



Sladefield Infant School and Thornton Primary School

Healthy Relationships Education Policy 2026-2027

Intent: Statement of Values and Ethos

- This policy covers Sladefield Infant School's and Thornton Primary School's shared approach to statutory Relationships Education to ensure consistency as the children move through their primary years. It has been developed and approved following consultation with all stakeholders: pupils, staff, parents/carers and Governors. A working party involving parental representation and senior staff from both schools have been proactive in ensuring this policy meets the needs of all our pupils whilst being sensitive to the school community.
- The purpose of Relationships Education is to equip pupils with the knowledge, skills and positive attitudes to grow up as members of society who are empowered to make decisions about their own lives; to understand and be respectful of beliefs and lifestyles different to their own and to recognise what constitutes respectful and positive relationships with others.
- We view the delivery of quality Relationships Education as a tool to safeguard children. We will ensure that teaching is inclusive, and differentiated where appropriate, to meet the needs of all students, including those with special educational needs and disabilities and those identified as living with a specific vulnerability or safeguarding concern. Our curriculum is designed to ensure that both schools uphold their Public Sector Equality duty to ensure that the importance of the protected characteristics are upheld, that no characteristic is seen to be more important than another and that this is threaded through the curriculum rather than taught as one-off events: any incidents of behaviour that challenges equality for any of these groups will be tackled immediately. If any taught content leads to the disclosure of a child protection issue, staff have been made aware of how to deal with this, including consulting with the Designated Safeguarding Lead.
- The key aim in developing this curriculum model is to meet the needs of all pupils to prepare them for adult life in Modern Britain. Our curriculum includes the teaching of spiritual, moral, social and cultural content, which is further enhanced by both schools being UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools, which places the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child at the heart of its ethos and curriculum. In creating this policy, we have consulted with staff, the governing body and parents as well as pupils, however the needs of pupils (as identified within school and following national guidance) takes precedence over any sensitivities of adults, in particular where there is a safeguarding element to any curriculum theme.



- Following consultation with a cross-section of the school community, we believe our policy is sensitive to the range of religious and cultural views present in our community whilst ensuring pupils have access to the learning necessary to prepare them for adult life.
- We ensure our Relationships Education is inclusive and meets the needs of all pupils. We are fully committed to ensuring our values and curriculum support the protected characteristics as detailed in the Equality Act 2010.
- Puberty is taught at Thornton Primary School in Years 5 and 6 as part of Health Education and reproduction is taught in Year 6 as part of the Science curriculum. Lesson content is shared with parents each year prior to lessons taking place. Parents do not have the right to withdraw their child from these lessons as they are part of the statutory National Curriculum. Thornton Primary School do not teach the optional Primary Sex Education curriculum, and this is the part of the curriculum that parents would have the right to withdraw their child from if it were to be taught, but it is not. Parents are informed in advance when potentially sensitive material is being covered so that they are can decide how best to support their child.

Unicef Gold Rights Respecting School Status

- Both Sladefield Infant School and Thornton Primary School are proud to be recognised as UNICEF Gold Rights Respecting Schools. This status places children's rights at the centre of our ethos, curriculum and wider school culture. The Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA) supports our Relationships Education by embedding the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) throughout all teaching and learning. Pupils learn the importance of mutual respect, empathy, fairness and inclusion, and these principles underpin the expectations around healthy relationships.

Responsibility for the Policy

- Our lead governors for Relationships Education are Rashta Butt (Sladefield Infant School) and Sajad Akram (Thornton Primary School) who have worked closely with the Mr Rob Meadows (Headteacher of Sladefield Infant School) and Mrs Cathy Grace (Headteacher of Thornton Primary School) together with the lead members of SLT and subject leads for this area of the curriculum (Nicola Connolly, Ruth Allen and Katie Biddle-Rawbone) in creating the policy and designing curriculum content.
- This Relationships Education policy is aligned to the following school policies:



- PSHE policy
 - Safeguarding policy
 - Equal Opportunities policy
 - Equality and Diversity Policy
 - Behaviour policy
 - SEND/Inclusion policy
 - Confidentiality policy
 - Anti-bullying policy
 - E-safety policy
 - Volunteer/Visitor policy
 - Mental Wellbeing policy
- The curriculum content will be taught by class teachers supported by teaching assistants and senior leaders as necessary. Lessons are timetabled weekly as part of our wider Personal, Social and Health Education curriculum.
 - Teaching staff receive regular training on the content of the curriculum and best practice in pedagogy for these topics, in order to best support pupils. This training will take place before the lessons commence and will be reviewed regularly.

Legal Framework and national guidance

- Department for Education statutory guidance issued under Sections 34 and 35 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017 dated 27th April 2017 makes it a requirement for all primary schools to teach Relationships Education from September 2020.
- This guidance does not form a National Curriculum but instead gives school guidance on age-appropriate compulsory subject content whilst giving schools “flexibility to shape their curriculum according to the needs of their pupils and communities”. In primary schools this is defined as “the key building blocks of healthy, respectful relationships, focussing on family and friendships, both on and offline”.
- The guidance should be read in conjunction with:
 - Education Act 1996
 - Learning and Skills Act 2000
 - Section 80A Education Act 2002
 - Education and Inspections Act 2006
 - Equality Act 2010
 - DfE ‘Science Programmes of Study: key stages 1 and 2’ 2013



- o Supplementary Guidance SRE for the 21st Century 2014
- o Children and Social Work Act 2017
- o Keeping Children Safe In Education 2018
- o DfE 'Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education July 2025

Implementation: How it is taught

- Parents are children's first educators. Our children tell us that their parents and carers are the people they go to get information about growing up, relationships and feelings. In both schools, we recognise that parents **and carers** are a vital source of support and learning in the topic of Relationships Education and that the work the schools do compliments the beliefs and wishes of parents and carers.
- Ground rules are agreed by pupils and teachers prior to commencement of the lessons. No personal information is shared and distancing techniques such as using fictional case studies and the third person are used.
- Our Relationships Education lessons are taught using a range of resources and teaching methods. Students are taught not only factual knowledge about the curriculum area but also to reflect on, and develop, their skills and attitudes to subject matter. This may include challenging stereotypes and learning to resist peer pressure for example.
- Pupils have the opportunity to ask any questions they have during the lesson and at the end of lessons using the question box (pupils are required to put their initials on any question in the box as a safeguarding measure); and, **For Infant age children, a 'worry monster' is used at the end of the lesson.**
- Staff feedback any potential safeguarding concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead on the same day. Pupils are told (as part of the ground rules) that no information can be guaranteed to be kept confidential for this reason.
- If pupils have questions which are outside of the typical content for their age and stage of development teachers use their professional judgement to determine whether the question is answered in the whole class setting, in a private conversation with the pupil involved or whether the topic is deemed to be outside of the appropriate content for that pupil's age and development



in which case the question is not be answered and the pupil receives feedback as to why. In this instance, staff will inform parents of the pupil's question so they can answer it at home.

- Staff receive training on the teaching and appropriate content of Relationships Education and their judgements are based on this professional knowledge.
- We ensure that the curriculum content is matched to the needs of our pupils through pupil voice, participation in curriculum design and through regular monitoring of lessons and resources used. Assessment of lesson delivery and outcomes takes place by the subject lead and pupil outcomes are monitored regularly by class teachers. We use the system of pupils achieving expected progress, showing emerging progress in the area or exceeding expectations in the area (emerging, expected, exceeding).
- In line with the statutory RSHE guidance (updated July 2025), both Sladefield Infant School and Thornton Primary School teach pupils the correct anatomical names for all body parts. This forms an essential part of our safeguarding approach, supporting children to communicate clearly, reduce stigma, and identify or report concerns with accuracy. Teaching accurate vocabulary helps pupils recognise that these body parts are private and reinforces their understanding of personal boundaries, body autonomy and how to seek help from a trusted adult.
- Resources are differentiated for pupils with SEND as necessary, following liaison between classroom teachers and staff with responsibility for SEND provision in school. We believe the pupils with SEND have an entitlement to age and stage appropriate Relationships Education and so pupils are not routinely removed from lessons for individual support away from their peers, but are supported with a more personalised approach to lesson objectives and outcomes. Where it is known that a situation in a pupil's personal life may affect their engagement with a particular topic within Relationships Education (for example some specific safeguarding issues), staff work with pupils in advance to prepare them for the topic area and give the pupil ownership of how much, if any, of the lesson content they wish to access with their peers.
- In addition to dedicated lesson times, assemblies may make reference to themes in Relationships Education. This is in line with established good practice in PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) of using a spiral curriculum and developing on themes previously encountered.



- External agencies who visit the school to support the curriculum in this area are informed of our safeguarding practice and work under the close supervision of school teaching staff. This ensures that content and delivery styles reflect our school approach.
- Parents are informed about the policy and lesson content both through material publicly available on our website and via invitation to content sessions developed for parents which will occur annually. Parents will therefore have the opportunity to be fully aware of what is taught, to see a sample of resources used and to ask any questions they have.
- Parents have the right to withdraw their child from any Sex Education content taught in Years 5 and 6 at Thornton Primary School which falls outside of the National Curriculum Science requirements and outside of the Relationships Education guidance. However, as the school only teaches the statutory Health Education and Science curriculum and does not teach the optional Primary Sex Education curriculum, there is no option to withdraw a child.

Wellbeing Intent & Curriculum Alignment

Our school wellbeing vision emphasises creating an environment where children feel happy, healthy and safe.

Wellbeing is central to the Healthy Relationships curriculum, supporting pupils to develop:

- Emotional literacy
- Self-regulation strategies
- Resilience and confidence
- Respectful communication
- Positive friendships and conflict-resolution skills

The wellbeing curriculum works alongside PSHE and Relationships Education, ensuring consistency in language, expectations and safeguarding messages across all year groups.

SAFEGUARDING in the RSE and PSHE Curriculum.

Safeguarding is woven throughout the teaching of Relationships Education. Staff recognise that pupils may disclose concerns during lessons that explore relationships, trust, boundaries or safety. All staff follow school safeguarding procedures, including immediate discussion with the Designated



Safeguarding Lead. The curriculum teaches children how to keep themselves safe, how to identify trusted adults, how to recognise unhealthy relationships and how to seek help.

Curriculum Content Overview

- The Curriculum Content Overview can be obtained by contacting the school.

Impact

Teaching about relationships helps pupils to:

- Understand and manage their emotions
- Sustain worthwhile relationships
- Value themselves and respect others
- Form a positive sense of self
- Appreciate difference and diversity
- Safeguard their environment and themselves
- Have confidence in their own decision making

Review Procedures

- This policy will be reviewed in January 2028 by the Headteachers and Governors of both Sladefield Infant School and Thornton Primary School.
- The aim of the review will be to reflect on practice in the past review cycle, acknowledging both successes and areas to be improved, which will be reflected in any policy change. Checks will be made to ensure the policy follows the latest national guidance and advice and that it meets the needs of pupils and wider school community.
- The review will be led by Mr Rob Meadows (Headteacher of Sladefield Infant School) and Mrs Cathy Grace (Headteacher of Thornton Primary School) together with the Relationships Education nominated Governors.
- In addition, throughout the review period monitoring of lesson delivery and student outcomes will be regularly carried out by the lead for PSHE and Healthy Relationships Education. In each review period, provision will be audited to evaluate provision and coverage, as well as feedback from staff, pupils and parents being taken into account to evaluate coverage. The statutory guidance makes provision that parents will be consulted each year about the statutory Relationships and Health Education curriculum.