

The Laurels Primary School

The Laurels Learning for Life Curriculum

encompassing PSHE and Relationships and Health Education

Policy (from 2024)

Our vision is to have uncompromising aspirations for every individual and for our school to be an exceptional and inspirational community of lifelong learners.

Aims

The National Curriculum states that ‘all schools should make provision for personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE), drawing on good practice.’ Relationships education is also compulsory in primary schools.

According to the Education Act 2002 and the Academies Act 2010, the PSHE curriculum should be a balanced and broadly-based curriculum which ‘promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society, and prepares pupils at the school for opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.’

Stakeholders

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

- Review – a member of staff collated all relevant information including relevant national and local guidance
- Staff consultation – all school staff were given the opportunity to look at the policy and make recommendations
- Parent/stakeholder consultation – parents and any interested parties were invited to attend a meeting about the policy
- Pupil consultation – we investigated what exactly pupils want from their PSHE and RSE curriculum
- Ratification – This policy will be reviewed by the PSHE subject leader annually. At every review, the governing body has delegated responsibility to the headteacher to approve the policy and ensure its implementation.

We use a PSHE Programme - Kapow PSHE - in which pupils develop the knowledge, skills and attributes needed in order to keep themselves healthy and safe whilst preparing them for life and work. We call this subject *Learning for Life*.

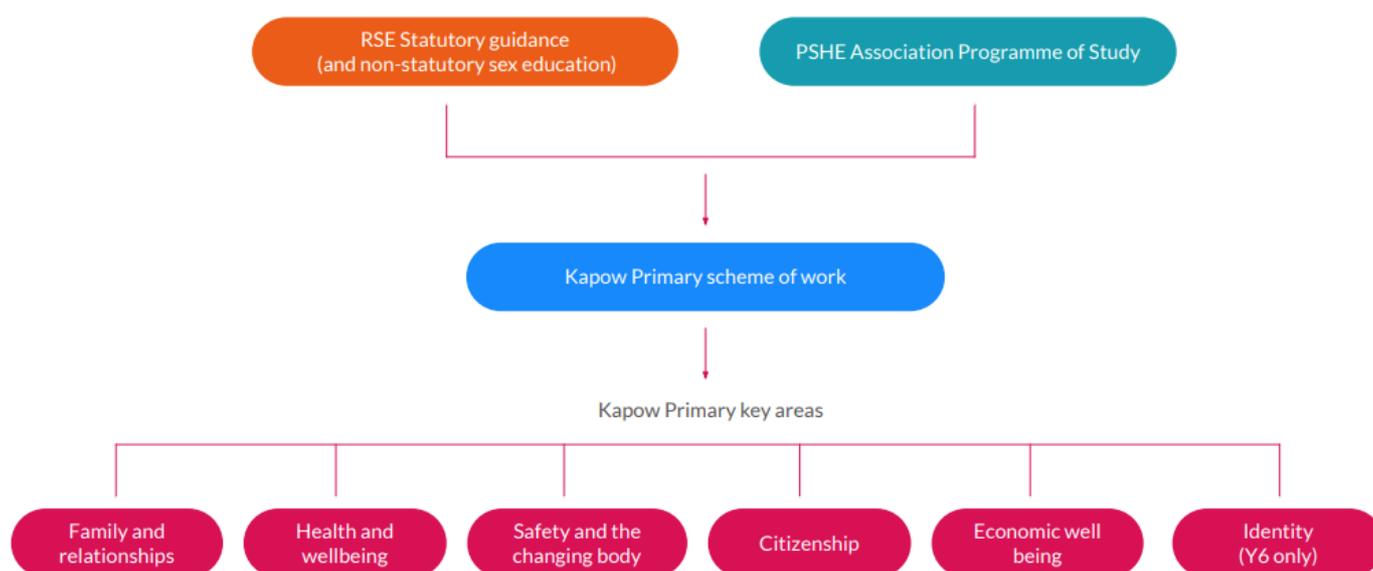
This policy reflects the 2024 DfE guidance and covers all aspects of Relationships Education and Health Education in an age-appropriate way.

Strategic Oversight

The Department for Education (DfE) has strategic oversight for relationships education in England. The DfE provides statutory guidance to ensure that all pupils receive a broad and balanced education in these areas.

Our school governor who has responsibility for strategic oversight for RSE is Mr Ben Crockett (DMAT.)

How is the Scheme of work organised?



Pupils are encouraged to participate in a wide variety of activities, enabling them to make significant contributions to both life in school and within the wider community. This allows them to become aware of their skills and talents, develop their self-worth, learn to work as part of a team and take greater responsibility for their own learning. In doing so, they are able to reflect and evaluate on how they are making progress.

The Kapow PSHE Programme provides pupils with the means to handle many of the social, cultural, spiritual, physical and moral issues that occur throughout life.

Kapow PSHE helps pupils to develop and demonstrate skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully, and contribute positively, to life in modern Britain. Pupils learn to respect similarities and differences between our diverse cultures in order to build successful and meaningful friendships and relationships that are vital to the world we live in.

Kapow PSHE supports the development of the attitudes, values, skills and behaviour which enable pupils to:-

- Live healthy lifestyles
- Address personal hygiene
- Develop an awareness of changing and growing
- Deal with different emotions in an appropriate way
- Keep safe
- Communicate well with others and work as a team
- Define, identify and know how to respond to bullying
- Know where and how to seek help when needed
- Treat everybody with respect
- Form and build positive relationships
- Understand the reasons for rules, and their responsibility to keep them
- Learn about their responsibility in caring for others
- Be active in their own learning
- Be active within their community
- Manage money well
- Keep safe online
- Self-assess and identify their strengths and weaknesses
- Know how to make emergency calls
- Know basic First Aid
- Work collaboratively and respectfully
- Appreciate diversity
- Empathise with other points of view
- Express opinions clearly
- Understand the changes that occur in puberty
- Develop strategies for managing changing emotions

Relationships Education (Statutory)

The focus of PSHE in primary school is on teaching the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships, with particular reference to friendships, family relationships and relationships with other children and adults.

Kapow PSHE teaches pupils, in an age-appropriate way, what a healthy relationship is, enabling them to form a clear understanding of the features of positive relationships that are likely to lead to fulfilment, happiness and security. Pupils learn what friendship is, what family means and who the people are who can support them.

Our school's careful use of Kapow PSHE teaches about families in a well-judged and sensitive way, based on a clear knowledge of the pupils and their circumstances, reflecting that some children have different family structures and supportive relationships. They learn how to take turns, how to treat each other with kindness, consideration and respect, the importance of honesty and truthfulness, permission seeking and giving, and the concept of personal privacy. Establishing personal space and boundaries, showing respect and understanding, including the differences between appropriate and inappropriate or unsafe physical, and other, contact are the forerunners of teaching about consent, which takes place at secondary.

Kapow PSHE lessons teach pupils about online safety and appropriate behaviour online, including sharing data and ways in which information provided by users may be used negatively.

Kapow's Relationship Education encourages the development and practice of resilience and perseverance, self-respect and self-worth. Pupils are also helped to develop personal attributes

including honesty, integrity, courage, humility, kindness, generosity, trustworthiness and a sense of justice. This is achieved through a plethora of exciting and innovative learning experiences.

Pupils are taught about positive emotional and mental wellbeing, including how friendships can support mental wellbeing.

They also learn about safe relationships, focusing on boundaries and privacy and ensuring that they understand that they have rights over their own bodies. This also covers understanding boundaries in friendships with peers, in families and with others, in all contexts, including online. In Kapow PSHE, pupils are clearly taught how to report concerns and seek advice when they suspect or know that something is wrong. Of paramount importance is ensuring the balance between informing children about making sensible decisions to stay safe (including online) without frightening them unnecessarily, whilst also making it clear that it is never the fault of a child who is exploited or abused, and why victim blaming is always wrong.

Staff are responsible for:

- Delivering Learning for Life lessons in a sensitive way
- Modelling positive attitudes to the Learning for Life Curriculum
- Monitoring progress of learners
- Responding to the needs of individual pupils
- Responding appropriately to pupils whose parents wish them to be withdrawn from the [non-statutory/non-science] components of sex education

Staff do not have the right to opt out of teaching any aspect of Learning for Life. Staff who have concerns about any of the content are encouraged to discuss this with the headteacher. Staff are encouraged to reflect on their own training needs in relation to the effective teaching of Learning for Life and bring these to the attention of the Assistant Head for Inclusion who can explore these needs, and any other issues, with them.

Training

Staff are trained on the delivery of Learning for Life as part of their induction and it is included in our continuing professional development calendar, with staff receiving half termly input using a wide range of training resources including those provided by Kapow.

The subject leader, alongside teachers, will also invite visitors from outside the school, such as school nurses or health professionals, to provide support and training to staff teaching the Learning for Life curriculum.

Answering Difficult Questions

There are many sources of information which children can access in this modern world. At The Laurels we want to create a culture whereby children form trusted relationships with key adults in the school and feel able to ask them questions as they arise. This can mitigate against children looking things up online or developing misconceptions by accessing information from unreliable sources. When dealing with difficult questions for an individual, teachers will:

- First, and most importantly, determine the child's current understanding by asking questions such as: "What do you think that word means?" "Tell me what you know already."
- Ensure the discussion takes place in a location and at a time, which safeguards both the staff member and the child.
- Answer responsively according to the child's answer to these questions, and their level of maturity.
- Use scientifically accurate and age appropriate language.
- Have regard to all types of families and relationships when answering and avoid stereotyping.

- Take an objective approach and ensure discussions do not refer to named people including self.
- Discuss with the child safe ways for them to share this information, including who it is and isn't appropriate to discuss it with (for example younger children in the school, younger siblings).
- Finally clarify whether the discussion has met the needs of the child, or whether they have further questions.

Parents will be informed about any discussion a teacher has with a child about this sensitive subject.

On some occasions the member of staff may need time to consider their approach to a question and it is appropriate to tell the child that you will come back to them within the same day. On these occasions it is advisable to talk to the subject leader for advice or sources of information.

During whole class teaching sessions, clear parameters will be established from the outset using a code of conduct, to safeguard against:

- Children and staff feeling unsafe or uncomfortable;
- Personal information being shared by either staff or children;
- Misinformation being shared or misconceptions arising;
- Discriminatory behaviour.

If at any point a staff member feels that a child's knowledge of this subject, or their approach to it, constitutes a safeguarding concern, they must discuss this in a timely way with a Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Sex Education

Sex Education is not statutory in primary schools. The RSE statutory guidance states that:

Where a maintained primary school chooses to teach aspects of sex education (which go beyond the national curriculum for science), the school must set this out in their policy and all schools should consult with parents on what is to be covered. Primary schools that choose to teach sex education must allow parents a right to withdraw their children. Unlike sex education in RSE at secondary, in primary schools, head teachers must comply with a parent's wish to withdraw their child from sex education beyond the national curriculum for science.

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.

Our school will respond to the needs of individual classes when deciding whether to teach the sex education content provided in the Kapow PSHE curriculum.

The Needs of Pupils with SEND

As with all learning at The Laurels, scaffolding, pre-teaching and other support strategies are deployed for children who have individual learning needs. The needs of the class are determined by the teacher and informed by their working knowledge of a child's learning needs, their wider contextual information as well as the advice and support of the Assistant Head for Inclusion. Our curriculum recognises the need to balance knowledge with skills, and how the needs of some

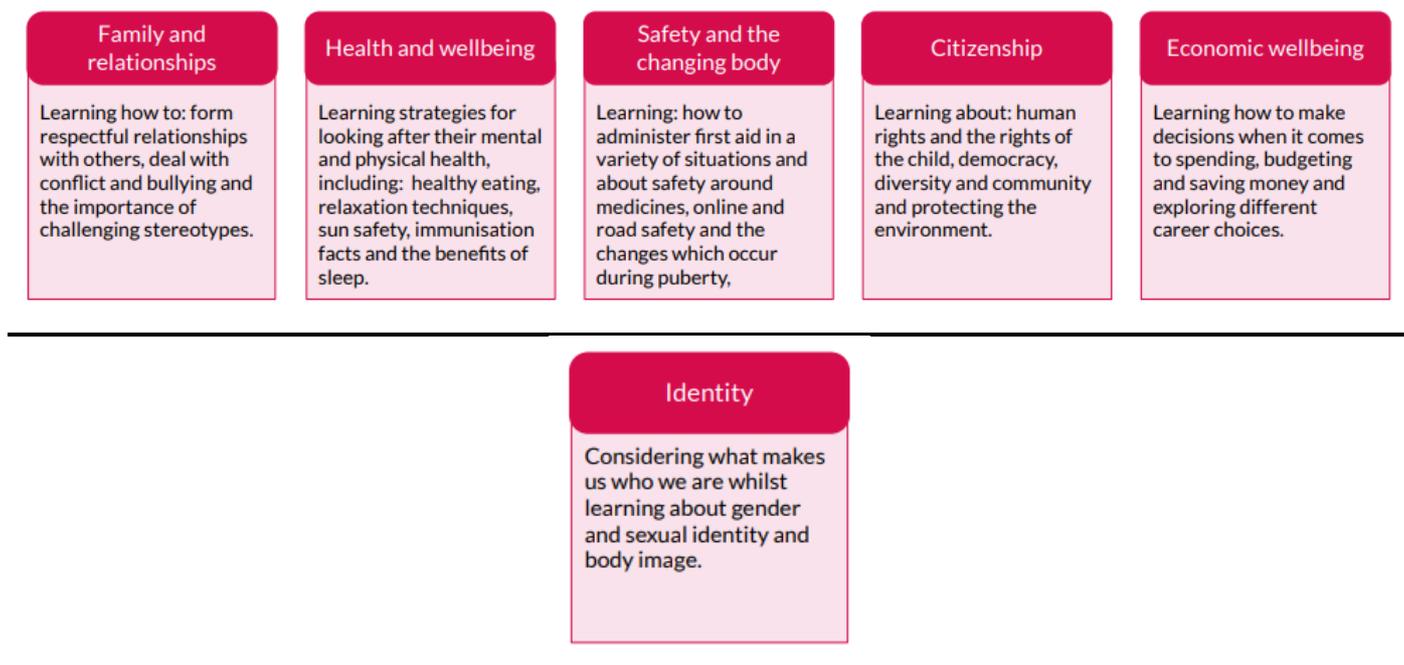
groups of children are best met when there is an emphasis on the teaching and practising of specific skills.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

The Learning for Life curriculum teaches children about staying mentally and physically well. A Code of Conduct is used in each lesson to establish a safe working environment for staff and children and to promote safe behaviours such as children seeking support if curriculum content personally affects them or if they identify that they have a mental health need. How children seek support should be communicated by the teacher at the beginning of each lesson and this will include making use of the worry box or seeking adult help. All staff are encouraged to ensure they have reflected on the needs of the individuals in their class in relation to specific areas of the curriculum which might have personal significance, and to seek support from the Subject Leader in order to deliver the content safely. They will be supported to ensure consideration is made for the child's needs at the planning stage and given ideas for strategies they can deploy. This might involve pre-teaching of some of the content or ensuring the child has adult support in the lesson.

PSHE Content and Coverage

The Kapow PSHE curriculum is organised into five key areas, which are revisited in each year group, in increasing depth, making pupil's prior and future learning clear. Year 6 also have a further key area: Identity.



Year 1

Introductory lesson: A stand-alone lesson outlining RSE & PSHE as a subject and exploring how to create a successful learning environment for these lessons.

Families and relationships	Health and wellbeing	Safety and the changing body	Citizenship	Economic wellbeing
Exploring how families can be different, the characteristics and impact of positive friendships; learning that issues can be overcome, that people show feelings differently and that stereotyping is unfair.	Exploring personal qualities, strategies to manage feelings, the impact of sleep and relaxation on wellbeing, the importance of hand washing and sun protection, dealing with allergic reactions and people in the community who keep us healthy.	Learning how to respond to adults in different situations; distinguishing appropriate and inappropriate physical contact; understanding what to do if lost and how to call the emergency services; identifying hazards in the home and people in the community who keep us safe.	Learning about: the importance of rules and consequences of not following them; caring for the needs of babies, young children and animals; exploring our similarities and differences and an introduction to democracy.	Learning about what money is and where it comes from, how to keep cash safe, the function of banks and building societies, spending and saving and some of the jobs roles in schools.

Transition lesson: Helping Year 1 pupils with the transition to a new year and the changes that come with it.

Year 2

Introductory lesson: A stand-alone lesson outlining RSE & PSHE as a subject and exploring how to create a successful learning environment for these lessons.

Families and relationships	Health and wellbeing	Safety and the changing body	Citizenship	Economic wellbeing
Learning: that families are composed of different people who offer each other care and support; how other people show their feelings and how to respond. Looking at conventions of manners and developing an understanding of self-respect.	Learning: about the benefits of exercise and relaxation on physical health and wellbeing; strategies to manage different emotions, setting goals, developing a growth mindset and understanding dental hygiene.	Developing understanding of safety: roads and medicines and an introduction to online safety; distinguishing secrets from surprises; naming body parts and looking at the concept of privacy.	Learning about rules outside school; caring for the school and local environment; exploring the roles people have within the local community; learning how school councils work and voicing an opinion.	Learning about where money comes from, how to look after money and why we use banks and building societies.

Transition lesson: A lesson for Year 2 pupils to help them with their transition to Year 3, and the changes that may come with this move.

Year 3

Introductory lesson: A stand-alone lesson outlining RSE & PSHE as a subject and exploring how to create a successful learning environment for these lessons.

Families and relationships	Health and wellbeing	Safety and the changing body	Citizenship	Economic wellbeing
Learning: how to resolve relationship problems; effective listening skills and about non-verbal communication. Looking at the impact of bullying and what action can be taken; exploring trust and who to trust and that stereotyping can exist.	Understanding that a healthy lifestyle includes physical activity, a balanced diet, rest and relaxation; exploring identity through groups we belong to and how our strengths can be used to help others; learning how to solve problems by breaking them down.	Learning how to: call the emergency services; responding to bites and stings; be a responsible digital citizen; learning about: cyberbullying, identifying unsafe digital content; influences and making independent choices and an awareness of road safety.	Learning about children's rights; exploring why we have rules and the roles of local community groups, charities and recycling and an introduction to local democracy.	Introduction to creating a budget and learning about: the different ways of paying, the emotional impact of money, the ethics of spending and thinking about potential jobs and careers.

Transition lesson: Helping Year 3 pupils prepare for the transition to Year 4 and the changes that come with this.

Year 4

Introductory lesson: A stand-alone lesson outlining RSE & PSHE as a subject and exploring how to create a successful learning environment for these lessons.

Families and relationships	Health and wellbeing	Safety and the changing body	Citizenship	Economic wellbeing
Learning that families are varied and differences must be respected; understanding: physical and emotional boundaries in friendships; the roles of bully, victim and bystander; how behaviour affects others; appropriate manners and bereavement.	Developing emotional maturity; learning that we experience a range of emotions and are responsible for these; appreciating the emotions of others; developing a growth mindset; identifying calming activities and developing independence in dental hygiene.	Building awareness of online safety and benefits and risks of sharing information online; the difference between private and public; age restrictions; the physical and emotional changes in puberty; the risks associated with tobacco and how to help someone with asthma.	Learning about Human rights and caring for the environment; exploring the role of groups within the local community and appreciating community diversity; looking at the role of local government.	Exploring: choices associated with spending, what makes something good value for money, career aspirations and what influences career choices.

Transition lesson: Helping Year 4 pupils prepare for the transition into Year 5 and the changes, challenges and opportunities this brings.

Year 5

Introductory lesson: A stand-alone lesson outlining RSE & PSHE as a subject and exploring how to create a successful learning environment for these lessons.

Families and relationships	Health and wellbeing	Safety and the changing body	Citizenship	Economic wellbeing
Developing an understanding: of families, including marriage, of what to do if someone feels unsafe in their family; that issues can strengthen a friendship; exploring the impact of bullying and what influences a bully's behaviour; learning to appreciate our attributes.	Learning to take greater responsibility for sleep, sun safety, healthy eating and managing feelings; setting goals and embracing failure; understanding the importance of rest and relaxation.	Exploring the emotional and physical changes of puberty, including menstruation; learning about online safety, influence, strategies to overcome potential dangers and how to administer first aid to someone who is bleeding.	An introduction to the justice system; how parliament works; and the role of pressure groups; learning about rights and responsibilities, the impact of energy on the planet and contributing to the community.	Developing understanding about income and expenditure, borrowing, risks with money and stereotypes in the workplace.

Transition lesson: Helping Year 5 pupils prepare for the transition to Year 6 and the opportunities and responsibilities this brings.

Year 6

Introductory lesson: A stand-alone lesson outlining RSE & PSHE as a subject and exploring how to create a successful learning environment for these lessons.

Families and relationships	Health and wellbeing	Safety and the changing body	Citizenship	Economic wellbeing
Learning: to resolve conflict, through negotiation and compromise; about respect, understanding that everyone deserves to be respected and about grief.	Learning about diet, oral hygiene, physical activity and the facts around immunisation. Exploring rest and relaxation and how they affect physical and mental health. Strategies for being resilient in challenging situations and planning for long-term goals.	Learning about: the reliability of online information, the changes experienced during puberty, how a baby is conceived and develops, the risks associated with alcohol and how to administer first aid to someone who is choking or unresponsive.	Learning about: human rights, food choices and the environment, caring for others, recognising discrimination, valuing diversity and national democracy.	Exploring: attitudes to money, how to keep money safe, career paths and the variety of different jobs available.
				Identity Three lessons on the theme of personal identity, gender identity and body image.

Transition lesson: Helping pupils prepare for the transition to secondary school, including exploring any worries or anxieties they may have.

How we monitor, evaluate and assess teaching and learning in Learning for Life lessons

The PSHE subject lead, Becs Metcalf, is responsible for leading The Learning for Life Curriculum. Learning for Life is part of the school's monitoring schedule and the subject lead will evaluate the quality of teaching through learning walks, work scrutiny, pupil voice and assessment.

Statutory requirements

As a primary academy school, we must provide Relationships Education to all pupils as per section 34 of the Children and Social work act 2017.

We do not 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 which would include the elements of sex education contained in the science curriculum.

In delivering a Learning for Life curriculum, we are 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.

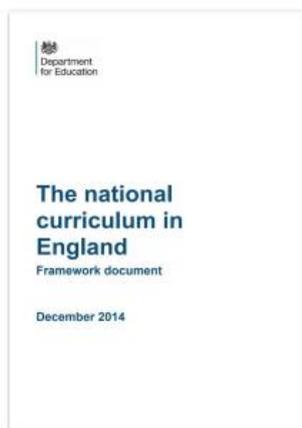
Schools have a duty to safeguard their children as well as a duty to promote Spiritual, Moral, Social, Cultural aspects of learning, therefore all class teachers are responsible for teaching Learning for Life each week as this is important to establishing the safeguarding culture in school. It is an expectation that staff teachers will liaise with DSLs to ensure topics are approached in a sensitive way and specific to the needs of the individuals in their class.

All pupils should be provided with Learning for Life books that move with them through the school. This helps place importance on Learning for Life in the classroom. It also helps pupils gather samples of their learning as well as samples of assessment

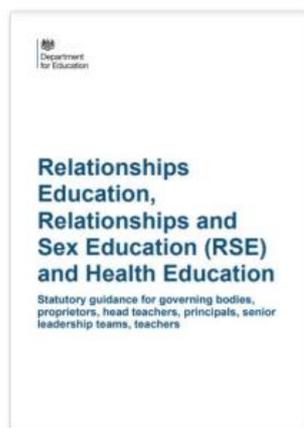
We take into account the needs of all pupils including those with SEN and sensitive safeguarding issues. Children may be provided with scaffolding and resources such as knowledge organisers to support them with vocabulary acquisition.

Bibliography

The Kapow scheme of work fulfils the statutory requirements for Relationships and Health Education set out by the Department for Education. It also fulfils the National Curriculum requirement to teach PSHE ('All schools should make provision for personal, social, health and economic education) and goes beyond the statutory requirements by referring to the PSHE Association Programme of Study (recommended by the Department for Education).



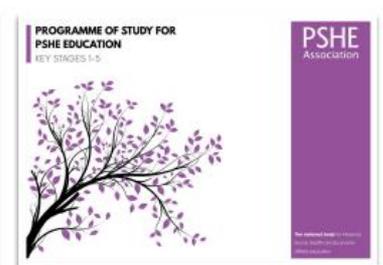
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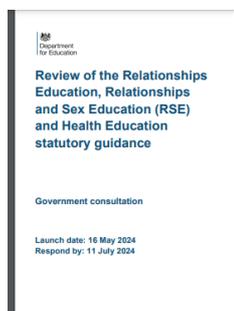
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Policy reviewed annually.

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Appendices

For further guidance on Relationships Education (Primary), Relationships and Sex Education (RSE – Secondary) and Health Education (Primary and Secondary), please visit the following: [Guidance on Relationships, Relationships and Sex Education, and Health Education](#)

Appendix 1: By the end of primary school pupils should know

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Families and people who care about me	<p>That families are important for children growing up because they can give love, security and stability</p> <p>The characteristics of healthy family life, 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</p> <p>That others' families, either in school or in the wider world, sometimes look different from their family, but that they should respect those differences and know that other children's families are also characterised by love and care</p> <p>That stable, caring relationships, which may be of different types, are at the heart of happy families, and are important for children's security as they grow up</p> <p>That marriage represents a formal and legally recognised commitment of two people to each other which is intended to be lifelong</p> <p>How to recognise if family relationships are making them feel unhappy or unsafe, and how to seek help or advice from others if needed</p>
Caring friendships	<p>How important friendships are in making us feel happy and secure, and how people choose and make friends</p> <p>The characteristics of friendships, including mutual respect, truthfulness, trustworthiness, loyalty, kindness, generosity, trust, sharing interests and experiences and support with problems and difficulties</p> <p>That healthy friendships are positive and welcoming towards others, and do not make others feel lonely or excluded</p> <p>That most friendships have ups and downs, and that these can often be worked through so that the friendship is repaired or even strengthened, and that resorting to violence is never right</p> <p>How to recognise who to trust and who not to trust, how to judge when a friendship is making them feel unhappy or uncomfortable, managing conflict, how to manage these situations and how to seek help or advice from others, if needed</p>
Respectful relationships	<p>The importance of respecting others, even when they are very different from them (for example, physically, in character, personality or backgrounds), or make different choices or have different preferences or beliefs</p> <p>Practical steps they can take in a range of different contexts to improve or support respectful relationships</p> <p>The conventions of courtesy and manners</p> <p>The importance of self-respect and how this links to their own happiness</p>

	<p>That in school and in wider society they can expect to be treated with respect by others, and that in turn they should show due respect to others, including those in positions of authority</p> <p>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</p> <p>What a stereotype is, and how stereotypes can be unfair, negative or destructive</p> <p>The importance of permission-seeking and giving in relationships with friends, peers and adults</p>
<p>Online relationships</p>	<p>That people sometimes behave differently online, including by pretending to be someone they are not</p> <p>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</p> <p>The rules and principles for keeping safe online, how to recognise risks, harmful content and contact, and how to report them</p> <p>How to critically consider their online friendships and sources of information including awareness of the risks associated with people they have never met</p> <p>How information and data is shared and used online</p>
<p>Being safe</p>	<p>What sorts of boundaries are appropriate in friendships with peers and others (including in a digital context)</p> <p>About the concept of privacy and the implications of it for both children and adults; including that it is not always right to keep secrets if they relate to being safe</p> <p>That each person's body belongs to them, and the differences between appropriate and inappropriate or unsafe physical, and other, contact</p> <p>How to respond safely and appropriately to adults they may encounter (in all contexts, including online) whom they do not know</p> <p>How to recognise and report feelings of being unsafe or feeling bad about any adult</p> <p>How to ask for advice or help for themselves or others, and to keep trying until they are heard</p> <p>How to report concerns or abuse, and the vocabulary and confidence needed to do so</p> <p>Where to get advice e.g. family, school and/or other sources</p>