

Maiden Erlegh Trust
**RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX
EDUCATION POLICY
(PRIMARY)**



MAIDEN ERLEGH
TRUST

Including local annexes for:

Horizons Alternative Provision Academy

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1. Aims

The aims of relationships and sex education (RSE) at our school are to:

- Provide a framework in which sensitive discussions can take place
- Prepare pupils for puberty, and give them an understanding of sexual development and the importance of health and hygiene
- Help pupils develop feelings of self-respect, confidence and empathy, and cultivate positive characteristics such as kindness and integrity
- Create a positive culture around issues of sexuality and relationships
- Teach pupils the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies

2. Statutory requirements

As a primary academy, we must provide relationships education to all pupils under section 34 of the [Children and Social Work Act 2017](#).

We don't have to follow the National Curriculum, but we are expected to offer all pupils a curriculum that is similar to the National Curriculum including requirements to teach science. This would include the elements of sex education contained in the science curriculum.

In teaching RSE, we're required by our funding agreements to have regard to [guidance](#) issued by the secretary of state, as outlined in section 403 of the [Education Act 1996](#).

We also have regard to legal duties set out in:

- Sections 404 to 407 of the Education Act 1996
- Part 6, chapter 1 of the [Equality Act 2010](#)
- The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) (as set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010). This duty requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities

In our school we teach RSE as set out in this policy.

3. Policy development

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

1. Review – all relevant information including relevant national and local guidance was collated and reviewed centrally by Maiden Erlegh Trust.
2. Staff consultation – all school staff were given the opportunity to look at the policy and make recommendations.
3. Parent/stakeholder consultation – parents/carers and any interested parties were invited to attend a meeting about the policy.
4. Ratification – once amendments were made, the policy was shared with governors and ratified

4. Definition

For the purpose of this policy:

RSE is about the emotional, social and cultural development of pupils, and involves learning about relationships, sexual health, sexuality, healthy lifestyles, diversity and personal identity.

RSE involves a combination of sharing information and exploring issues and values.

RSE is not about the promotion of sexual activity.

5. Curriculum

Our RSE curriculum is set out as per Appendices 1 and 2, but we may need to adapt it as and when necessary.

We have developed the curriculum in consultation with parents, carers and staff, and taking into account the age, developmental stage, needs (such as cultural and religious needs) and feelings of our pupils. If pupils ask questions outside the scope of this policy, teachers will respond in an appropriate manner so that pupils are fully informed and don't seek answers online.

We will share all curriculum materials with parents and carers on request.

6. Delivery of RSE

RSE is taught within the personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education curriculum. Some biological aspects of RSE are taught within the science curriculum, and other aspects may be included within religious education curriculum (RE).

The school will make sure that:

- Core knowledge is sectioned into units of manageable size
- The required content is communicated to pupils clearly, in a carefully sequenced way and within a planned scheme of work
- Teaching includes sufficient and well-chosen opportunities and contexts for pupils to embed new knowledge, so that it can be used confidently in real-life situations

Relationships education focuses on teaching the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships including:

- Families and people who care for me
- Caring friendships
- Respectful, kind relationships
- Online safety and awareness
- Being safe
- How I change as I grow including preparing children for the physical and emotional changes that growing up brings

Sex education will be taught in years 5 & 6 and will focus on:

- Preparing boys and girls for the changes that adolescence brings

- How a baby is conceived and born, including consent & contraception.
- The journey of an embryo from conception to birth

Throughout each year group we will use appropriate material to assist learning, such as:

- Diagrams
- Videos
- Books
- Games
- Discussions and practical activities

Teachers will make sure that all pupils' views are listened to and will encourage them to ask questions and engage in discussion. Teachers will answer questions sensitively, honestly and appropriately for the age of the pupils.

Our mainstream primary schools use the Jigsaw PSHE and RSE programme as the core resource to deliver high quality, age appropriate Relationships and Sex Education. Jigsaw provides a carefully sequenced, progressive curriculum that supports pupils' personal development, emotional literacy, and understanding of healthy relationships. The materials are fully aligned with the statutory DfE 2026 RSE and Health Education guidance, ensuring coverage of all required learning while promoting safeguarding, respect, and inclusion.

Jigsaw lessons are structured to create a safe, supportive learning environment, with consistent routines, mindfulness elements, and clear ground rules that help pupils engage sensitively with potentially challenging topics. Content is delivered in a values led, non judgemental way, reflecting our school ethos and reinforcing our commitment to equality and the protected characteristics. Resources are adapted where necessary to meet the needs of all learners, including SEND pupils.

Our special primary schools follow the PSHE association framework for children with SEND.

Pupils' development in RSE is monitored by class teachers as part of our internal assessment systems.

For more information about our RSE curriculum, see Appendices 1 and 2.

We may amend our curriculum content to respond to the needs and context of our pupils, to discuss issues affecting them in an age-appropriate manner.

These areas of learning are taught within the context of family life, taking care to make sure that there is no stigmatisation of children based on their home circumstances (i.e. families can include single-parent families, same-sex parents, families headed by grandparents, adoptive parents and foster parents among other structures), along with reflecting sensitively that some children may have a different structure of support around them (for example, looked-after children, young carers or kinship carers).

Across our school, we will also be mindful of the law and legal requirements, taking care not to condone or encourage illegal activity, such as violent action against people, criminal damage to property or hate crime.

6.1 Inclusivity

We will teach about these topics in a manner that:

- Considers how a diverse range of pupils will relate to them
- Is sensitive to all pupils' experiences
- During lessons, makes pupils feel:
 - Safe and supported
 - Able to engage with the key messages

We will also:

- Make sure that pupils learn about these topics in an environment that's appropriate for them, for example in:
 - A whole-class setting
 - Small groups or targeted sessions
 - 1-to-1 discussions
 - Digital formats
- Give careful consideration to the level of differentiation needed

6.2 Use of resources

We will consider whether any resources we plan to use:

- Are aligned with the teaching requirements set out in the statutory RSE guidance
- Would support pupils in applying their knowledge in different contexts and settings
- Are age-appropriate, given the age and maturity of the pupils
- Are evidence-based and contain robust facts and statistics
- Fit into our curriculum plan
- Are from credible sources
- Are compatible with effective teaching approaches
- Are sensitive to pupils' experiences and won't provoke distress

We will make sure that when we consult parents/carers we provide examples of the resources that the school plans to use.

7. Use of external organisations and materials

We will make sure that any agency and any materials used are accurate, age and stage appropriate and unbiased and in line with our legal duties around political impartiality.

We **will**:

- Make appropriate checks and engage with external agencies to make sure that their approach to teaching about RSE is balanced, and it and the resources they intend to use:
 - Are age-appropriate
 - Are in line with pupils' developmental stage
 - Comply with:
 - This policy
 - The [Teachers' Standards](#)
 - The [Equality Act 2010](#)
 - The [Human Rights Act 1998](#)
 - The [Education Act 1996](#)
- Only work with external agencies where we have full confidence in the agency, its approach and the resources it uses
- Make sure that any speakers and resources meet the intended outcome of the relevant part of the curriculum
- Review any case-study materials and look for feedback from other people the agency has worked with
- Be clear on:
 - What they're going to say
 - Their position on the issues to be discussed
- Ask to see in advance any materials that the agency may use
- Know the named individuals who will be there, and follow our usual safeguarding procedures for these people
- Conduct a basic online search and address anything that may be of concern to us, or to parents and carers
- Check the agency's protocol for taking pictures or using any personal data they might get from a session
- Remind teachers that they can say "no" or, in extreme cases, stop a session
- Make sure that the teacher is in the room during any sessions with external speakers
- Inform all external organisations that the school is legally obliged to share all content with parents and carers
- Share all external materials with parents and carers

We **won't**, under any circumstances:

- Work with external agencies that take or promote extreme political positions
- Use materials produced by such agencies, even if the material itself is not extreme
- Work with agencies who don't allow their material to be shared with parents and carers

8. Roles and responsibilities

8.1 The governing board

The governing board will hold the headteacher to account for the implementation of this policy. The governing board has delegated the approval of this policy to the Educational Standards Committee.

8.2 The headteacher

The headteacher is responsible for making sure that RSE is taught consistently across the school, for sharing all resources and materials with parents and carers, and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from components of RSE (see section 9).

8.3 Staff

Staff are responsible for:

- Delivering RSE in a way that is sensitive, high-quality and appropriate for each year group
- Modelling positive attitudes to RSE
- Monitoring progress
- Responding to the needs of individual pupils
- Responding appropriately to pupils whose parents/carers wish them to be withdrawn from the non-statutory components of RSE
- Modelling positive behaviour and avoiding language that might perpetuate harmful stereotypes, and being conscious of everyday sexism, misogyny, homophobia and stereotypes
- Reporting any safeguarding concerns or disclosures that pupils may make as a result of the subject content to the school's designated safeguarding lead (DSL)

Staff do not have the right to opt out of teaching RSE. Staff who have concerns about teaching RSE are encouraged to discuss this with the headteacher.

8.4 Pupils

Pupils are expected to engage fully in RSE and, when discussing issues related to RSE, treat others with respect and sensitivity.

9. Parents' right to withdraw

Parents/carers do not have the right to withdraw their child from relationships education. Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their child from the non-statutory components of sex education within RSE.

Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing using the form found in Appendix 3 of this policy and addressed to the headteacher.

Alternative schoolwork will be given to pupils who are withdrawn from sex education.

10. Training

Staff are trained on the delivery of RSE as part of our continuing professional development calendar.

The headteacher may also invite visitors from outside the school, such as school nurses or sexual health professionals, to provide support and training to staff teaching RSE where appropriate.

11. Monitoring arrangements

Monitoring and evaluation of the programme is undertaken by the Senior Leadership Group.

This policy will be reviewed every 3 years subject to statutory changes. At every review, the policy will be approved by Educational Standards Committee.

APPENDIX 1: CURRICULUM MAP

Relationships and sex education curriculum map

YEAR GROUP	TERM	TOPIC/THEME DETAILS	RESOURCES
Year 1	1	Relationships • Ourselves and others; similarities and differences; individuality; our bodies • what they like/dislike and are good at • what makes them special and how everyone has different strengths • • how their personal features or qualities are unique to them • • how they are similar or different to others, and what they have in common • • to use the correct names for the main parts of the body, including external genitalia; and that parts of bodies covered with underwear are private	<u>PSHE</u>

YEAR GROUP	TERM	TOPIC/THEME DETAILS	RESOURCES
1	2	Relationships • Ourselves and others; people who care for us; groups we belong to; families • that family is one of the groups they belong to, as well as, for example, school, friends, clubs • about the different people in their family / those that love and care for them • what their family members, or people that are special to them, do to make them feel loved and cared for • how families are all different but share common features – what is the same and different about them • about different features of family life, including what families do enjoy together • that it is important to tell someone (such as their teacher) if something about their family makes them feel unhappy or worried	<u>PSHE</u>

YEAR GROUP	TERM	TOPIC/THEME DETAILS	RESOURCES
2		Relationships • Friendship; feeling lonely; managing arguments • how to make friends with others • how to recognise when they feel lonely and what they could do about it • how people behave when they are being friendly and what makes a good friend • how to resolve arguments that can occur in friendships • how to ask for help if a friendship is making them unhappy	<u>PSHE</u>
		Relationships • Behaviour; bullying; words and actions; respect for others • how words and actions can affect how people feel • how to ask for and give/not give permission regarding physical contact and how to respond if physical contact makes them uncomfortable or unsafe • why name-calling, hurtful teasing, bullying and deliberately excluding others is unacceptable • how to respond if this happens in different situations • how to report bullying or other hurtful behaviour, including online, to a trusted adult and the importance of doing so	<u>PSHE</u>

YEAR GROUP	TERM	TOPIC/THEME DETAILS	RESOURCES
3	1	Relationships • Friendship; making positive friendships, managing loneliness, dealing with arguments • how friendships support wellbeing and the importance of seeking support if feeling lonely or excluded • how to recognise if others are feeling lonely and excluded and strategies to include them • how to build good friendships, including identifying qualities that contribute to positive friendships • that friendships sometimes have difficulties, and how to manage when there is a problem or an argument between friends, resolve disputes and reconcile differences • how to recognise if a friendship is making them unhappy, feel uncomfortable or unsafe and how to ask for support	<u>PSHE</u>

YEAR GROUP	TERM	TOPIC/THEME DETAILS	RESOURCES
	2	Relationships Families; family life; caring for each other • how families differ from each other (including that not every family has the same family structure, e.g. single parents, same sex parents, step-parents, blended families, foster and adoptive parents) • how common features of positive family life often include shared experiences, e.g. celebrations, special days or holidays • how people within families should care for each other and the different ways they demonstrate this • how to ask for help or advice if family relationships are making them feel unhappy, worried or unsafe	<u>PSHE</u>

YEAR GROUP	TERM	TOPIC/THEME DETAILS	RESOURCES
4	1	Relationships • Respect for self and others; courteous behaviour; safety; human rights • how people's behaviour affects themselves and others, including online • how to model being polite and courteous in different situations and recognise the respectful behaviour they should receive in return • about the relationship between rights and responsibilities • about the right to privacy and how to recognise when a confidence or secret should be kept (such as a nice birthday surprise everyone will find out about) or not agreed to and when to tell (e.g. if someone is being upset or hurt)* • the rights that children have and why it is important to protect these • that everyone should feel included, respected and not discriminated against; how to respond if they witness or experience exclusion, disrespect or discrimination • how to respond to aggressive or inappropriate behaviour (including online and unwanted physical contact) – how to report concerns	<u>PSHE</u>

YEAR GROUP	TERM	TOPIC/THEME DETAILS	RESOURCES
5	2	Relationships • Friendships; relationships; becoming independent; online safety • about the different types of relationships people have in their lives • how friends and family communicate together; how the internet and social media can be used positively • how knowing someone online differs from knowing someone face-to-face • how to recognise risk in relation to friendships and keeping safe • about the types of content (including images) that is safe to share online; ways of seeking and giving consent before images or personal information is shared with friends or family • how to respond if a friendship is making them feel worried, unsafe or uncomfortable • how to ask for help or advice and respond to pressure, inappropriate contact or concerns about personal safety	<u>PSHE</u>

YEAR GROUP	TERM	TOPIC/THEME DETAILS	RESOURCES
6	3	Relationships • Different relationships, changing and growing, adulthood, independence, moving to secondary school • that people have different kinds of relationships in their lives, including romantic or intimate relationships • that people who are attracted to and love each other can be of any gender, ethnicity or faith; the way couples care for one another • that adults can choose to be part of a committed relationship or not, including marriage or civil partnership • that marriage should be wanted equally by both people and that forcing someone to marry against their will is a crime • how puberty relates to growing from childhood to adulthood • about the reproductive organs and process - how babies are conceived and born and how they need to be cared for • that there are ways to prevent a baby being made² • how growing up and becoming more independent comes with increased opportunities and responsibilities • how friendships may change as they grow and how to manage this • how to manage change, including moving to secondary school; how to ask for support or where to seek further information and advice regarding growing up and changing	<u>PSHE</u>

APPENDIX 2: BY THE END OF PRIMARY SCHOOL PUPILS SHOULD KNOW

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
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 safe and happy family life, such as: 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 children's families, either in school or in the wider world, sometimes look different from their own, but they should respect those differences and know that other families are also characterised by love and care • That stable, caring relationships are at the heart of safe and happy families, and are important for children's security as they grow up • That marriage and civil partnerships represent a formal and legally recognised commitment of 2 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

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Caring friendships	• How important friendships are in making us feel happy and secure, and how people choose and make friends • The characteristics of friendships that lead to happiness and security, including: mutual respect, truthfulness, trust and trustworthiness, loyalty, kindness, generosity, sharing interests and experiences and support with problems and difficulties • That healthy, caring and kind friendships are positive and welcoming towards others, and do not make others feel lonely or excluded. Pupils should learn skills for developing caring, kind friendships • That not every child will have the friends they would like at all times, that most people feel lonely sometimes, and that there is no shame in feeling lonely or talking about it • That most friendships have ups and downs, and that these can often be worked through so that the friendship is repaired or even strengthened • About managing conflict with kindness and respect, and that violence is never right • How to recognise when a friendship is making them feel unhappy or uncomfortable, and how to seek help or advice from others, if needed

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Respectful, kind relationships	• The importance of respecting others, including in families and friendships. Pupils should be encouraged to discuss how we can balance the needs and wishes of different people, and why this can be complicated • The importance of setting and respecting healthy boundaries in all relationships with friends, family, peers and adults • How to communicate effectively: how to be assertive and express needs and boundaries and manage feelings, including disappointment and frustration • That they can expect to be treated with respect and the importance of respecting others, including those who are different (for example: physically, in character, personality or background), or make different choices, or have different preferences or beliefs • The practical steps they can take in a range of different contexts to improve or support their relationships • The conventions of courtesy and manners • The importance of self-respect and how this links to their own happiness. They should have opportunities to consider issues like self-esteem and building a sense of their own identity • Pupils should have opportunities to discuss the difference between being assertive and being controlling, and the difference between being kind to other people and neglecting your own needs. • About different types of bullying (including cyberbullying), the impact of bullying, responsibilities of bystanders (primarily reporting bullying to an adult) and how to get help • How to seek help when needed, including when they are concerned about violence, harm, or when they are unsure who to trust • What a stereotype is, and how stereotypes can be unfair, negative or destructive or lead to bullying and how to challenge a stereotype

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Online safety and awareness	• That people sometimes behave differently online, including by pretending to be someone they are not and/or pretending to be a child • That the same principles apply to online relationships as to face-to face relationships, including the importance of respect for others online including when we are anonymous • The rules and principles for keeping safe online, how to recognise risks, harmful content and contact, and how to report them • That there is a minimum age for joining most social media sites which protects children from inappropriate content or unsafe content with older social media users, who may be strangers, including other children and adults • That it's important to be cautious about sharing any information about themselves online, and how to use privacy and location settings to protect their information online • How to critically consider their online friendships and sources of information, including awareness of the risks associated with people they have never met • How information and data is shared and used online, including where pictures or words might be circulated • Online risks, including that any material provided online might be circulated, and that once a picture or words has been circulated there is no way of deleting it everywhere and no control over where it ends up • That the internet contains a lot of content that can be inappropriate and upsetting for children, and where to go for advice and support when they feel worried or concerned about something they have seen or engaged with online

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Being safe	• What sorts of boundaries are appropriate in friendships with peers and others (including in a digital context). This can include learning about boundaries in play and in negotiations about space, toys, books, resources for example • 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 or unsafe physical, and other, contact • How to respond safely and appropriately to adults they may encounter (in all contexts, including online) including those they do/don't know • How to recognise when a relationship is harmful or dangerous, including skills for recognising who to trust and who not to trust • How to report concerns or abuse, about something seen online or experienced in real life, or feelings of being unsafe or feeling bad about any adult, and the vocabulary and confidence needed to do so • Where to get advice, for example from their family, school and/or other sources

APPENDIX 4: SCHOOL SPECIFIC INFORMATION AT SCHOOL

The person responsible for leading RSE is:

Mr Sparks : Assistant Headteacher

RSE is taught by:

All teachers

The delivery of RSE is monitored by:

Mr Sparks : Assistant Headteacher