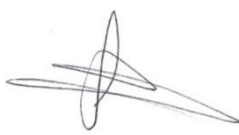
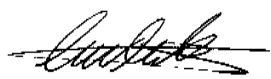


SVPS Relationships & Sex Health Education (RSHE) Policy



Governor Committee Responsible:	Full Gov & C & S	Staff Lead	Mr. G. Mills
Status	Statutory	Review Cycle	Annual
Last Review	June 2026	Next Review Date	June 2027

Designation	Name	Date	Signature
Chair of C & S	Mrs S. Hulbert	June 2026	
Head Teacher	Mr. G. Mills	June 2027	

Introduction

This is the policy of Swindon Village Primary School on the approach taken to Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE),

Legal context

The law was changed with effect from September 2020 so that primary schools in England must teach relationships education and health education (*The Children and Social Work Act 2017*). Updated RSHE Statutory guidance was then released in July 2025, to be implemented by September 2026.

- The relationships education part of the new curriculum teaches what children need to learn to build positive and safe relationships with family and friends and online.
- The health education part of the new curriculum covers both physical health and mental wellbeing and teaches children how to make good decisions about their own health and wellbeing; how to recognise issues in themselves and in others; and how to seek support as early as possible when issues arise.

Sex education is not compulsory in primary schools, but:

- The new curriculum for relationships education and health education does include content on puberty.
- The national curriculum for science includes subject content in related areas, such as the main external body parts; the human body as it grows from birth to old age (including puberty); and reproduction in some plants and animals.

Following this change in the law, the Department for Education published *Statutory Guidance for Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education (2019)* and then updated this in July 2025. This guidance requires primary schools in England to have a written relationships education policy to cover the following:

- How relationships education is delivered
- What sex education (if any) a school chooses to cover that goes beyond the national curriculum for science and relationships education.

There is no equivalent requirement for a health education policy but, in line with best practice, this RSHE policy also covers health education.

This RSHE policy also supports legal requirements relating to the following:

- *The Equality Act 2010.*
- *The Education Act 1996.*
- *Statutory guidance, Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020.*

The following policies are also relevant to this Relationships and Health Education policy:

- Anti-bullying
- Safe-guarding

Definition

RSHE supports children and young people's personal development including their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Its aims are to help children and young people to deal with the real-life issues they face as they grow up and that they will encounter as adults. Their learning will support them both online and offline, to make informed choices about their safety, physical and mental health, enabling them to live positive and fulfilled lives.

RSHE is enhanced by a supportive school ethos where everyone is valued, positive relationships are promoted and there is a safe learning environment.

Aims

- Relationships, Health and Sex Education (RSHE) puts in place the fundamental building blocks of healthy, respectful relationships, focusing on family and friendships.
- Through our RSHE curriculum we aim to provide children with the knowledge, understanding and skills they need to be responsible and compassionate members of our school family.
- We will teach children how to stay safe, respect boundaries and recognise the characteristics of healthy relationships.
- The Department for Education recommends that all primary schools should have a sex education programme tailored to the age, physical and emotional maturity of the pupils.
- It 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 Swindon Village Primary School we feel that it is essential that we provide children with the understanding they need to proceed to secondary RSHE.
- We know that the trusting relationships children build with their primary school class teachers will allow them to feel comfortable discussing these subjects.
- All teaching about relationships is set within the context of a whole-school approach, supporting children to be safe, happy and prepared for life beyond school.

Roles and responsibilities

An effective programme of RSHE requires support from the whole school community and the following people have specific roles and responsibilities:

Teaching staff are all involved in the school's RSHE provision; as well as delivering the curriculum, they all play an important pastoral role by offering support to pupils. Teachers will be consulted about the school's approach to RSHE and aided in their work by provision of resources, background information, and access to appropriate training, support and advice from experienced members of staff.

Non-teaching staff may be involved in a supportive role in some RSHE lessons and also play an important (formal or informal) pastoral support role with pupils. They will have access to information about the RSHE programme and be supported in their pastoral role.

At Swindon Village Primary, the Pastoral Support and Mental Health Lead is...

- Mrs L Brown, lbrown@swindonvillage.gloucs.sch.uk ,
- Mrs S O'Leary is the SEND Lead, soleary@swindonvillage.gloucs.sch.uk and...
- Mrs G Pointon is the RSHE Lead, gpointon@swindonvillage.gloucs.sch.uk

Governors have responsibilities for school policies. They will be consulted about the RSHE provision and policy. Parents/carers have a legal right to have information about the school's RSE provision. They may have access at any point to the programme of work and are invited to come into school to discuss the content of the lessons and to view the resources used. The class teacher or the Pastoral Support Lead would be willing to work with them at any point. However, under the new statutory guidance, parents cannot withdraw their children from Relationships and Health Education. As stated in Legal context above, they may only withdraw their child from sex education beyond the national curriculum for science. The school will, however, seek and take account of parent/carer views and endeavour to adopt a partnership approach with parents/carers; we will take time to address concerns and allay any fears.

Outside agencies and speakers may be involved in contributing to RSHE lessons. The school will only work with agencies and speakers who are appropriate to the pupils' needs. Pupils have an entitlement to RSHE and pastoral support appropriate to their age and circumstance. They will be consulted about their RSHE needs and their views will be central to developing the provision.

Teaching and learning

RSHE is delivered in line with the teaching and learning policy. We at Swindon Village have chosen to use the Kapow Primary RSHE scheme of work which provides full curriculum coverage, including all the statutory content, for each year group. Please follow this link to view the [Kapow Primary RSE curriculum overview](#).

We follow the KAPOW scheme of work, which is a graduated, age-appropriate programme.

However, as the subject deals with real-life experiences, it is important to establish a safe and positive learning environment using the following approaches:

- Establishing clear ground rules in consultation with children. Ground rules should include confidentiality, respect for others, privacy and boundaries.
- Using distancing techniques including de-personalised discussions and role play.
- Using clear language to avoid misunderstandings.

Curriculum organisation

Relationships Education is taught throughout the year by the class teacher, through implicit and explicit learning experiences. Teachers ensure that they create a safe and trusting environment where honest and open discussions are able to happen. It helps to develop positive relationships rooted in mutual respect and supports children's self-esteem.

In Relationships Education, teachers create a safe environment that encourages honest, open discussions. Any information communicated during these sessions that may raise a safeguarding concern will be reported in line with the school's agreed Policies and Procedures. Kapow Primary scheme have categorised lessons into the five key areas below, which we return to in each year group, making pupil's prior and future learning clear and shows how what you are teaching fits into their wider learning journey. Year 6 also have a further key area: Identity.

Early years foundation stage topics:	KS1 and KS2 topics:
Self regulation: my feelings	Families and relationships
Building relationships: special relationships	Health and wellbeing
Managing self: taking on challenges	Safety and the changing body
Self regulation: listening and following instructions	Citizenship
Building relationships: my family and friends	Economic wellbeing
Managing self: my wellbeing	Identity (Year 6 only)

The school adopts the following approaches to organise the curriculum to ensure high quality delivery of RSHE:

- Teachers conduct RSHE lessons in a sensitive manner and in confidence.
- Good RSHE practice allows children an open forum to discuss potentially sensitive issues. Such discussions can lead to increased safeguarding reports.
- Children should be made aware of how to raise their concerns or make a report and how any report will be handled.
- School staff cannot promise absolute confidentiality if approached by a pupil for help and must make this clear to pupils.
- The school takes its role in the promotion of pupil wellbeing seriously. Staff endeavour to make themselves approachable and to provide caring, sensitive support for pupils in a variety of ways.
- Staff may be approached for help on an individual basis, offering a listening ear and, where appropriate, information and advice.
- In addition to class teachers and class Teaching Assistants, we also have members of staff, particularly the Pastoral Support Lead, who are on hand to support with pupils' emotional health and wellbeing needs.
- Where appropriate, pupils can be referred to either the school nurse and/or outside helping agencies such as a Mental Health Practitioner.
- The school will keep up to date with the development of local services and national help lines for young people and form working relationships with local agencies that are relevant to pupil needs.
- This policy will be reviewed regularly, and any revisions will be brought to the Governors for their approval.

The RSHE programme and policy are regularly evaluated and reviewed by Mrs G Pointon (RSHE lead). The views of pupils, parents, staff and governors are used to make changes and improvements to the programme on an ongoing basis.

Equality

Under the *Equality Act 2010*, the school is under a legal duty to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relationships between those with protected characteristics and those without. The protected characteristics are:

- Age.
- Marriage and Civil partnership.
- Disability.
- Race.
- Religion and belief.
- Sexual orientation.
- Sex.
- Pregnancy and maternity.
- Gender reassignment.

In addition, the school must consider the needs of those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). The RSHE programme will meet the needs of all children. Lessons will include content that will tackle discrimination and foster good relationships.

Right to withdraw from sex education

A parent or carer cannot legally withdraw their child from any aspect of the statutory relationships education or health education.

A parent or carer does have the right to withdraw their child from sex education unless what is being taught is part of the science national curriculum.

The Kapow Primary lessons that are deemed to be sex education are:

- *Year 6: Safety and the changing body, Lesson 5: Conception*
- *Year 6: Safety and the changing body, Lesson 6: Pregnancy and birth*

This RSHE policy will be available to read on and downloaded from the school website and copies can be requested free of charge from the school office. This policy will be reviewed regularly, and any revisions will be brought to the Governors for their approval.