



# Moorlands Primary School

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Dear Parent/Carer

## Jigsaw and Relationship Education

The Department of Education has announced changes to relationships and sex education (RSE) in primary schools which is part of our PSHE curriculum (Personal, Social, Health and Emotional).

At Moorlands Primary School, we value PSHE as one way to support children's development as human beings to enable them to understand and respect who they are, to empower them with a voice and to equip them for life and learning. We include the statutory Relationships and Health Education within our whole-school PSHE Programme and this aspect is taught in the summer term.

To ensure progression and a spiral curriculum, we use Jigsaw, the mindful approach to PSHE, as our chosen teaching and learning programme and tailor it to your children's needs whilst fitting it within our value-based approach and promoting P4C (Philosophy for Children) strategies. The mapping document: Jigsaw 3-11 and statutory Relationships and Health Education, shows exactly how Jigsaw has been adapted to meet the needs of our pupils and the statutory Relationships and Health Education requirements. It is important to explain that whilst the Relationships Puzzle (unit) in Jigsaw covers most of the statutory Relationships Education and the Changing Me Puzzle, covers the topic on what happens to children as they grow older, some of the outcomes are also taught elsewhere in Jigsaw. For example, the Celebrating Difference Puzzle helps children appreciate that there are many types of family composition and that each is important to the children involved. This holistic approach ensures the learning is reinforced through the year and across the curriculum.

This RSE aspect will be reviewed annually to ensure that it is appropriate for our pupils based on their age, physical and emotional maturity and special educational need. Pupils will be able to ask questions, which will be answered factually and, in an age-appropriate manner. Each pupil's privacy will be respected, and no one will be asked to reveal personal information.

## Questions regarding Relationship Education

### What does the DfE statutory guidance on Relationships Education expect children to know by the time they leave primary school?

Some parts of RSE are compulsory - these are part of the National Curriculum for science.

Relationships Education in primary schools will cover 'Families and people who care for me', 'Caring friendships', 'Respectful relationships', 'Online relationships', and 'Being safe'.



## **Will my child's school have to consult me before teaching these subjects?**

Schools will be required to consult with parents when developing and reviewing their policies for Relationships Education and RSE, which will inform schools' decisions on when and how certain content is covered. This engagement gives the space and time for parents to input, ask questions, share concerns and for the school to decide the way forward. Schools will listen to parents' views, and then make a reasonable decision as to how they wish to proceed. When and how content is taught is ultimately a decision for the school, and consultation does not provide a parental veto on curriculum content. A school's policies for these subjects must be published online, and paper copies are also available. Schools should also ensure that, when they engage parents, they provide examples of the resources they plan to use, for example the books they will use in lessons.

### **(DFE) Will my child be taught sex education at primary school?**

In line with Department for Education expectations, we are introducing Relationships Education, to put in place the building blocks needed for positive and safe relationships of all kinds. This will start with family and friends, how to treat each other with kindness, and recognising the difference between online and offline friendships.

At Moorlands Primary School, we will teach the following in regards to Relationship Education:

Reception – know the different parts of the body (not sex organs)

Year 1– Pupils learn about the life cycle of plants and animals through matching pictures e.g. tadpoles to frogs, babies to adults, acorns to oak trees. They also consider what makes up a family through the use of cartoon characters.

Year 2 – Pupils learn about keeping safe through the NSPCC PANTS lesson. Within this lesson and Jigsaw sessions the technical vocabulary: penis, breasts, testicles and vagina are used in reference to private parts being special and identifying differences between males and females. Jigsaw 'Changing Me' lessons also builds upon Year 1 learning on life cycles of plants and animals.

Year 3 – Pupils will revisit learning about keeping safe completed in Year 2. Again, technical vocabulary: penis, breasts, testicles and vagina are used in reference to private parts being special and differences between males and females is used. Pupils then consider what a stereotype is and identify stereotypes in society.

Year 4 – Pupils start to consider changes that take place from childhood to adulthood using technical vocabulary including: puberty, menstruation, penis, vagina and testicles. Pupils learn that girls' changes include the starting of periods. Following this, they consider what a healthy relationship is – this will include discussions about inclusion of different types of relationships in society.

Year 5 – Through the science curriculum and Jigsaw sessions, pupils develop their understanding of puberty for boys and girls along with personal hygiene. Vocabulary used will include: ovaries, womb, vagina, vulva, uterus and sperm. There is also a focus on positive self-image.

Year 6 – Pupils revisit knowledge from puberty teaching in Year 5 and consider what is a healthy relationship. Lessons focus on online safety and introduce the term, 'sexting' and consider positive self-image.



Online safety is considered throughout the school in an age-appropriate manner with the safe use of technology across the curriculum and within computing sessions. Physical health is promoted within PE sessions and mental well-being discussed through Feelings Friday sessions and as part of our Values Curriculum.

### **RSE Curriculum Expectations:**

*It is important that the transition phase before moving to secondary school supports pupils' ongoing emotional and physical development effectively. The Department continues to recommend therefore that all primary schools should have a sex education programme tailored to the age and the 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. As well as consulting parents more generally about the school's overall policy, primary schools should consult parents before the final year of primary school about the detailed content of what will be taught. This process should include offering parents support in talking to their children about sex education and how to link this with what is being taught in school.*

Moorlands will NOT cover intercourse or sex as we feel this is beyond the age of our children; if this is raised by a pupil, staff will focus on the learning intent of the lesson and explain there are further things they will learn as they get older.

### **Does the new Relationships Education and RSE curriculum take account of my faith?**

(Response from DfE RSE policy)

The subjects are designed to help children from all backgrounds build positive and safe relationships, and to thrive in modern Britain. In all schools, when teaching these subjects, the religious background of pupils must be taken into account when planning teaching, so that topics are appropriately handled. In developing these subjects, we have worked with a number of representative bodies and faith organisations, representing all the major faith groups in England. Several faith organisations produce teaching materials that schools can choose to use.

### **Do I have the right to withdraw my child from Relationships and Sex Education?**

(Response from DfE)

Parents will continue to have a right to request to withdraw their child from sex education delivered as part of RSE in secondary schools which, unless there are exceptional circumstances, should be granted up to three terms before their child turns 16. At this point, if the child themselves wishes to receive sex education rather than be withdrawn, the school should make arrangements for this to happen in one of the three terms before the child turns 16 - the legal age of sexual consent. There is no right to withdraw from Relationships Education at primary or secondary as we believe the contents of these subjects – such as family, friendship, safety (including online safety) – are important for all children to be taught.



## **Has the government listened to the views of my community in introducing these subjects?**

(Response from DfE)

A thorough engagement process, involving a public call for evidence and discussions with over 90 organisations, as well as the public consultation on the draft regulations and guidance, has informed the key decisions on these subjects. The consultation received over 11,000 responses from teachers, schools, expert organisations, young people and parents – these responses have helped finalise the statutory guidance.

## **Will my child be taught about LGBTQ relationships?**

(Response from DfE)

Pupils should be taught about the society in which they are growing up. This is designed to foster respect for others and for difference, and educate pupils about healthy relationships. Pupils should receive teaching on LGBT content during their school years. Teaching children about the society that we live in and the different types of loving, healthy relationships that exist can be done in a way that respects everyone. Primary schools are strongly encouraged and enabled to cover LGBT content when teaching about different types of families.

## **Where can I find out more information about what will be taught in my child's school?**

(Response from DfE)

If you want to know more about what will be taught as part of the new subjects, the best thing to do is speak to your child's school. The Department for Education have also published parent guides (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-sex-and-health-education-guides-for-schools>), which explain what the subjects are, and parents' rights. These subjects are designed to equip your child with knowledge to make informed decisions about their wellbeing, health and relationships as well as preparing them for a successful adult life. The important lessons children are taught about healthy relationships, looking after themselves and staying safe, are respected and valued under this new curriculum. Teaching at school will complement and reinforce the lessons you, as parents/carers, teach your child as they grow up. Your child's school will have flexibility to deliver the content in a way that is age and developmentally appropriate and sensitive to the needs and religious background of its pupils.

Due to current restrictions and risk assessments, the school is providing an online questionnaire to consult with parents about the RSE curriculum at Moorlands. This will be sent out Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> April. A paper copy of this questionnaire can be requested, please ring and let the school office know if you want a paper copy. A copy of the RSE policy and overview of the jigsaw curriculum can be found under the Relationship Education tab on our website. [www.moorlandsprimariesch.co.uk](http://www.moorlandsprimariesch.co.uk)

We are hoping to hold a consultation evening on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2021, COVID- restrictions permitted. If you have any queries about the content of the RSE curriculum and the resources used, please do not hesitate in contacting me at school.

Mrs K Roberts **Head Teacher**

Ms E Benbow **Chair of the Governing Body**

