



## **PSHE and Sex Education Policy**

### **Our Vision for Ashurst:**

Through our core values of Love, Hope and Joy we nurture and support our children to become well rounded, confident and responsible; children who aspire to achieve their full potential and are connected to and concerned about God's world that needs them.

### **Our vision is rooted in the biblical text found in 1 John 3:18**

"Dear children, Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in words."

### **Context**

All schools must provide a curriculum that is broadly based, balanced and meets the needs of all pupils. Under section 78 of the Education Act 2002 and the Academies Act 2010, a PSHE curriculum:

- Promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society, and
- Prepares pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.

The Church of England states in "Valuing All God's Children" (2019), that Relationships and Sex education should: "Make it clear that relationships and sex education is designed to prepare all pupils for the future, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. RSE must promote gender equality and LGBT equality and it must challenge discrimination. RSE must take the needs and experiences of LGBT people into account and it should seek to develop understanding that there are a variety of relationships and family patterns in the modern world." (Page 34)

### **Our Intent**

To enable our children to become healthy, independent and responsible members of society.

Our PSHE and RSE curriculums reflect the needs of our pupils and are accessible to all:

- They aim to help our children understand how they are developing personally and socially, and provide opportunities to discuss many of the moral, social and cultural issues that are part of growing up.



- Our children are encouraged to develop their sense of self-worth by playing a positive role in contributing to our school and the wider community
- We teach the PSHE curriculum through 'Jigsaw' by developing first-hand experience and sharing good practice.
- We provide our children with opportunities to learn about their rights and responsibilities and appreciate what it means to be a member of a diverse society.
- We aim to equip pupils with a sound understanding of risks together with the knowledge and skills necessary to make safe and informed decisions in life, including the online world.

### Implementation

Our PSHE curriculum has been carefully planned and structured to reflect the needs of our children in line with the National Curriculum requirements for RSHE. The curriculum is broken into six 'Puzzles' and includes many opportunities to link to British Values and SMSC (spiritual, moral, social and cultural development).

The spiral curriculum starts in EYFS and follows the children through to Year 6. Themes are re-visited, gradually extending thinking, expanding knowledge and developing skills. The distribution of the lessons compliments key campaigns throughout the year such as Anti-bullying Week, Internet Safety Day and Sun Awareness Week.

There are occasions where teachers may feel it necessary to teach PSHE as a result of issues that may have arisen in their own class, school or within the local community/world. PSHE is integral to the development of children's values in order for them to become positive citizens in a forever changing world.

PSHE is covered within specific lessons in each year group as well as in assemblies, and is taught within the wider curriculum. We invite appropriate members of the community to visit our school to enrich our PSHE curriculum. Our school displays reinforce our PSHE curriculum. We celebrate awareness days and key events during the year to enhance children's understanding of PSHE statements, such as Black History Month and Children in Need, helping to provide our children with opportunities to learn and understand local, national and worldwide issues.

Outside our PSHE curriculum, our school's values contribute towards the development of our children. Our teaching approach places great emphasis upon collaboration and cooperation. Group work is a key element of teaching and



learning within each class and contributes to positive caring relationships within our school. Our children are encouraged to show leadership in our school through such roles as Young Ashurst Governors, Prayer Leaders, minute takers, maintaining the Children's notice board and being Y6 Monitors.

### Impact

Our PSHE curriculum provides our children with a chance to reflect, learn and apply these crucial skills taught within PSHE.

Through our curriculum, our children learn how to stay safe physically, mentally and online; they understand how to be healthy, how to build self-esteem, resilience and problem-solving strategies, how to develop and maintain positive and healthy relationships and to have respect for themselves and others. We aim to prepare our children for the next stage in their education, as well as preparing them for adult life.

### SEND Provision and Equal Opportunities

At Ashurst we promote respect for all and celebrate differences in our school community. We recognise and acknowledge that PSHE has an important role to play in removing stereotyping. We respect the right of our children, their families and our staff, to hold different beliefs, religious or otherwise, and understand that sometimes these may differ from our approach to some aspects of Relationships, Health and Sex Education. We ensure the curriculum is adapted to ensure children of all ages and with differing learning needs can access all learning opportunities provided in PSHE.

### Relationship and Sex Education

"Parents have the right to request that their child be withdrawn from some or all of sex education delivered as part of statutory Relationships and Sex Education" DfE Guidance p. 17

At Ashurst, puberty is taught as a statutory requirement of Health Education and covered by our Jigsaw PSHE Programme in the 'Changing Me' Puzzle, and we conclude from the DfE Guidance that sex education refers to Human Reproduction. In order to teach this in a scientific context, and knowing that National Curriculum Science requires children to know how mammals reproduce, we have opted to teach this within our Science curriculum, not within PSHE or Relationships and Sex Education, as we believe this is most appropriate for our



children. Therefore, the parental right to withdraw their child is not applicable. However, we are more than happy to discuss the content of the curriculum with parents and carers if they wish.

When teaching RSE there are four main aims of teaching RSE:

- to enable children to understand and respect their bodies,
- to help children develop positive and healthy relationships appropriate to their age and development,
- to support children to have positive self-esteem and body image and to empower them,
- to be safe and safeguarded.

Each year group will be taught appropriate to their age and developmental stage. If a question from a child arises and the teacher feels it would be inappropriate to answer. (for example, because of its mature or explicit nature), this information will be shared with parents and carers by their child's class teacher. The question will not be answered to the child or class if it is outside the remit of that year group's programme.

### Assessment

The approach to assessment, record keeping and reporting of this subject area follows our whole school policy guidelines. All children's contributions are valued and work is regularly marked and assessed against the key skills. Children are encouraged to improve their own learning performance through the school marking policy.

### Monitoring and Evaluation

This policy will be monitored by the subject leader who will be responsible for gathering samples of curriculum work. Appropriate additional evidence e.g. photos of activities/displays/visits/assemblies etc will also be kept. PSHE plans will be monitored to ensure that the key skills are being effectively taught and match the needs and abilities of the pupils.

Approved by FGB	September 2023
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