

Chenies School Sex Education Policy

This policy was adopted in May 2020

This policy was updated in September 2021

The policy is to be reviewed by May 2022

1. Scope

We aim to equip children with the skills and attitudes they need to make informed choices and decisions and to value themselves as individuals. From September 2020 statutory Relationships Education and Health Education will be part of the taught curriculum within PSHE. This is an essential part of a child's education and contributes to their personal development. Sex Education is not statutory at primary but recommended by the DFE. We teach Sex Education as part of our Relationships Education within the planned PSHE curriculum.

2. Introduction

Sex Education at Chenies school is taught through the PSHE curriculum as part of Relationships Education. Sex education is taught in addition to the statutory science curriculum and provides factual and age-appropriate knowledge about conception and birth. In preparation for the secondary RSE curriculum, sex education teaches pupils to recognise the difference between intimate and non-intimate relationships, promotes healthy committed relationships including marriage, consent and the values and responsibilities required to build healthy adult relationships. It also teaches pupils the legal age for marriage and consensual sexual relationships, to recognise their right to their own physical and emotional personal space, how to keep themselves safe, and how to report concerns or issues. Puberty Education is part of statutory Health Education and parents/carers do not have the right to withdraw their child from this aspect of the curriculum.

3. Policy Aims

All primary schools offering Sex Education are required to define any sex education they choose to teach other than that covered in the science curriculum, outline the subject content, how it will be taught and who is responsible for teaching it, and state the parental/carers right to withdraw from non-statutory sex education lessons and the protocols established by the school to facilitate this.

Schools are also required to consult with parents with regards to the policy and to work with parents, offering support in talking to their children about sex education and how to link this to what is being taught in school. It is the statutory responsibility of the governing body to ensure the school has a compliant and up to date Sex Education Policy.

The aim of this policy is to:

- Provide information to staff, parents and carers, governors, pupils and other agencies regarding the organisation, content and approach to teaching of Sex Education at Chenies School
- Help parents and carers to understand what is covered in Sex Education and support them to work with their child to secure the very best outcomes for all pupils

- Demonstrate how the school meets legal requirements with regards to teaching Sex Education

4. Legislative Requirements

At Chenies School we teach the statutory elements of PSHE (Relationships Education and Health Education) through our PSHE curriculum. We also teach non-statutory Sex Education as part of PHSE provision.

The Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education (England) Regulations 2019, made under sections 34 and 35 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017, make Relationships Education compulsory for all pupils receiving primary education. They also make Health Education compulsory in all schools except independent schools.

We comply with the 'Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education' statutory guidance issued by the DfE which is available to view on the following website: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/805781/Relationships_Education_Relationships_and_Sex_Education_RSE_and_Health_Education.pdf

We have due regard to the Equality Act (2010) which requires schools to prevent discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different groups. The protected characteristics that apply to school age children are disability, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity.

We comply with the requirements to have an up to date Relationships policy developed in consultation with pupils, parents and carers (Education Act 1996) and in line with the DfE statutory guidance on Relationships Education, RSE and Health Education (June 2019)

We fulfil statutory safeguarding duties and ensure any safeguarding issues arising from Relationships teaching are identified and followed in accordance with the school safeguarding policy.

4a Parental / Carer Right to Withdraw

At Chenies School we teach Sex Education as part of our Relationships and PSHE curriculum. Whilst primary schools are not mandated to provide sex education, we offer this as part of our PSHE curriculum in addition to the statutory elements of sex education contained in the Science curriculum. As Sex Education is not statutory at Primary School, we wish to state the right of parents and carers to withdraw their child from designated Sex Education lessons. We are required to have regard to guidance issued by the secretary of state as outlined in section 405 of the Education Act 1996.

We encourage parents/carers to make an appointment to come in and speak to the Headteacher to talk through any concerns they may have and make an informed choice about whether to exercise the right to withdraw their child. Requests to withdraw a child from Sex Education should be put in writing to the headteacher using the form in Appendix 5.

Parents and carers do not have the right to withdraw their child from PSHE which includes statutory Relationships Education and Health Education (including the changing adolescent body/puberty). The science curriculum also includes content on human development, including

reproduction, which there is no right to withdraw from. We highly recommend all students receive the full PSHE curriculum.

5. The Curriculum

5a. Intent

The DfE states in the statutory Relationships, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education guidance (page 23):

‘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 school 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 from the national curriculum for science – how a baby is conceived and born’.

High quality Sex Education will support pupils to:

- Be taught factual and correct information about how a baby is conceived and born
- Explore in a safe and managed environment questions they may have about puberty and give them an age appropriate understanding of sexual development
- Understand that all intimate relationships should be consensual and based on love and respect
- Understand the law and be taught that intimate relationships are for consenting adults
- Understand the importance of marriage and committed relationships and learn about different cultural and religious approaches to this
- Recognise and establish their own personal boundaries, and privacy relating to their own bodies
- Know the scientific vocabulary for all body parts*
- Dispel myths and incorrect information about sex and how a baby is conceived and born
- Recognise unhealthy relationships, inappropriate behaviour and bullying and to report concerns or abuse using the appropriate vocabulary to do so (including signposting to trusted online support services such as Childline)
- Ask a trusted adult rather than go online with regards to any concerns about relationship issues, avoid viewing any inappropriate material or entering social media conversations that could cause them harm

*The changing adolescent body and puberty education is part of the statutory Health Education curriculum and is mandatory for all pupils. We teach the correct scientific names for body parts from year 1 (or reception) and this is done at an age appropriate level. A list of key vocabulary for each year group can be found in appendix 3 (PSHE Vocabulary Progression). Introducing the scientific names of genitalia is recommended by the NHS, the NSPCC and the PSHE Association among many others and is generally recognised as good practice -it is vital for safeguarding our children.

When and How is Sex Education Taught?

Sex Education is delivered through the Relationships curriculum as part of PSHE education. At Chenies School we use the PSHE Association’s scheme of work and their recommended teaching resources for the planning and delivery of PSHE. We also use the Christopher Winter Project scheme of work to help teach Sex and Relationships Education.

Sex Education is taught in year 6 in the summer term over a series of lessons. It is taught with 2 members of staff in the room. Some of the sessions will be taught in single sex groups. Parents will be invited to a meeting prior to the lessons taking place to enable them to see some of the teaching resources that will be used.

Assessment, Recording and Reporting

To ensure the content and delivery of Sex Education is appropriate and relevant to our pupils we use simple baselines to ascertain what pupils already know and find out what they would like/need to learn. For more information about how we assess in PSHE lessons please see our PSHE policy.

We will evidence pupils' learning using their individual books for PSHE lessons. The book will be continued through the key stage with the child to see progression of learning over a longer length of time. Depending on the lesson taught, these give the children the opportunity to include any activities they do such as: writing, pictures, diagrams, photos etc.

Managing Difficult Questions and Confidentiality

In Sex Education pupils learn about personal safety and the law. Should a pupil make a disclosure to a member of staff this will be reported to a designated safeguarding lead and followed up in accordance with our disclosure procedures. Please see our safeguarding policy for further information.

All aspects of Sex Education are underpinned by shared and understood ground rules (see appendix 2 – PSHE Ground Rules) with lessons being delivered in a safe and well-managed environment. Ground rules are shared on a regular basis.

Distancing techniques are used in Sex Education. These provide depersonalised examples which support children to explore what is being taught without sharing their own personal experiences in the lesson. Pupils are encouraged to ask questions and raise issues in a respectful and appropriate manner.

Some questions or issues raised may not be appropriately answered in whole class lessons and these will be followed up separately on an individual or group basis. Teachers may need to take the time to consult with the school leadership team if they feel this is appropriate, or if the question raises potential safeguarding concerns. (For instance: 'That is a really interesting question and I need time to think because I want to give you a proper answer.') A question box is available for pupils who do not feel confident to ask questions in front of the class or if they wish to have a separate conversation with a member of staff. Given the ease of access to the internet, children whose questions go unanswered may turn to inappropriate sources of information and so we aim to answer questions at an appropriate level where possible. We also respect that some questions are better addressed at home with parents/ carers and the school will share information with parents/carers on an individual basis should the need arise.

Whilst it is vital to have trust and openness, we cannot offer total confidentiality to pupils. Any disclosures or areas of concern will be followed up in accordance with our safeguarding procedures.

Entitlement and Equality of Opportunity

All pupils at our school will have the opportunity to access the Sex Education curriculum, irrespective of social background, culture, race, religion, gender or ability. The delivery and content will, as with

any lesson in school, be tailored to meet the needs of all our children- including any children with SEND. Depending on the lesson, the support given can take many forms – including differentiated activities, support from an additional adult or extra time for pre-teaching or revising areas that need further work. The support given will vary depending on the child's age and need.

Children will not be withdrawn from Sex Education to catch up on other national curriculum subjects as we believe that this aspect of personal and social development is as important as their academic achievement.

5c. Impact

Our Sex Education curriculum provides pupils with well-chosen opportunities and contexts to explore and embed new knowledge that can be used confidently in real life situations. As a result of our Sex Education programme of learning, pupils will:

- Have a factual and age appropriate understanding of how babies are made and born
- Understand that intimate and sexual relationships are a natural part of adult life
- Know who to talk to if they have further questions about sex and intimate relationships
- Be aware of and respect different types of relationships in accordance with the Equalities Act
- Know they will continue to learn about sex education in their secondary school
- Keep themselves safe online- recognising risks, harmful content, and online contact and be able to report any concerns at the earliest stage
- Know how to keep safe by recognising any inappropriate behaviour from others
- Report concerns or abuse and have the confidence, knowledge and vocabulary to do so

6. Roles and Responsibilities

The Governing Body will approve the policy and hold the Headteacher to account for its implementation.

The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring Sex Education is taught consistently across the school and for managing requests with regards to the parental right to withdraw from non-statutory Sex Education.

The PSHE lead is responsible for leading and managing the subject.

The Head teacher and PSHE lead are responsible for monitoring the standards of children's progress and achievement, and quality of teaching. They will check that all appropriate topics are being taught and will speak to the children to ensure they feel safe and confident within their Sex Education lessons.

Teachers are responsible for planning, delivering and assessing Sex Education for their class and communicating with the PSHE lead about the subject when needed.

Teaching Assistants are responsible for working alongside the teachers to support learning in Sex Education lessons as directed by the class teacher.

Pupils are expected to fully engage with Sex Education provision and treat others with respect.

7. Working with outside agencies and visiting speakers

At times, we may invite external contributors to enrich the learning at our school. When we use external speakers to deliver aspects of our Sex Education programme we will ensure that the class teacher will manage this learning, ensuring that learning objectives and outcomes have been agreed with the visitor in advance, and that any input from visitors will be part of a planned, developmental programme. Teachers will be present to manage the learning and to ensure that it is safe. External contributors are made clear about the school's rules on confidentiality and that whilst working with children at Chenies school, they are bound by the school's confidentiality policy and not their own.

8. Monitoring, evaluation and training

- Sex Education provision will be monitored and evaluated by the PSHE lead, SLT and Governors in line with the monitoring cycle agreed by the school.
- The Sex Education policy will be reviewed annually.
- To ensure staff are confident to deliver all aspects of the Sex Education curriculum, access to online, in-school, local and national training will be made available and in accordance with the school's CPD programme for staff development

9. Working with parents

It is vital that parents and carers know what is being taught and how to support their child/children. The PSHE curriculum overview is published on the school website along with the PSHE policy, Relationships policy and Sex education policy. Appendix 1 (Curriculum Overview) shows what is being taught by year group.

We welcome and encourage parents and carers to make an appointment with the class teacher or the headteacher to discuss any aspect of the PSHE curriculum or to raise any concerns they may have regarding this vital area of education. We consult with parents, carers and the wider community when needed to provide an ongoing process to ensure we all work together for the greatest benefit of the children. We understand that parents and carers may wish to approach the school to access help with concerns they may have about their child and where they can go to obtain further support.

Parents and carers are **only** entitled to withdraw their child from designated Sex Education lessons (please see our Sex Education Policy for further details) and there is no right to withdraw from PSHE which includes statutory Relationships Education and Health Education. The Science curriculum also includes content on human development (including reproduction) for which there is no right to withdraw from. We highly recommend all students receive the full PSHE curriculum.

Parents will be given useful information at different times particularly when relevant or applicable to current learning areas. These may include trusted external websites and could be included in teacher's information in the Friday letter that goes out weekly, or in other whole school or class information letters.

The DfE have also published a useful guide for parents which is available at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/812593/RSE_primary_schools_guide_for_parents.pdf

Please note these are available in other languages (Urdu, Somali, Arabic)

10. Linked policies

This policy may be read in conjunction with the following policies:

- Safeguarding Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Relationships Education Policy
- PSHE Policy
- Behaviour Policy

11. Appendices

Appendix 1

PSHE Curriculum overview

Appendix 2

PSHE Ground Rules

Appendix 3

PSHE Vocabulary Progression

Appendix 4

Not applicable to this policy

Appendix 5

Parental Right to Withdraw from Sex Education Form

Appendix 6

Not applicable to this policy