

RSE Parent Forum

Wednesday 25th November
2020



As the DfE statutory guidance states:

‘Parents should be given every opportunity to understand the purpose and content of Relationships Education and RSE. Good communication and opportunities for parents to understand and ask questions about the school’s approach help increase confidence in the curriculum.’

Under the Children and Social Work Act 2017 the government committed to making Relationships Education statutory in all primary schools, including local authority maintained schools, academies, free schools and independent schools.

Teaching about relationships is nothing new for schools – relationships education is covered through PSHE education, an established curriculum subject [taught in the vast majority of schools](#) – but there have been concerns about consistency of quality and time allocated to it. The statutory changes have huge potential to ensure support for safe, effective PSHE practice across all schools – a ‘levelling up’ of standards. Sex education has not been made compulsory in primary schools, though the Department for Education Sex education has not been made compulsory in primary schools, though the Department for Education continues to recommend that all primary schools should have a sex education programme tailored to the age and the physical and emotional maturity of the pupils .

Primary School PSHE Curriculum Expectations

■ Families and people who care for me

- 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 other people's 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 marriage 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



- **Caring friendships**

- 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, honesty, trust and trustworthiness, loyalty, kindness, generosity, 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

FRIENDSHIP



Respectful relationships

The importance of respecting others, even when they're 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 cyber-bullying), 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



Online relationships

That people sometimes behave differently online, including by pretending to be someone they're not
That the same principles apply to online relationships as to face-to-face relationships, including the importance of respect for others online (even when we're 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've never met

How information and data is shared and used online



Being safe

- 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's 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/unsafe physical and other contact
- How to respond safely and appropriately to adults they may encounter (in all contexts, including online) who they don't 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're heard
- How to report concerns or abuse, and the vocabulary and confidence they need to do so
- Where to get advice (e.g. family, school, other sources)



Health Education

Health Education aims to give your child the information they need to make good decisions about their own health and wellbeing, to recognise issues in themselves and others, and to seek support as early as possible when issues arise.



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

- mental wellbeing
- internet safety and harms
- physical health and fitness
- healthy eating
- facts and risks associated with drugs, alcohol and tobacco
- health and prevention
- basic first aid
- changing adolescent body

You can find further detail by searching **‘relationships and health education’** on GOV.UK.

Mental wellbeing

- 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're feeling and how they're 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's 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're worried about their own or someone else's mental wellbeing or ability to control their emotions (including issues arising online)
- It's 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



Internet safety and harms

- That for most people the internet is an integral part of life and has many benefits
- 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



Physical health and fitness

- 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're worried about their health



Healthy eating

- 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)





Drugs, alcohol and tobacco

- The facts about legal and illegal harmful substances and associated risks, including smoking, alcohol use and drug-taking

Health and prevention

- 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're spread and treated, and the importance of handwashing
- The facts and science relating to immunisation and vaccination



Basic first aid

- 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 bodies

- 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





Relationships Education/RSE policy

- All schools will have to have an appropriate Relationships Education policy in place (or where sex education is also taught, an RSE policy), which must be freely available for parents to access. This policy should:
 - outline what will be taught to children within the Relationships Education/RSE curriculum and the rationale for this learning (for example in relation to safeguarding)
 - clearly set out the procedure for withdrawal from sex education
 - give reasons why the school believes children should not be withdrawn from these lessons.

The right of withdrawal from September 2020

The statutory guidance for Relationships Education and Health Education will come into effect in all primary schools from 2020, including academies, free schools and independent schools.

In primary education from September 2020:

- Parents will not be able to withdraw their children from any aspect of Relationships Education or Health Education (which includes learning about the changing adolescent body and puberty).
- Parents will be able to withdraw their children from any aspects of Sex Education other than those which are part of the science curriculum. (Note that sex education will not be statutory in primary schools, however the new statutory guidance makes clear that schools should still provide a programme of age appropriate sex education)
- Head teachers in primary schools must grant requests to withdraw a pupil from sex education, other than where it is part of the science curriculum (although the guidance makes clear that good practice is 'likely to include the head teacher discussing with parents the benefits of receiving this important education and any detrimental effects that withdrawal might have on the child').
- Where pupils are withdrawn from sex education, schools should document the process and will have to 'ensure that the pupil receives appropriate, purposeful education during the period of withdrawal.'

So should schools still teach economic wellbeing and careers?

- **Yes, otherwise the 'personal' aspects of economic wellbeing will be lost.** PSHE complements the financial education covered through Citizenship and Maths, but covers the personal aspects of economic wellbeing. It also lays the foundations of effective careers education, digital and media literacy (it is vital that the foundations of this learning are laid during the primary phase).
- **Health, relationships, economic wellbeing and successful careers are all linked. PSHE is the glue that binds them together.** PSHE gathers all of these aspects of preparing for modern life together into a coherent curriculum subject.

Guidance for Parents from the
DFE