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| Policy No  | Blisworth Community Primary School        |
| Version No | (Relationships, Health and Sex Education) |



## Relationships, Health and Sex Education

**This section should be completed following ratification of the Policy:**

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| Committee Ratifying Policy: | Date of meeting:<br>September 2020 |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|

|                               | Name     | Signature | Date |
|-------------------------------|----------|-----------|------|
| Chair of Committee's Approval |          |           |      |
| Chair of Governor's Approval  |          |           |      |
| Recommended Review Date:      | Annually |           |      |

### **Ownership**

Blisworth Community Primary School is a Local Authority School. It will be displayed on the policy list whether the policy is Local Authority adopted or school produced. The policy is issued by the Clerk, Cheryl Tomkinson, to whom any change requests or queries should be directed by emailing Cheryl.tomkinson@blisworth.northants.sch.uk

### **Version Control**

This document is issued and maintained in accordance with Blisworth Community Primary School's procedures. Any change to the document will increase its version number. It is the responsibility of the reader to check with the Clerk that this is a currently valid copy.

| Version | Date | Description of Change | Changed By |
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### **Background**

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## **The statutory guidance for the teaching of Relationships, Health and Sex Education (RSHE) in primary schools changed as of September 2020.**

An amendment to the Children and Social Work Act 2017 made **Relationships and Health Education** at primary (and Relationships, Sex, and Health Education at secondary) statutory subjects. The Department for Education guidance on Relationships, Health and Sex Education for governing bodies can be seen at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education>

From September 2020, Relationships Education is **compulsory for all primary schools** as set out in the DfE Guidance (2019). For all maintained schools, **there is also a statutory duty to provide Health Education**. This includes primary aged children learning about the '*changing adolescent body*', which is included in the expected outcomes for primary Health Education. (Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education, and Health Education, DfE, 2019).

The DfE Guidance 2019 (p.23) recommends that all primary schools 'have a sex education programme tailored to the age and the physical and emotional maturity of the pupils.

However, 'Sex Education is not compulsory in primary schools'. (p. 23)

Schools are to determine the content of sex education at primary school. Sex education 'should ensure that both boys and girls are prepared for the changes that adolescence brings and – drawing on knowledge of the human life cycle set out in the national curriculum for science - how a baby is conceived and born'.

At Blisworth School, we believe children should understand the facts about human reproduction before they leave primary school. We define Sex Education as understanding human reproduction. We intend to teach this as part of our PSHE curriculum (please see below for information on the right to withdraw).

### **Aims**

- To ensure that pupils know how to keep themselves safe and ask for help.
- To teach the importance of loving and equal relationships.
- To develop confidence in talking, listening and thinking about relationships, including raising awareness, celebrating and accepting the variety of family make-ups.
- To give pupils a scientific understanding of human reproduction and birth.
- To teach pupils the correct names for body parts and how their bodies work
- To give pupils an understanding of how and why their bodies change and prepare them for puberty.
- To make links with other areas of the curriculum e.g. PSHE, citizenship and social, moral and cultural education.

### **Our approach to teaching RSE**

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- At Blisworth, we believe that working in partnership with families is essential in supporting pupils in the development of their understanding of RSHE education.
- RSHE is taught using the Jigsaw PSHE scheme (the Relationships and Changing Me puzzles) which sees a whole-school approach where children are taught content in an age-appropriate curriculum that develops understanding over time with regard to the particular needs of all pupils.
- Curriculum content for each year group is published on our website. These documents give specific information about each lesson taught and the vocabulary covered so parents can be fully informed ahead of their children taking part in the lessons.
- RSE will be taught one lesson a week over the Summer Term.
- RSE lessons will be taught by the classroom teacher of the pupils, with a supporting teaching assistant wherever possible. Cover teachers/teaching assistants will not be expected to teach RSE to pupils.
- Teachers will encourage positive celebration of all family make-ups in school.
- A culture of safety and trust will be promoted in the classroom (the foundation of which will be in place from wider PSHE teaching over the year) so that the children feel confident to ask questions and engage with discussion.
- Children will agree to a code of conduct for these lessons including that the content of RSE lessons should be discussed with teachers or adults at home and not with peers from younger year groups at school or on the playground.
- Any RSE questions that are of a sensitive nature or are beyond the content specified will be referred to a pupil's family for discussion.

### **The rights of parents to withdraw their children from Sex Education in primary school**

Parents and carers have the right to withdraw their child from all or part of the sex education element in RSHE by notifying the Head Teacher by letter or email, although it is hoped that parents will only make this decision following a discussion with the school and taking the opportunity to view the RSE teaching materials and curriculum content.

Puberty is taught as a statutory requirement of Health Education and covered by our Jigsaw PSHE Programme in the 'Changing Me' Puzzle (unit). We conclude that sex education refers to human reproduction, and therefore inform parents of their right to request their child be withdrawn from the PSHE lessons that explicitly teach this.

The lessons where the right to withdraw applies are:

Changing Me: Year 4, Lesson 2 (Having a baby)

Changing Me: Year 5, Lesson 4 (Conception)

Changing Me: Year 6, Lesson 4 (Conception, birth)

**Parents and carers cannot withdraw from any aspect of Relationships Education or Health Education lessons covering the changing adolescent body (puberty).**

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### **Curriculum content**

The curriculum content by year group for the Relationships and Changing Me unit are available on our website. These detail the content in each lesson and provide a list of vocabulary taught.

Parents are welcome to contact the school to discuss further and/or to arrange to view the RSE resources used to teach the content.

**Covid-19 2020 -2021** Please see updated curriculum content for each year group as disseminated to parents and carers. This year the content for the Changing Me unit has been adjusted to recognise the prior learning of the children and their current development following periods of school closure due to Covid 19. All children will be taught statutory elements of RSE before they leave Blisworth Primary – this may however be in a different year group than stated above to ensure age-appropriate, incremental learning within the current circumstances.

### **Evaluation and Review**

The RSE units of the Jigsaw PSHE scheme have yet to be taught at Blisworth due to Covid-19 school closure from March 2020. Following the teaching of the Relationships and Changing Me unit in Summer Term 2021, this policy will be evaluated and reviewed based on the feedback of the school community and with regard to any changes in statutory guidance