



Smarden Primary and Preschool

Relationships and Sex Education

CONSULTATION DOCUMENT. December 2020.

Background

- From September 2020, Relationships Education became compulsory in all primary schools, and Relationships and Sex Education in all secondary schools. It is also compulsory for all schools to provide Health Education
- Because of the delays and disruption caused by Covid-19, schools have been given a few extra months to put in place their policies and curriculum.
- Primary schools can determine the content of their relationships education, and whether to offer sex education.
- At Smarden we have not previously had a formal relationships and sex education policy, nor a full curriculum in this area. The only sex education offered at Smarden currently is the topic of sexual reproduction in animals and humans, covered in the Key Stage 2 science curriculum.
- We welcome the opportunity of the new statutory guidance to develop and adopt a new policy, so that children at Smarden Primary and Preschool receive the best possible education in this crucial aspect of their development.
- Staff and governors have thought very carefully about this and have researched the range of approaches and resources available.
- In the coming months we will be developing a wider wellbeing policy for our school, including our approach to relationships and sex education (RSE) and to personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE).
- We have already identified the emotional wellbeing of both children and staff as a key priority area for current and future years.
- In light of this, and thanks to the amazing fund-raising and generosity of FOSP, we have been fortunate to be able to purchase for the school the leading resource in this area – “Jigsaw: The Mindful Approach to PSHE”.
- Jigsaw provides a balanced and wide-ranging curriculum in both PSHE and RSE, from age 3 to age 11.
- The rest of this document summarises the way that we propose to use the Jigsaw resources to teach RSE at Smarden Primary and Preschool, and tells you how to communicate your views to us as part of this consultation.

Summary of Key Points

- Smarden School will, as required by the new guidance, offer relationships and health education in all years.
- Additionally, the school will offer age-appropriate sex education, which will include coverage of LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning) topics as appropriate.



- We wish children leaving Smarden School to have a good, basic understanding of these important areas of life, culture, and of the curriculum.
- Children will learn that everyone is different and that it is crucial to respect those differences in all areas of life.
- The school believes that loving relationships of all kinds can be a positive aspect of life and that children should learn to understand them.
- The summary below indicates the topics covered in the Jigsaw curriculum and how these will build up in age-appropriate ways through the school. It is not an exhaustive list but mentions the key points.
- These lessons will be delivered by trained class teachers and TAs, with additional assemblies and other contributions by the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher, the school play therapist, and carefully selected visiting experts.
- These topics will be taught in a supportive and sensitive way, based on school values of respect, co-operation, and trust, and in connection with the broader safeguarding and wellbeing of all children.
- As with all curriculum areas, special attention will be given to differentiating lesson content to make it appropriate to all children, including those with special educational needs or disabilities.
- RSE content will be made accessible to SEND pupils through appropriate differentiation and support in class, or in some cases through teaching which happens outside the classroom context.
- Parents and carers will be informed when sex education is taking place so as to allow them to be prepared to deal with questions and conversations at home. This is a partnership between home and school.
- This consultation document, as amended and expanded in the light of feedback from parents and carers, will be the basis of our new Relationships and Sex Education policy from January 2021. That policy will be kept under review by the senior leaders and governors of our school.
- That policy will reflect our duties under the Equalities Act 2010, and be based on our school's commitment to inclusion and equality.
- Parents have the right to withdraw their children from sex education lessons at primary school (but not from statutory relationship education and health education), and if any parents wish to do so at Smarden, once the new policy is in place, they should write to Mrs Miller to request a meeting to discuss this.

How to contribute to the consultation

- Please use the following Google Form to register your response to this document. Positive responses are welcome as well as questions or concerns: <https://forms.gle/zZoaufqvsDBkGSca8>
- You can also email our headteacher Mrs Miller directly – Claudia.Miller@Smarden-TKAT.org - or contact your class rep, or email Thomas Dixon, the Chair of Governors: Thomas.Dixon@Smarden-TKAT.org
- All contributions to the consultation will be noted and fed into discussions with the Governing Body and the Senior Leadership Team of Smarden Primary and Preschool.



CURRICULUM CONTENT

Statutory Health Education

This will include topics, introduced in age-appropriate ways, such as mental wellbeing, internet safety, physical and mental fitness, feelings and emotions, healthy eating, drugs and alcohol, and the changing adolescent body.

Statutory Relationships Education

This will include topics, introduced in age-appropriate ways through the Jigsaw programme, such as 'Families and people who care for me', 'Caring friendships', 'Respectful relationships', 'Online relationships', and 'Being safe'.

The National Curriculum for Science

The KS2 science curriculum already includes lessons that involve naming the body parts of humans and animals, and understanding sexual reproduction.

Parents do not have the right to withdraw their child from the above statutory health, relationships, and science education.

Sex Education as Part of Jigsaw PSHE and RSE

The Jigsaw programme allows for us to integrate the health, relationships and science curriculum - including elements of sex education – within a whole-school programme devoted to mindfulness, emotional health, and wellbeing. We believe that children at Smarden should learn about the kind of emotional and physical changes that will happen as they develop, throughout their lives, in a way that is always sensitive and age-appropriate.

We support the stated aims of the Jigsaw approach to RSE:

- ❖ We believe that knowledge empowers and protects children as long as it is age-appropriate.
- ❖ At secondary school Sex Education is statutory and we believe that primary schools should prepare children with accurate knowledge about puberty and human reproduction before they transfer to secondary school.
- ❖ Correct terminology for body parts is introduced early to normalise this biological vocabulary and to support safeguarding. These words are not used in isolation but always in conjunction, ensuring children know these are private parts of their bodies.
- ❖ Puberty is introduced gently in Y3 because some girls may start their periods this early and it is necessary to prepare them for this, so they aren't scared or worried.
- ❖ Conception is introduced age-appropriately in Y4 in the context of understanding why our bodies change during puberty.
- ❖ Understanding of human reproduction, conception and puberty is built upon in Year 5 and then puberty, conception and childbirth is age-appropriately covered in Y6.



Within the Jigsaw programme, the main way children will learn about sex and the human body is through the “Changing Me” unit, taught over a 6-week period in the summer term. The indicative table below shows the kind of topics covered for each age group and how the topics progress.

Early Years	Growing up; how we have changed since we were babies
Year 1	Boys’ and girls’ bodies; correct names for body parts
Year 2	Body parts, privacy, and respecting privacy
Year 3	How babies grow; introduction to puberty and menstruation
Year 4	Conception explained in simple terms
Year 5	Social and emotional aspects of puberty and adolescence
Year 6	Understanding conception biologically; becoming a teenager

The importance of seeking and giving permission and consent, in different kinds of relationship, is introduced, in age appropriate ways, from Year 1 onwards.

In classes with children from more than one year group, the class teacher will carefully consider whether each lesson is relevant and appropriate for both year groups. Jigsaw will also offer us advice on this. If necessary, year groups will be taught separately in some classes, for some RSE topics.

LGBTQ topics

Our RSE curriculum should feel relevant to all pupils regardless of their identify or family circumstances. It will represent the different family structures that children might live in, including families with single parents, or LGBT parents, as well as the conventional model of a mum, a dad, and children.

Children will hear words such as ‘gay’ or ‘trans’, and will perhaps have learned something about LGBTQ issues and identities from their parents, families, friends, TV, or social media. Jigsaw lessons on these topics will build on this existing understanding and answer children’s questions, when appropriate to do so.

Some children may, unfortunately, have heard the words ‘gay’ or ‘lesbian’ used by other children as an insult, and will learn why homophobic bullying is unacceptable.

Jigsaw lessons provide age-appropriate information helping children to understand the correct, respectful uses of terms, and their meanings. Teachers will explain how to approach these topics with respect and kindness.

The Jigsaw unit ‘Celebrating Difference’ explains that people are all unique and that all kinds of difference – of culture, lifestyle, or identity – can be celebrated within society rather than being sources of fear or suspicion.

In lower primary (Early Years and Years 1-2) children will learn about different family structures, and pictorial illustrations will show some families with two mums or two dads. Beyond that, LGBTQ topics are not explicitly addressed for this age group.



From Year 3 onwards, LGBTQ issues will be mentioned in anti-bullying lessons. In addition, lessons about adult romantic relationships, marriage, civil partnerships and starting families will explain that these are all open to same-sex as well as opposite-sex couples.

In Year 6 (or earlier if it becomes necessary for a particular class) children will be introduced to the word 'transgender' and what it means to 'transition', including a discussion of discrimination that can be faced by transgender people.

Any questions raised about all these topics will be answered by teachers in an age-appropriate way. Children requesting more detail than is appropriate will be told that they will learn more about these topics at secondary school.

Further reading and references

- Jigsaw information for parents and carers: "Relationships Education, Health Education and Sex Education in the Primary School" (leaflet made available with this document).
- Jigsaw information leaflet: "Including and valuing all children: What does Jigsaw teach about LGBTQ relationships?" (made available with this document).
- The DFE guidance on RSE and Health Education issued in July 2019 and updated Summer 2020:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education>
- Advice for schools on the 2010 Equality Act
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/315587/Equality_Act_Advice_Final.pdf