

Relationships Education and Health Education Policy

September 2025



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| Date reviewed   | September 2025  |
| Governors approved   | September 2025  |
| Date of next review   | September 2026  |

# INTRODUCTION AND STATUTORY GUIDANCE

This Policy is written in line with the Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE), KCSIE (2025) and Health Education Statutory Guidance September 2025. The policy has been produced in partnership with Hamwic Education Trust.

As a primary school we are required to teach Relationships Education and Health Education (RHE).

Parents will be consulted on the policy in the Autumn term.

The statutory guidance used to inform this policy is listed below

* 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.](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2017/16/section/34/enacted)
* We do not have to follow the National Curriculum but we are expected to offer all pupils a curriculum that is of similar breadth and depth to the National Curriculum. This includes the requirement to teach the elements of sex education contained in the science curriculum. At \_\_\_\_\_\_\_Hillbourne Primary School\_\_\_ we follow the national curriculum for science.
* In teaching Relationships and Health Education, we are required by our funding agreements to have regard to [guidance](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/relationships-and-sex-education-and-health-education) issued by the secretary of state as outlined in section 403 of the [Education Act 1996.](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1996/56/contents)

# DEFINITIONS AND KEY AREAS OF TEACHING

## Relationship Education

Relationship Education will focus on teaching the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships, with particular reference to friendships, family relationships, and relationships with other children and adults.

All teaching will reflect the Equality Act 2010 ensuring there is no discrimination for any pupil or family with protected characteristics.

Children will be taught in an age-appropriate way about the characteristics and values of healthy relationships, including area such as differences, boundaries, respect, trust and kindness. Teaching will focus on both face-to-face and online relationships recognising the significance of the digital world we now embrace. Teachers will also take all opportunities to discuss positive emotional and mental well-being with children. The characteristics that will be taught are also reflected in the school values of…

## • Be Ready • Be Respectful • Be Safe

Learning will be planned to meet the objectives set out in the Relationships Education, Sex Education

(RSE) and Health Education Statutory Guidance (see appendix 1), under the broad headings of

* Families and people who care for me
* Caring friendships
* Respectful relationships
* Online relationships
* Being safe
* Inclusive families and diverse relationships

## The Science Curriculum - body changes and life cycles

Sex Education beyond the requirements of the science national curriculum is not compulsory in primary schools; however, we recognise the importance of preparing children well for secondary school. At Hillbourne Primary School, children will be taught about puberty as set out in the expectations of the science National Curriculum. In line with year group expectations, children will learn about external body parts, changes in the human body from birth to old age, and reproduction in some plants and animals. As part of the life cycle objectives, Year 6 pupils will be taught the science of how a baby is conceived and born. In our school, we only teach the body changes and life cycles required by the science national curriculum. As a consequence, parents do not have the right to withdraw children from these scientific lessons. (Parents will have the opportunity to discuss and view the content of the Year 5/6 curriculum before it is taught.)

We recognise that during such lessons, children may have questions as a result of their learning. We are mindful that unanswered questions often lead to misconceptions and will aim to avoid this where possible. When questions arise, they will be dealt with as follows.

* Questions directly linked with the science taught will be answered factually for the class of individual. Children will be given the opportunity to write anonymous questions submitted via a question box
* Questions of a personal nature directly linked to the teaching may need to be dealt with by talking directly to the child with an additional adult also present. If deemed necessary, teachers will inform parents of the questions asked. Wherever possible, questions will be answered in front of all pupils via the question box.
* Where a question relates to sex education beyond the scientific teaching, children will be advised to ask their parents or carers.

In addition to the science curriculum, we will also teach the ‘Changes’ part of Jigsaw as part of our SRE. We have decided to do this because we believe it gives children a better understanding of the changes in their body. Age-appropriate lessons are taught through Jigsaw lessons within the Summer Term. Parents have the right to withdraw children from Sex Education aspects that are not part of the science curriculum. In the first instance, parents should contact the Head teacher who will advise parents on how to withdraw.

## Physical Health and mental wellbeing

Health and wellbeing education will focus on the characteristics of good physical health and mental wellbeing. (Please see the separate Mental Health and Wellbeing policy for more information regarding our schools commitment to prioritising and supporting both child, parent and staff mental health and wellbeing) It will include aspects such as the importance of exercise, good nutrition and the normal range of emotions we experience. Pupils will be taught about moderation, including online and the positive two-way relationship between good physical health and good mental wellbeing.

Learning will be planned at an age-appropriate level to meet the objectives set out in the Relationships Education, Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education Statutory Guidance (see appendix 2), under the broad headings of

* Mental wellbeing
* Internet safety and harms
* Physical health and fitness
* Healthy Eating
* Drugs, alcohol and tobacco
* Health and prevention
* Basic first aid
* Changing adolescent body

# RELATIONSHIPS AND HEALTH CURRICULUM DELIVERY

Relationships and Health Education (RHE) is taught through weekly PSHE lessons linked to the Hillbourne personal, social and health education curriculum and links with the whole school assembly programme. An overview of the broad topics covered and the linked Relationship and Health objectives can be found in appendix 3.

Biological aspects of sex education are taught within the science curriculum in line with the age expectations set out in the National curriculum. A number of aspects of the RHE link closely to science, computing, PE and DT. Where this is the case, messages will be reinforced within these subjects.

The 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, LGBT parents, families headed by grandparents, 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).

We are mindful that some children with SEND may need additional support to understand the themes and learning within the relationships and health education curriculum. Teachers will draw on their knowledge of the child to ensure learning is differentiated appropriately.

We will keep abreast of local contextual issues and support these through our curriculum where possible.

In Poole we are mindful of the Local Authority plan to tackle health inequalities and promote health and well-being, particularly in areas of higher deprivation. We are aware that more children come back onto child protection plans than comparator authorities and recognise that the local authority wish to tackle areas such as substance misuse, mental health and domestic abuse as potential causal factors. We recognise that sport uptake is high and will continue to encourage this. We are also mindful of the authority’s plan to support healthy weight in children.

**ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

## The governing body

The governing body will consult parents, suggest amendments to the head teacher and approve the RHE policy. They will hold the head teacher to account for its implementation.

## The head teacher

The head teacher is responsible for ensuring that RHE is taught consistently across the school, and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from any non-scientific components of sex education (in line with the science national curriculum).

The Head teacher will determine whether any aspects of the curriculum will be delivered by professionals outside of the school (e.g., the school nurse may deliver information about menstruation).

## The PHSE Leader

The PSHE leader is responsible for:

* ensuring that RHE is taught consistently throughout the school through developing an appropriate PSHE curriculum.
* adapting the curriculum where necessary of the needs of the children in relation to local contextual issues.
* monitoring the policy on a regular basis.
* determining whether any aspects of the curriculum will be delivered by professionals outside of the school (e.g., the school nurse may deliver information about menstruation).

## Staff

Teaching staff are responsible for:

* Delivering Relationships and Health Education in a sensitive way and in accordance to their year group expectations
* Modelling positive attitudes to Relationships and Health Education
* Monitoring progress
* Responding to the needs of individual pupils
* Responding appropriately to pupils whose parents wish them to be withdrawn from non-statutory components of RSE and Health Education

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

The leader for RHE at Hillbourne Primary School is Charlie Hall.

## Pupils

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

## Safe and effective practice

All adults will create a safe and supportive learning environment by ensuring the following:

* ground rules for PSHE and RHE are established which will be developed with the whole class each year, referred to regularly and the pupils encouraged to follow.
* Use teacher expertise and discretion in delivering sensitive content, avoiding shock-tactics to focus on supportive age-appropriate methods.
* distancing techniques are used such as anonymous questions, case studies and problem pages are used to help pupils avoid personalising issues.
* with direct consideration for the children in their classes, year groups will discuss the sort of questions which they feel are appropriate to provide answers to in order to provide a consistent and age-appropriate approach. If a child’s question seems inappropriate, adults will agree to discuss it with the child individually later, rather than with the whole class and where necessary children will be advised to ask their parents or carers.
* training and CPD will take place regularly to ensure all adults understand this policy and best practice when teaching RHE.

## Building Positive links with parents and carers

The school is well aware that the primary role in children’s RHE lies with parents and carers. We wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents of children at our school through mutual understanding, trust and cooperation so that we can best prepare the children for the future. In promoting this objective, we will:

* inform parents about the school’s RHE policy and practice, with guidance on how sensitive topics are taught
* offer opportunities for feedback and discussion, answering any questions that parents may have about the RHE of their child
* take seriously any issue that parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy or the arrangements for RHE in the school

## Safeguarding

Teachers are aware that effective RHE, which brings an understanding of what is and what is not appropriate in a relationship, can lead to a disclosure of a child protection issue. Teachers will follow the school’s safeguarding policy and consult with a designated safeguarding lead. Should you wish to read the school’s Child Protection and Safeguarding policy, it can be found on the school website under the policies section or obtained from the school office.

PARENTS AND CARERS AND THE RIGHT TO WITHDRAW

As we follow the scientific aspects of sex education, as stipulated in the science national curriculum, parents do not have the right to withdraw their children from these lessons. We are committed to working with parents and carers to ensure that they are fully aware of what is being taught and provide additional resources and support through parent information sessions. If there are any concerns, parents are invited to contact the school to discuss them

## Training

Staff are trained on the delivery of RHE and biologic aspects of the science curriculum as part of their induction and it is included in our continuing professional development calendar. Staff have access to the RHE Policy and revisit this when changes occur.

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 RHE.

Staff receive regular HET guidance on the emergence of new safeguarding risks, such as AI and online harmful content and undertake yearly safeguarding updates.

### Monitoring of RHE

The delivery of RHE is monitored by Senior Leaders and the RHE leader through:

* Planning scrutiny
* Lesson observation
* Analysis of pupils work and discussions with pupils
* Monitoring of SEN plans and IEPs where appropriate
* Sampling of pupils’ end of year reports

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

This policy will be review annually, inline with DfE and KCSIE updates and will require approval by the governing body.

### APPENDIX 1 – Expectations for Relationships Education

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| **Families and people who care for me**  | Pupils should know * 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 marriage1 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.
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| **Caring friendships**  | Pupils should know * 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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| **Respectful relationships**  | Pupils should know * 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.
* the importance of permission-seeking and giving in relationships with friends, peers and adults.
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| **Online relationships**  | Pupils should know * 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.
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| **Being safe**  | Pupils should know  |
|  | •  | 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.  |

# APPENDIX 2 – EXPECTATIONS OF HEALTH EDUCATION

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| **Mental** **Wellbeing**  | Pupils should know * that mental wellbeing is a normal part of daily life, in the same way as physical health.
* that there is a normal range of emotions (e.g. happiness, sadness, anger, fear, surprise, nervousness) and scale of emotions that all humans experience in relation to different experiences and situations.
* how to recognise and talk about their emotions, including having a varied vocabulary of words to use when talking about their own and others’ feelings.
* how to judge whether what they are feeling and how they are behaving is appropriate and proportionate.
* the benefits of physical exercise, time outdoors, community participation, voluntary and service-based activity on mental wellbeing and happiness.
* simple self-care techniques, including the importance of rest, time spent with friends and family and the benefits of hobbies and interests.
* isolation and loneliness can affect children and that it is very important for children to discuss their feelings with an adult and seek support.
* that bullying (including cyberbullying) has a negative and often lasting impact on mental wellbeing.
* where and how to seek support (including recognising the triggers for seeking support), including whom in school they should speak to if they are worried about their own or someone else’s mental wellbeing or ability to control their emotions (including issues arising online).
* it is common for people to experience mental ill health. For many people who do, the problems can be resolved if the right support is made available, especially if accessed early enough.
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| **Internet safety and harms**  | Pupils should know • that for most people the internet is an integral part of life and has many benefits.  |

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|  | * about the benefits of rationing time spent online, the risks of excessive time spent on electronic devices and the impact of positive and negative content online on their own and others’ mental and physical wellbeing.
* how to consider the effect of their online actions on others and know how to recognise and display respectful behaviour online and the importance of keeping personal information private.
* why social media, some computer games and online gaming, for example, are age restricted.
* that the internet can also be a negative place where online abuse, trolling, bullying and harassment can take place, which can have a negative impact on mental health.
* how to be a discerning consumer of information online including understanding that information, including that from search engines, is ranked, selected and targeted.
* where and how to report concerns and get support with issues online.
* about risks from misinformation and fake news.
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| **Physical** **Health and** **Fitness**  | Pupils should know * the characteristics and mental and physical benefits of an active lifestyle.
* the importance of building regular exercise into daily and weekly routines and how to achieve this; for example, walking or cycling to school, a daily active mile or other forms of regular, vigorous exercise.
* the risks associated with an inactive lifestyle (including obesity).
* how and when to seek support including which adults to speak to in school if they are worried about their health.
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| **Healthy Eating**  | Pupils should know * what constitutes a healthy diet (including understanding calories and other nutritional content).
* the principles of planning and preparing a range of healthy meals.
* the characteristics of a poor diet and risks associated with unhealthy eating (including, for example, obesity and tooth decay) and other behaviours (e.g. the impact of alcohol on diet or health).
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| **Drugs, alcohol and tobacco**  | Pupils should know • the facts about legal and illegal harmful substances and associated risks, including smoking, alcohol use and drug-taking.  |
| **Health and prevention**  | Pupils should know * how to recognise early signs of physical illness, such as weight loss, or unexplained changes to the body.
* about safe and unsafe exposure to the sun, and how to reduce the risk of sun damage, including skin cancer.
* the importance of sufficient good quality sleep for good health and that a lack of sleep can affect weight, mood and ability to learn.
* about dental health and the benefits of good oral hygiene and dental flossing, including regular check-ups at the dentist.
* about personal hygiene and germs including bacteria, viruses, how they are spread and treated, and the importance of handwashing.
* the facts and science relating to allergies, immunisation and vaccination.
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| **Basic First Aid**  | Pupils should know:  • how to make a clear and efficient call to emergency services if necessary.  |
|  | • concepts of basic first-aid, for example dealing with common injuries, including head injuries.  |
| **Changing adolescent body**  | Pupils should know: * key facts about puberty and the changing adolescent body, particularly from age 9 through to age 11, including physical and emotional changes.
* about menstrual wellbeing including the key facts about the menstrual cycle.
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# APPENDIX 3 –CURRICULUM OVERVIEW AT HILLBOURNE PRIMARY SCHOOL

# [PSHE INTENT AND COVERAGE OVERVIEW AT HILLBOURNE PRIMARY SCHOOL](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CCharlieHall%5CHillbourne%20Primary%5CAll%20Staff%20-%20General%5CCurriculum%202024-25%20Onwards%5CPSHE%5CHillbourne%20PSHE%20Progression%20of%20Knowledge.docx)

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