



Britannia Bridge

Primary School



Relationship, Health and Sex Education Policy

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Background/Context

Britannia Bridge Primary School is a community primary school, in Lower Ince, Wigan. We currently have 253 pupils on roll including a 52 place 3 year old nursery and a 12 place 2 year old nursery. The school is mainly mono-cultural with a large proportion of children with special educational needs.

Process of Consultation

This policy has been written and developed in consultation with staff and parents. The consultation and policy development process involved the following steps:

1. **Review** – PSHCE subject leader reviewed all of the relevant information, including but not limited to local and national guidance.
2. **Staff consultation** - school staff were given the opportunity to review the policy and curriculum maps and make recommendations.
3. **Parent / stakeholder consultation** – parents were sent a copy of the policy and updated curriculum maps including details of the statutory changes to RSE and Health education in primary schools.
4. **Amendments** – following staff and parental consultation, amendments were made to the policy where appropriate.
5. **Ratification** – once amendments were made, the policy was shared with governors and ratified.

Values and Ethos

Our key aims for our PSHE including RHSE curriculum are:

- For children to make responsible, informed and healthy choices about their lives both whilst at school and in the future, including whilst online.
- For children to learn to respect themselves and others.
- To fully prepare our children for their future so they are well equipped to enjoy the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences that arise as they move through life.
- For children to recognise healthy relationships.
- To allow children to vocabulary and skills that they need to talk openly about their feelings and their bodies.
- To prepare children for puberty.
- To develop a sense of boundaries between appropriate and inappropriate behaviour within adult and peer relationship (including consent)
- To develop children's self esteem and confidence.

Britannia Bridge Primary School has continued to meet the criteria of the National Healthy School Programme since the school was first awarded National Healthy School Status in 2007.

Gaining this recognition, at that time, allowed us to demonstrate our contribution to the five national outcomes for children in 'Every Child Matters' – Being healthy, staying safe, enjoying and achieving, making a positive contribution and economic well-being. This whole school approach, including all interested parties, helps us to continue to provide a safe, protective and inclusive school environment.

Core Values:-

Our 'core values' at Britannia Bridge are taught throughout everything that the children do and these link to our ethos of preparing children to be respectful, caring, healthy and responsible members of society as they progress throughout life.

H.E.A.R.T

H – Happiness

E – Encouragement

A – Aspirations

R – Respect

T – Teamwork

Celebration of Achievement, Assessment, Recording and Reporting

Progress and achievement is reported to parents in the end of year annual report and through the autumn and spring term parent's evenings.

Celebration of pupil achievement occurs in a weekly celebration assembly where the "Superstar" award is given to one person in each class for a great achievement. The "Superstar" receives recognition for their achievement with a trophy that is displayed in the entrance foyer, a certificate for the pupil to take home and we also celebrate their achievement on the school newsletter.

Inclusion & Support

Our curriculum is inclusive and our RHSE and Health Education is accessible to all learners. High quality teaching that is differentiated is our starting point to ensure accessibility for all. Teaching will be sensitive, age-appropriate and developmentally appropriate.

The curriculum meets the requirements of the Equality Act and will not unlawfully discriminate against pupils based on the protective characteristics (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation).

Statutory Requirements

As a maintained primary school, we must provide Relationships and Health education to all pupils, as per the Department for Education's guidance.

We are not required to provide sex education but do need to teach the elements of sex education that are contained within the Science curriculum.

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

At Britannia Bridge, we teach RHSE as set out in this policy.

Organisation and Planning

Our PSHCE curriculum (which includes Relationships, Health and Sex Education) was developed with objectives from the Jigsaw curriculum resource, the new statutory guidance from the Department for Education and the PSHE association

scheme of work. This ensures that the children at Britannia Bridge are given a broad coverage of the subject and are able to live out healthy, responsible lives. This has been developed in consultation with parents and staff to ensure that it is age-appropriate and covers all of the relevant areas.

A full break-down of objectives covered by our PSHCE curriculum (including RHSE) is available on our school website under 'Subject Intent'.

Puberty & Sex Education

Sex education will take place during upper KS2 (Year 5 & 6). Parents will be consulted on this each year. It will focus on:

- Preparing boys and girls for the changes that come with puberty and adolescence.
- Preparation for menstruation is included in the programme of education about puberty, which is provided for upper key stage two children. This also entails the use of sensitive arrangements for helping to cope with sanitary protection.
- Conception, pregnancy and how a baby is born.

Terminology

In addition to this, children will be introduced, from Year 1, to the correct terminology for body parts. Terminology that they will learn include the scientific names for intimate parts including penis, vagina, vulva, testicles, anus & breasts.

It is important that acceptable and unacceptable terminology is clarified. After initial discussion, correct terminology will be used at all times for teaching. It is very important that children are taught these names to ensure clear communication between themselves and adults, for safeguarding reasons.

Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment

Throughout our PSHCE inc RHSE curriculum, the children are taught a variety of objectives linked to consent and appropriate / inappropriate contact. This features heavily in our Celebrating Difference & Relationships topics.

Children are taught:

- About gender stereotypes and the impact that these can have
- How some words can be used in a hurtful way
- Not to make assumptions about people
- About positive and negative types of touch
- That their private body parts are private and the importance of consent.

All reports of sexual harassment or sexual violence are taken seriously and referred to our Safeguarding leads.

Delivery of RHSE

The majority of RHSE is taught through our weekly PSHCE lessons. Biological aspects is taught through the Science curriculum and other aspects come into our RE and Computing curriculum.

HH Kids deliver puberty and sex education lessons to Y5 and Y6.

Although our PSHCE curriculum covers all of the statutory expectations, RHSE is also taught throughout many things that we do. Weekly assemblies, wellbeing

sessions and day to day behaviour management strategies further build on this knowledge and skills.

The personal beliefs of teachers and staff members do not influence the teaching of PSHCE inc RHSE. A balanced, non-judgemental approach is taken.

Questions

Ground rules are established about what is and what is not appropriate in discussion in whole class or group settings. If a question is too explicit or personal, if it is inappropriate or raises concerns, the teacher may acknowledge this and return to the matter later on a one to one basis, or refer it to a Senior Leader, School Nurse or outside agency or service.

Legislation & Right to Withdraw

As of September 2020, the Department for Education has introduced statutory 'Relationships and Health Education' for primary school pupils. This now means that parents will not have the right to withdraw children from these aspects of the PSHCE curriculum.

Parents do have the right to request to withdraw their children from all or part of the sex education that is provided at school except for those parts that are included in the statutory National Curriculum e.g. what is taught in Science and R.E.

The headteacher will meet and discuss with parents who request that their child is withdrawn to discuss their concerns and reasons for the requests and to see if viewing the content of the lesson may alleviate any worries or anxiety.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Governing Body

The governing body will approve this RHSE policy and hold the headteacher to account for its implementation.

The Headteacher

The headteacher is responsible for ensuring that Relationships and Sex Education at Britannia Bridge, is taught consistently across the school and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from the non-statutory components of RHSE.

Teaching Staff

Staff are responsible for delivering RHSE in a sensitive way that suits the needs of our children. They model positive attitudes towards RHSE and ensure that they respond appropriately to the needs of individual children. Staff will also monitor progress in the subject.

Health Professionals

Health professionals are bound by their professional codes of conduct. They are also bound by the school policies when working in the classroom. Outside the teaching situation, the school nurse, for example, may give one to one advice on a health related matter and exercise their professional judgments about the maturity of the child and the advice to be offered.

Visitors

Visitors to school bring a wealth of experience and can be very rewarding for our learners. The school nurse and other outside agencies are invited into school. These provide important information to pupils about healthy choices and the development of skills and knowledge. Visitor's contributions complement the work of the teacher in the classroom. The most successful demonstrate through preparation, clear communication and active participation of pupils.

Confidentiality

Good practice throughout the school is ensured by a focus on confidentiality that is built into each part of the PSHE programme. Teachers cannot guarantee absolute confidentiality. Where this happens, pupils are informed first then supported as appropriate. Exceptional circumstances could raise child protection issues. Where disclosures are made by pupils, all members of staff are aware of the procedures for reporting their concerns and to whom they should do so. The Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy is available and clearly indicates the steps which should be taken ensuring that help is provided for the child and family. Where there is a parental complaint, there is a pathway for dealing with this. A formal complaint can be made to the governing body, head teacher and Local Authority. Please see the Complaints Policy for further information.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The delivery of RSE is monitored by the PSHCE leader alongside the Senior Leadership Team and our curriculum link governor through planning scrutinies, learning walks, pupil voice, parent views and book scrutinies. Pupil's development in RHSE is monitored by class teachers as part of our internal assessment systems.

This policy will be reviewed in September 2023 by the PSHCE lead, senior leadership team and the governing body.

C. Pidgeon-Duncalf *D. Harrison*

Carol Pidgeon-Duncalf
Headteacher
21/09/22

Dorothy Harrison
Chair of Governors
21/09/22

Happiness

Encouragement

Aspirations

Respect

Team-work

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