Spring Term 2021. Parents, guardians and carers were surveyed for their views on the DfE Relationships and Health curriculum and primary school Sex Education. They were provided with links to the DfE guidance and to the primary science national curriculum. They submitted their views via 'SurveyMonkey.' The consultation received 46 responses from parents, guardians and carers in the primary phase. A working party comprising staff, parents and governors met 30.3.21 to finalise the curriculum content.

In school, the pupil voice was gathered through a PSHE activity where the pupils ordered what topics they believed to be the most important to the least important. This meant that the curriculum could be organised and delivered to suit their needs.

Views of the parents and pupils will continue to be reviewed throughout each academic year to help monitor the Federation's effectiveness.

6. Curriculum content for RSHE

A good understanding of pupils' faith backgrounds and positive relationships between the school and local faith communities help to create a constructive context for the teaching of these subjects, and we are always keen to engage with any parents, guardians or carers who have questions or concerns.

In accordance with the DfE statutory guidance, and the national curriculum, the school must provide relationships education and health education. In all schools, teaching should reflect the law, including the Equality Act 2010, as it applies to relationships, so that young people clearly understand what the law allows and does not allow, and the wider legal implications of decisions they may make.

An understanding for all pupils of healthy relationships, acceptable behaviour and the right of everyone to equal treatment will help ensure that pupils treat each other well and go on to be respectful and kind adults.

By the end of primary school, pupils will have been taught content on:

- families and people who care for me
- caring friendships
- respectful relationships
- online relationships
- being safe
- mental wellbeing
- internet safety and harm (see online safety policy)

- physical health and fitness
- healthy eating
- drugs, alcohol and tobacco
- health and prevention
- basic first aid
- changing adolescent body (puberty)

In the Arun Villages Federation, we believe that it is important that the transition phase before moving to secondary school supports pupils' ongoing emotional and physical development effectively. Whilst in Primary Schools, Sex Education is not a compulsory element, through consultation with all stakeholders we have decided that this will continue to be taught as an integral part of our RSHE curriculum. The sex education programme will be tailored to the age and physical and emotional maturity of the pupils in Year 6.

7. Procedure

Every pupil is entitled to receive Relationship and Health Education regardless of ethnicity, gender, religion, age, culture, disability, sexuality, language, special needs, and including disadvantaged and looked after children.

It is our intention all pupils have the opportunity to experience a programme of relationship and health education at a level which is appropriate for their age and physical development with differentiated provision if required. Sex Education will be delivered to year 6 pupils only in a range of ways e.g. some single-sex groups where appropriate. Parents who would like to withdraw their child/children from sex education would speak to the head teacher first.

The RSHE Coordinator is the designated teacher with responsibility for Relationship and Health Education, which is delivered through timetabled lessons and explored in lessons such as; Science, RE, PSHE, Citizenship, English activities and circle time. It is taught by classroom teachers, teaching assistants and, if appropriate, outside visitors such as the school nurse. The lessons will be delivered weekly and will be called RHE – Relationships and health education.

A range of teaching methods which involve pupils' full participation are used to teach Relationship and Health Education. These include use of video, discussion, looking at case studies, drama and role play. High quality and current resources from a range of professionals will be used in these lessons.

8. Equal opportunities statement

Our RSHE programme aims to be inclusive of all regardless of gender, race, religion, colour, language, culture, social circumstances, appearance, sexuality, ability or disability, etc.

9. Safeguarding statement

The Arun Villages Federation is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and expects all staff, governors and volunteers to share this commitment.

10. Pupils with special education needs and disabilities (SEND)

When teaching RSHE we are aware that some pupils are more vulnerable to exploitation, bullying and other issues due to the nature of their SEND. Our curriculum will be accessible for all pupils. Teaching is of high quality, differentiated and personalised to meet the specific needs of pupils at different developmental stages (please refer to the SEND Code of Practice).

11. Roles and Responsibilities

Governors

As well as fulfilling their legal obligations, the governing body will also make sure that:

- teaching is delivered in ways that are accessible to all pupils with SEND;
- clear information is provided for parents on the subject content and the right to request that their child is withdrawn;
- the subjects are resourced, staffed and timetabled in a way that ensures that the school can fulfil its legal obligations.

The designated Safeguarding Governor will be responsible for monitoring and reviewing the above in meetings.

Executive Headteacher

It is the responsibility of the Executive Headteacher to ensure that both staff and parents are informed about our sex education policy and that the policy is implemented effectively. It is also the Executive Headteacher's responsibility to ensure that members of staff are sufficiently knowledgeable, so that they can teach effectively and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity.

The Executive Headteacher liaises with external agencies regarding the school sex education programme and ensures that all adults who work with children on these issues are aware of the school policy and that they work within this framework.

Staff

The Designated Safeguarding Lead and RSHE coordinator will monitor this policy on a regular basis and report to the Executive Headteacher/governors, when requested, on the effectiveness of the policy.

If a child indicates that they may have been victim of abuse or reference to being involved in sexual activity, all staff will not try to investigate, but will immediately inform the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputies for child protection issues about their concerns. The Designated Safeguarding Lead will deal with the matter in consultation with health care professionals. (See Child Protection policy)

Parents

Parents have been and will continue to be consulted on the content of the RSHE curriculum to ensure that the policy and curriculum meet the needs of pupils and parents and reflects the community we serve. Our policy and curriculum overview will be available to all parents via the school website and in hard copy from the school office.

Communication will be sent home prior to the planned teaching. Parental workshops may be offered at the appropriate times to ensure that parents understand and can support their children's learning.

Parents can contact the Executive Headteacher or RSHE coordinator with any concerns and queries with regards to the implementation of the RSHE curriculum. Please note that parents have the right to withdraw (see section 3).

Pupils - Asking Questions

Teachers should encourage questions, and should answer them openly and honestly. The question asked may well be of general interest to the class; however, if it requires explicit information appropriate only to the individual, the teacher will generally not respond to the whole class, but to the individual as appropriate. Only the question asked will be answered, with highly detailed information not being given. Children are then free to ask a follow-up question should they want to. Where a child is looking for advice, the teacher should, wherever possible, encourage them to seek advice from their own parents or guardians and, if appropriate, from the relevant health service professional.

The RSHE coordinator will continue to gather pupil voice each year to evaluate the effectiveness of RSHE lessons.

12. Working with the wider community

We encourage other valued members of the community to work with us to provide advice and support to the children with regard to health education. In particular, external organisations and agencies, for example members of the Local Health Authority may provide valuable support with our RSHE programme.

13. Monitoring and review

The Leadership Team will monitor all aspects of school life in order to determine whether this policy is being fully implemented by all staff. Views of the parents and pupils will continue to be reviewed throughout each academic year to help monitor the Federation's effectiveness. The Governing Body will monitor implementation of

this policy through Executive Headteacher and Chair of Governor meetings and policy committee reviews.

Developed by and in consultation with: RSHE Coordinator and working party consisting of staff, parents and governor.

Date approved: October 2021

Review date: September 2022

Communication: This policy is accessible through the school website.