

# MagdalenGatesPrimary School

## Relationships, sex and health education (RSHE) policy



This relationships and sex education policy covers Magdalen Gates Primary School's approach to teaching relationships, sex and health education (RSHE). It was produced following thorough consultation with the whole school community including pupils, parents/carers, staff, school governors and appropriate members of the wider community such as medical professionals and faith leaders.

It will be reviewed every three years, or sooner if the RSE curriculum is amended, in response to emerging themes, changing pupil needs, or introduction of new legislation and guidance.

Parents will be informed about the policy through annual RSHE consultation events, referencing in the school prospectus and a link from the school website. If a hard-copy of the document is required the school will be happy to provide this upon request. The school will work with parents requiring the policy in an alternative format, ensuring equitable accessibility for all.

### **Values, aims and objectives:**

Relationships, sex and health education (RSHE) is learning about the emotional, social and physical aspects of growing up, relationships and reproduction. It will equip children and young people with accurate information, positive values and the skills to enjoy healthy, safe and positive relationships, to celebrate their uniqueness and to take responsibility for their health and wellbeing now and in the future.

RSHE is taught in a way which is complementary to the wider ethos, values and principles of our school. RSHE in this school is learning about the body, feelings, beliefs, relationships, rights and responsibilities and knowing how and when to ask for help if needed. It involves acquiring information, developing skills and forming positive beliefs, values and attitudes.

RSHE empowers children to build self-esteem, offer positive and open views, support mutual respect and celebration of self and others, providing a strong foundation to be successful in life by:

- ✓ Providing a spiral curriculum, allowing for the development of knowledge relevant to the age and stage of the learner.
- ✓ Providing an inclusive learning environment which is safe and empowering for everyone involved, based on the belief that bullying, prejudice and discrimination is unacceptable.
- ✓ Teaching non-biased, accurate and factual information that is positively inclusive.

- ✓ Developing character skills to support healthy and safe relationships, ensure comfortable communication about emotions, bodies and relationships using appropriate terminology.
- ✓ Promoting critical awareness of differing attitudes and views presented through society, the media and peers to enable the nurturing of personal values based on respect.
- ✓ Providing protection from shock or guilt.
- ✓ Actively involving pupils as evaluators to ensure relevance.
- ✓ Ensuring pupils are informed of their rights, including the legal framework and how to access confidential help to keep themselves and others safe.

### **RSHE Curriculum**

The RSHE curriculum (see Appendix A- pupil and parent views and Appendix B- pupil online survey) has been planned following pupil/ parent consultation. This ensures the needs of all pupils can be met through the delivery of an age and stage-appropriate curriculum. The curriculum addresses traditional and emerging issues, and relevant challenges as identified by pupils and the locality of Magdalen Gates (Appendix C- Public Health Profile). Consultation with our pupils and parents will be conducted on a regular basis. This will inform the RSHE curriculum review, ensuring it remains responsive to emerging needs.

Most elements of the RSHE curriculum are a statutory requirement to teach in order for the school to meet RSE Guidance February 2019 and The Equalities Act, 2010. It is important to teach RSE through a spiral curriculum. This means pupils will gain knowledge, develop values and acquire skills gradually by re-visiting core themes to build on prior learning. This developmental approach helps pupils to make informed decisions relevant to their age and stage. RSHE will support the school's commitment to safeguard pupils, preparing them to live safely in the modern world.

Our intended RSHE curriculum (see Appendix D- RSHE Curriculum) is detailed as follows but may vary in response to emerging issues and to reflect the rapidly changing world in which our pupils are living and learning. If this is the case parent/carers will be provided with appropriate notice before the amended programme is delivered. Where possible the curriculum will be complemented by themed assemblies, topic days and cross-curricular links.

### **Leadership and staff training**

The RSHE programme will be led by Emma Homan and taught by class teachers and education assistants and supported by the RSHE link governor, school nurses, visitors and outside agencies. All staff involved in the delivery of RSHE receive training ensuring pupils are taught with consistent approaches to RSHE throughout their time at Magdalen Gates Primary School.

## **Teaching and learning**

RSHE will be taught using a range of teaching methodologies in order to promote engagement by all pupils, irrespective of preferred learning styles. Distancing techniques, such as the use of characters within RSHE, avoids pupils feeling under pressure to participate or disclose information beyond that which is appropriate or feels comfortable. This strategy makes RSHE more accessible to all pupils, including those who may have experienced unhealthy relationships and/or abuse. The school's responsibility to safeguard pupils through a curriculum that prepares them to live safely in the modern world will remain central to curriculum content, teaching methodologies and supporting resources.

All pupils have a right to receive effective, inclusive and relevant RSHE teaching that directly meets their needs. Lessons aim to meet the needs of all pupils, irrespective of their academic abilities, personal beliefs or lived experiences. RSHE resources are fully inclusive and accessible to all pupils, including vulnerable pupils and those with SEND.

RSHE teaching will be supported and scaffolding using the Educator Solutions resource for teaching relationship and sex education. This resource will ensure delivery of RSHE will be realistic, relevant, accessible, positive and non-judgemental. RSHE is taught in mixed gender classes.

The RSHE curriculum is aligned to the teaching of RSHE in science and other relevant subjects. RSHE is taught in accordance with the school ethos and values. Some statutory elements of the RSHE curriculum will be delivered through e-safety sessions, science lessons and class circle time, alongside the allocated RSHE sessions.

At Magdalen Gates we actively celebrate the diversity of our pupils, their families and the wider whole school community. RSE will always be taught in a non-judgemental, non-biased and fully inclusive manner through clear, impartial, scientific information as well as covering the law. Through consultation, continual assessment and regular reviews of the curriculum, we ensure that we continually recognise and respect pupils' different abilities, levels of maturity and personal circumstances including gender identity, faith or culture and that of their family, friends and the wider whole school community.

## **Assessment**

Assessment of RSHE should be as rigorous as in any other curriculum subject to ensure that the lessons are relevant, meet the needs of all pupils and sufficient progress is being made. Assessment should be experienced by pupils as participation within a learning activity.

Pupils' learning will be assessed at the beginning and end of every topic using pupil voice. This will ensure that pupils are making sufficient progress building on prior teaching and learning and that teaching strategies and resources remain relevant and effective. Assessment activities will be implicit, forming part of a normal teaching activity to ensure that pupils do not feel under pressure. The evaluation of teaching and learning assessments may be shared with pupils and parents as appropriate.

### **Dealing with pupil questions/ safeguarding**

At the end of every lesson, pupils will be provided with an opportunity to ask questions as a class and can also ask anonymous questions through the use of an 'ask it basket'. Teachers will answer questions as fully as they feel age and stage-appropriate, based on the level of knowledge demonstrated by pupils during the lesson. Teachers may ask a pupil to wait for a response to a question if they need time to consult with a colleague, or the school leadership team, to construct an appropriate answer. Teachers can refuse to answer a question that they feel is inappropriate. Teachers will not answer personal questions about their own body, personal circumstances or lifestyle choices. If a teacher does not answer a question, the pupil will have the reasons for this decision clearly explained. The teacher will work with the pupil to identify suitable sources of information, where they can safely obtain an answer to their question.

At the end of every lesson, teachers will signpost pupils to information relevant to the topic being taught to ensure safe sources of information, advice and guidance are provided. Teachers will also work closely with the schools' pastoral system to advise of topic coverage. This will ensure the school can be responsive to pupils' pastoral needs, and safeguarding arrangements can be actioned efficiently if required. If the school has any reason to believe a pupil is at risk of harm, we are required to respond in accordance with the school's safeguarding policy.

### **Home/school communication**

RSHE is most effective when it is a collaboration between school and home. The school will provide support to parents and carers through an annual event, providing a valuable opportunity to develop awareness of emerging RSHE topics, meet RSHE teachers, review the resources being used and consider ways to build on RSHE at home. The school operates an open-door policy enabling parents to discuss RSHE at relevant times throughout the school year.

### **Pupil voice**

Pupils will create their own learning agreement for the purposes of RSHE lessons and the lessons allow for pupils to share their views and learn from the views of others. Pupils are fully involved in assessing the impact and effectiveness of RSHE lessons. Pupils participate in an annual pupil consultation activity to ensure that the curriculum remains needs-led and regularly evaluated for effectiveness. Pupil voice responses are shared with staff, parents and school governors as appropriate. (See Appendices A and B)

## **Withdrawal from RSHE content**

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from RSHE session content that is not part of the statutory National Curriculum for Science. Parents must meet with the headteacher to express their right to withdraw. If pupils are withdrawn, Department for Education legislation states the pupil must take part in alternative purposeful learning.

This policy complements the following policies:

Anti-bullying

E-safety

Equality

Science

Safeguarding

Teaching and learning

**Adopted: July 2020**

**Review date: July 2022**