



New Hartley First School

Relationships, Sex and Health Education Policy

1. Aims

The aims of relationships and health education (RHE) at our school 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
- Teach pupils the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies
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2. Statutory requirements

As a maintained first school we must provide relationships education to all pupils as per section 34 of the [Children and Social work act 2017](#).

Sex education is not compulsory in first schools. However, primary schools are required to teach the elements of sex education that are contained in the science curriculum.

NB: National Curriculum 2014: Year 2 notice that animals, including humans, have offspring which grow into adults. They should also be introduced to the processes of reproduction and growth in animals. The focus at this stage would be on questions that help pupils to recognise growth; they should not be expected to understand how reproduction occurs.

If teaching RSE, schools must have regard to [guidance](#) issued by the secretary of state as outlined in section 403 of the [Education Act 1996](#).

At New Hartley First School we teach RHE as set out in this policy.

3. Policy development

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 RHE
5. Ratification – once amendments were made, the policy was shared with governors and ratified

4. Definition

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

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

6. Delivery of RHE

RHE is taught within the personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education curriculum. Biological aspects of RHE are taught within the science curriculum, and other aspects are included in religious education (RE).

Across all Key Stages, pupils will be supported with developing the following skills:

- Communication, including how to manage changing relationships and emotions
- Recognising and assessing potential risks
- Assertiveness
- Seeking help and support when required
- Informed decision making
- Self-respect and empathy for others
- Recognising and maximising a healthy lifestyle
- Managing conflict
- Discussion and group work

These skills are taught within the context of family life and living within a community.

7. Roles and responsibilities

7.1 The Governing Board

The governing board will approve the RHE policy, and hold the headteacher to account for its implementation.

7.2 The headteacher

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

7.3 Staff

Staff are responsible for:

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

Staff do not have the right to opt out of teaching RSHE. Staff who have concerns about teaching RSHE are encouraged to discuss this with the headteacher.

7.4 Pupils

Pupils are expected to engage fully in RHE and, when discussing issues related to RHE, treat others with respect and sensitivity.

8. Parents' right to withdraw

Parents do not have the right to withdraw their children from relationships education.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the non-statutory components of sex education within RHE.

Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing and addressed to the headteacher.

Alternative work will be given to pupils who are withdrawn from sex education.

9. Training

Staff are trained on the delivery of RHE as part of their induction and it is included in our continuing professional development calendar.

The headteacher will also invite visitors from outside the school, such as school nurses, to provide support and training to staff teaching RHE.

10. Monitoring arrangements

The delivery of RHE is monitored by Headteacher and Chair of Governors through: learning walks, pupil voice etc.

Pupils' development in RHE is monitored by class teachers as part of our internal assessment systems.

This policy will be reviewed by the Headteacher, Mrs Keri Dowdney annually. At every review, the policy will be approved by the governing board of New Hartley First School.

Updated	Autumn 2024
Review date	Autumn 2025
Head Teacher	Mrs Keri Dowdney
Chair of Governors	Ms Kim Ashby