

Personal Social, Health and Economic Education Policy, incorporating Relationships and Sex Education

Name of school: Minerva Learning Trust Schools: Bridport Primary, Burton Bradstock, St Mary's

Date of policy: March 2021

Members of staff responsible for PSHE Education: Michaela Kite, Claire Staple, Kate Batorska

Line Manager (Executive Principal): Andrew Lovett

Review date: June 2022 (and every three years thereafter)

1. How this Policy was developed

This policy was written by the headteachers and PSHE Leaders and developed in consultation with parents, teachers and other school staff, governors and the pupils of the Minerva Learning Trust. As part of ongoing review, we encourage feedback and listen and respond to all views to help strengthen the policy, ensuring that it meets the needs of all of our pupils. The policy is approved by the schools' governing bodies every 3 years and was last approved in June 2021.

2. Legal requirements of schools

It is now a statutory requirement for primary schools to deliver Relationships Education and the Department of Education (DfE) encourages schools to deliver Sex Education that ensures both boys and girls are prepared for the changes 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.

Health Education is also statutory in all schools¹.

We at the Minerva Learning Trust acknowledge that under the Education Act 2002/Academies Act 2010 all schools must provide a balanced and broadly-based curriculum and wish to have a policy that not only covers the statutory content but covers all aspects of our Personal, Social, Health, Economic (PSHE) education provision.

3. What Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education, including Relationships Education, is:

Our PSHE education, including statutory Relationships and Health education, and non-statutory sex education,² as recommended by the DfE, provides a framework through which key skills, attributes and knowledge can be developed and applied. This promotes positive behaviour, good mental health and wellbeing, resilience and achievement. This also helps children to stay safe online, to develop healthy and safe relationships, to make sense of media messages, to

¹ Except Independent Schools where PSHE education remains statutory.

² Delete as appropriate

challenge extreme views and to have the skills and attributes to negotiate and assert themselves now and in the future.

The school's PSHE provision supports the school's aims of developing confident citizens and successful learners who are creative, resourceful and able to identify and solve problems. The social and emotional development of pupils is embedded throughout the entire school's curriculum and culture. The school has a powerful combination of a planned thematic PSHE program, built around a spiral curriculum of recurring themes, designed to:

1. Give pupils the knowledge and develop the self-esteem, confidence and self-awareness to make informed choices and decisions;
2. Encourage and support the development of social skills and social awareness;
3. Enable pupils to make sense of their own personal and social experiences;
4. Promote responsible attitudes towards the maintenance of good physical and mental health, supported by a safe and healthy lifestyle;
5. Enable effective interpersonal relationships and develop a caring attitude towards others;
6. Encourage a caring attitude towards and responsibility for the environment;
7. Help our pupils understand and manage their feelings, build resilience and be independent, curious problem solvers;
8. Understand how society works and the laws, rights and responsibilities involved.

We know there is a proven link between pupils' health and wellbeing, and their academic progress. Crucial skills and positive attitudes developed through comprehensive Personal, Social, Health and Economic education are critical to ensuring children are effective learners.

4. How PSHE education, including Relationships Education, is provided and who is responsible for this

At the Minerva Learning Trust, we use SCARF, a comprehensive scheme of work for PSHE and Wellbeing education. An overview of SCARF can be found in our appendices. It covers all of the DfE's new statutory requirements for Relationships Education and Health Education, including non-statutory Sex Education, and the PSHE Association's Programme of Study's recommended learning opportunities, as well as contributing to different subject areas in the National Curriculum.

Our PSHE subject leads work in conjunction with teaching staff in each year group and are responsible for ensuring that all staff are equipped with the knowledge, skills and resources to deliver PSHE education confidently. Teachers can access a range of teaching support resources within SCARF, including guidance documents and teacher training films. Any teacher wanting further support should contact the PSHE subject lead in the first instance to discuss their training needs.

Lessons can be a weekly standalone PSHE lesson or be cross curricular. The lesson plans list the specific learning objectives for each lesson and provide support for how to teach the lessons; class teachers and our PSHE lead often discuss this on an informal basis.

We have chosen SCARF as our PSHE resource because the lessons build upon children's prior learning; we have assessed the content and feel that it is relevant and sensitive to the needs of the children. There is planned progression across the SCARF scheme of work, so that children are increasingly and appropriately challenged as they move up through the school. Assessment is completed by the class teacher.

5. What is being taught

Curriculum

We teach SRE through different aspects of the curriculum. While we carry out the main sex education teaching in our PSHE curriculum, we also teach some SRE through other subject areas (for example Science and PE) where we feel it contributes to a child's knowledge and understanding of his or her body, and how it is changing and developing. All schools must teach the following as part of the National Curriculum for Science. [Non-statutory guidance shown in brackets.]

Key Stage1 National Curriculum Science:

- Identify, name, draw and label the basic parts of the human body and say which part of the body is associated with each sense.
- Notice that animals, including humans, have offspring which grow into adults.
- Describe the importance for humans of exercise, eating the right amounts of different types of food, and hygiene.
- [They should also be introduced to the process of reproduction and growth in animals.]
- [The focus at this stage should be on questions that help pupils to recognise growth; they should not be expected to understand how reproduction occurs.]

Key Stage 2 National Curriculum Science:

- Describe the difference in the life cycles of a mammal, an amphibian, an insect and a bird.
- Describe the life process of reproduction in some plants and animals.
- Describe the changes as humans develop to old age.
- [Pupils should find out about the different types of reproduction including sexual and asexual reproduction in plants, and sexual reproduction in animals.]
- [Pupils should draw a timeline to indicate stages in the growth and development of humans. They should learn about the changes experienced in puberty.]
- [Pupils should continue to learn about the importance of nutrition and should be introduced to the main body parts associated with the skeleton and muscles, finding out how different parts of the body have special functions.]
- [Pupils could work scientifically by researching the gestation periods of other animals and comparing them with humans; by finding out and recording the length and mass of a baby as it grows.]

The Early Years Foundation Stage

In the Early Years Foundation Stage, PSHE education is about making connections; it's strongly linked to child-led activities, including play. PSHE is taught through activities that are part of topics, as well as on an individual basis to develop personal skills such as dressing, feeding and toileting. Positive experiences are built through daily opportunities, to share and enjoy a range of different activities. Children are given the opportunity to engage in social activities, as members of a small group or occasionally during whole-school activities.

KS1 and KS2

Children are encouraged to engage in activities that promote an understanding of themselves as growing and changing individuals, and as members of a wider community, based on their own first-hand experiences. These activities also encourage pupils to understand how their choices and behaviours can affect others. They are encouraged to play and learn alongside – then collaboratively with – their peers. They may use their personal and social skills to develop or extend these activities. Children are also given the opportunity to make choices about their health and environment and are encouraged to develop a caring attitude towards others.

Within National Curriculum Science in Y2, the children learn that animals, including humans, have offspring that grow into adults. They should be introduced to the concepts of reproduction and growth, but not how reproduction occurs. In Y4, children are taught about the life cycles of humans and animals, including reproduction. They also learn about the changes that happen in humans from birth to old age. This includes learning what happens in puberty.

It is important that the transition phase before moving to secondary school supports pupils' ongoing emotional and physical development effectively. The DfE recommends that all primary schools should have a sex education programme, tailored to the age and the physical and emotional maturity of the pupils. Within our non-statutory sex education that takes place in Y6 children will learn about how a baby is conceived, whether through sexual intercourse or IVF. This information builds on content they have previously learnt in the programme about relationships, puberty changes and reproduction; it lays the foundations for their ongoing Relationships and Sex Education in their secondary phase.

6. How PSHE education, including Relationships Education, is taught

PSHE lessons are taught regularly in a timetabled PSHE lesson, throughout the whole year in their usual classes, in mixed sex groupings, using a range of interactive teaching methods, e.g. activity sheets, films, songs, online games, and drama techniques. For some lessons, single sex groups may be more appropriate. The correct terminology is used when naming body parts.

To ensure that children feel comfortable to learn about a range of topics, we create a safe learning environment using a group agreement at the beginning of lessons or topics. The teachers will also use a range of strategies to ensure children's questions are addressed factually and honestly in an age-appropriate way and respond to any disclosures following the schools safeguarding procedures/child protection policy which can be found on the school website.

Additional support is provided to children as needed. Relevant leaflets, websites and posters can be found on display referring pupils to sources of help and advice as appropriate.

7. How PSHE education is monitored, evaluated and assessed

SCARF Progress

Questions relevant to each topic are used to assess pupil's knowledge at the start and end of units so that teachers can tailor the units to the classes need and follow up any areas that need additional work.

SCARF Success

At the end of a unit, we consider a range of 'I can' statements, which summarise children's learning against the unit's key learning outcomes.

Teachers make an annual assessment of progress for each child, as part of the child's annual report to parents. We pass this information on to the next teacher at the end of each year.

The monitoring of the standards of children's work and of the quality of PSHE education is the responsibility of the PSHE subject lead. The work of the subject lead also involves supporting colleagues in the teaching of PSHE education and being informed about current developments in the subject.

The PSHE education subject lead will monitor teaching, learning and assessment of the subject.

8. How the delivery of the content will be made accessible to all pupils

Lesson plan content will be adapted and extra support provided where necessary to ensure all pupils are enabled to develop key skills, attributes and knowledge developed through the PSHE education programme.

SCARF lesson plans are flexible and allow for teachers, who are skilled in adapting curriculum content to meet the needs of the children in their class, to adjust their content in order to meet the learning outcomes.

Our school ensures that the Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) elements of the PSHE education programme are relevant to all pupils; whatever their gender identity. All pupils learn together about all the changes that someone may experience as they go through puberty to help develop empathy and understanding and to reduce incidences of teasing or stigma.

Our school acknowledges different ethnic, religious and cultural attitudes, as well as recognising that pupils may come from a variety of family situations and home backgrounds. These different families are acknowledged through our teaching and the use of resources that promote diversity and inclusion in Relationships Education.

It is possible that some pupils will have GLBP (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Pansexual) parents/carers, brothers or sisters, other family members and/or friends. Our PSHE education acknowledges this through scenarios, in a sensitive and open way. This helps create a safe environment for all pupils and staff. The public sector equality duty, created under the Equality Act, requires schools and other public authorities to eliminate discrimination and to advance equality in its everyday business, in the design of its policies and curriculum. Schools have a legal responsibility for eliminating discrimination; to do this, schools are required to raise pupils' awareness of diversity and promote respectful relationships with those who are different from them.

9. Parental concerns and withdrawal of students

Parents have the right to request that their child be withdrawn from some or all of the non-statutory Sex Education our school teaches but not Relationships Education. They do not have a right to withdraw their children from those aspects of Sex Education that are taught in the statutory National Curriculum Science and Health Education. Parents are invited to view our resources and discuss any concerns with our staff.

Before granting a request to withdraw a child/ren, the head teacher will invite the parent to discuss the request with them to ensure that their wishes are understood and to clarify the nature and purpose of the curriculum. The head teacher will discuss with the parent the benefits of receiving this important education and any detrimental effects that withdrawal might have on their child. This could include any social and emotional effects of being excluded, as well as the likelihood of the child hearing their peers' version of what was said in the classes, rather than what was directly said by the teacher (although the detrimental effects may be mitigated if the parent proposes to deliver sex education to their child at home instead). The school is responsible for ensuring that should a child be withdrawn, they receive appropriate, purposeful education during the period of withdrawal.

Parents should be given every opportunity to understand the purpose and content of Relationships Education and Sex Education. Good communication and opportunities for parents to understand and ask questions about our school's approach help increase confidence in the curriculum.

An email is sent to parent's each year to inform them that the unit covering this material is due to be taught with a copy of the relevant lessons plans for that year group. We advise parents to view the resources in order to support them in carrying out their responsibilities relating to providing RSE at home. It is valuable for a child's development to learn about its own family's values in regards to relationships and sex alongside the information they receive at school.

10. Dissemination of the Policy

This policy has been made accessible to parents, school staff and governors through the school website. Anyone wanting a printed copy or the policy to be provided in another format, should make a request to the school office. Should the policy be required in other languages, please contact the school office.

Should further information about PSHE education be required, please contact the PSHE education lead.

11. Policy Review and Development Plan

The policy will be reviewed every three years, in consultation with parents, teachers and other school staff, governors and pupils.