



## Oakridge Schools Federation PSHE (Personal, Social, Health education) and RSE (Relationships and Sex education) policy

Approved by:	Full Governing Body
Review frequency:	Annually
Date last approved:	Summer 2025
Next review date due:	Summer 2026

### Aims

At Oakridge Schools Federation, we believe that PSHE helps to give pupils the knowledge, skills and understanding they need to lead confident, healthy, independent lives, in order to become informed, active and responsible citizens. PSHE also flows through all other curriculum areas.

We believe that, to be effective, RSE should always be taught within a broader PSHE education programme. RSE enhances and is enhanced by learning related to topics including anti-bullying; keeping safe on and off line; keeping physically and mentally healthy, learning about drugs, alcohol and tobacco; and the development of skills and attributes such as communication skills, managing peer pressure, risk management, resilience and decision making.

The aims of PSHE and RSE at Oakridge are to:

- Promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of all pupils
- Prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life
- Encourage pupils to value themselves and others
- Allow pupils to acknowledge and appreciate difference and diversity
- Teach pupils how to make informed choices
- Prepare pupils to be positive and active members of a democratic society
- Teach pupils to understand what constitutes a safe and healthy lifestyle
- Provide a framework in which sensitive discussions can take place
- Promote safety in forming and maintaining relationships
- Provide pupils with a toolkit for understanding and managing their emotions
- Provide pupils with the opportunities to consider issues which may affect their own lives and/or the lives of others
- Prepare pupils for puberty, and give them an understanding of sexual development and the importance of health and hygiene

- Help pupils develop feelings of self-respect, confidence and empathy
- Create a positive culture around issues of sexuality and relationships
- Teach pupils the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies
- Help pupils to identify the characteristics of healthy relationships, how relationships may affect mental and physical health; and how to stay safe online

### **Statutory requirements**

At Oakridge Schools Federation, we teach PSHE and RSE as set out in this policy. We have committed to retain our current choice to continue to teach age-appropriate sex education alongside relationships education. In doing so, we have regard to [guidance](#) issued by the Secretary of State as outlined in Section 403 of the [Education Act 1996](#).

The Jigsaw programme fulfills all the requirements for the statutory Relationships and Health Education curriculum (as announced by the Department for Education in England in 2019, as implemented from September 2020). Jigsaw goes even further than this and provides a spiral and progressive comprehensive Programme in which the statutory elements sit and are embraced.

### **Definition**

RSE is part of lifelong learning about the emotional, social and physical aspects of growing up, relationships, sex, human sexuality and sexual health. RSE, within PSHE, aims to give children and young people essential skills for building positive, enjoyable, respectful and non-exploitive relationships and the skills to stay safe both on and off line. It enables pupils to explore their own and other's attitudes and values and builds their self-esteem and confidence to view their own sexuality positively.

**RSE is not about the promotion of sexual activity.**

### **Delivery of PSHE and RSE**

RSE is taught within the personal, social and health education curriculum (PSHE). Some biological aspects of sex education are taught within the science curriculum. The curriculum at Oakridge Federation provides structured opportunities for class teachers and pupils to explore a wide range of social, moral, cultural and personal issues.

At Oakridge, we have developed the Jigsaw scheme of work for Years 1-6. These lessons are based around a theme which changes half-termly. We believe that pupils should be taught about the society in which they are growing up. These subjects are designed to foster respect for others and for difference, and educate pupils about healthy relationships. We believe that RSE should meet the needs of all pupils, whatever their developing sexuality or identity – this should include age-appropriate teaching about different types of relationships in the context of the law. Pupils should receive teaching on LGBT relationships, which is delivered at Oakridge, for example, through teaching about different types of family, including those with same-sex parents.

### **How is Jigsaw PSHE organised in school?**

Jigsaw brings together PSHE Education, emotional literacy, social skills and spiritual development in a comprehensive scheme of learning. Teaching strategies are varied and are mindful of preferred learning styles and the need for differentiation. Jigsaw is designed as a whole school approach, with all year groups working on the same theme (Puzzle) at the same time. This enables each Puzzle to start with an introductory assembly, generating a whole school focus for adults and children alike. There are six Puzzles in Jigsaw that are designed to progress in sequence from September to July. Jigsaw, the mindful approach to PSHE, is relevant to children living in today's world as it helps them understand and be equipped to cope with issues like body image, cyber and homophobic bullying, and internet safety. Every Piece (lesson) contributes to at least one of these aspects of children's development.

### **Pupils with SEND**

As far as is appropriate, pupils with special educational needs should follow the same PSHE education programme as all other students. Careful consideration is given concerning the level of differentiation needed, and in some cases the content or delivery will have to be adapted. Teachers and/or learning support assistants work with individual pupils where required, and if appropriate.

It is not the school's policy to withdraw pupils with special educational needs from PSHE education to catch up on other national curriculum subjects: these aspects of personal and social development are as important to all pupils as their academic achievement.

### **Roles and responsibilities**

The governing body will approve the PSHE and RSE policy, and hold the headteacher to account for its implementation. They will ensure that all pupils make progress in achieving the expected educational outcomes, provision is high quality and clear information is provided for parents on the subject content and the right to request that their child is withdrawn

The headteacher is responsible for ensuring that PSHE and RSE is taught consistently across the school, and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from components of RSE.

### **Staff**

Staff are responsible for:

- Delivering PSHE and RSE in a sensitive way
- Modelling positive attitudes to RSE
- Monitoring progress
- Responding to the needs of individual pupils
- Responding appropriately to pupils whose parents wish them to be withdrawn from the [non-statutory/non-science] components of PSHE and RSE
- Staff do not have the right to opt out of teaching PSHE or RSE. Staff who have concerns about teaching RSE are encouraged to discuss this with the headteacher

Establishing a safe, open and positive learning environment based on trusting relationships between all members of the class, adults and children alike, is vital. To enable this, it is important that 'ground rules' are agreed and owned at the beginning of the year and are reinforced in every Piece – by using The Jigsaw Charter.

The Jigsaw Charter includes the following

- We take turns to speak
- We use kind and positive words
- We listen to each other
- We have the right to pass
- We only use names when giving compliments or when being positive
- We respect each other's privacy (confidentiality)

Sensitive and controversial issues are certain to arise in learning from real-life experience. Teachers will be prepared to handle personal issues that arise, to deal sensitively with, and to follow up appropriately, disclosures made in a group or individual setting. Issues that we address that are likely to be sensitive and controversial because they have a political, social or personal impact or deal with values and beliefs including: family lifestyles and values, physical and medical issues, financial issues, bullying and bereavement. Teachers will take all reasonable, practical steps to ensure that, where political or controversial issues are brought to pupils' attention, they are offered a balanced presentation of opposing views. Teachers will seek to establish a classroom climate in which all pupils are free from any fear of expressing reasonable points of view that contradict those held either by their class teachers or their peers

### **Pupils**

Pupils are expected to engage fully in PSHE and, when discussing issues related to RSE, treat others with respect and sensitivity. This is also referred to in the Jigsaw charter at the beginning of each lesson, which gives pupils the safety and security to feel comfortable to explore the key areas of learning, and feel respected when doing so.

### **Parents' right to withdraw**

The school is well aware that the primary role in children's relationships and sex education lies with parents and carers. Today's children and young people are growing up in an increasingly complex world and living their lives seamlessly on and offline. This presents many positive and exciting opportunities, but also challenges and risks. In this environment, children and young people need to know how to be safe and healthy, and how to manage their academic, personal and social lives in a positive way. We wish to build a positive and supportive relationship with the parents of children at our school through mutual understanding, trust and cooperation. In promoting this objective we:

- Make available online, via the school's website, this PSHE and RSE Policy;
- Answer any questions that parents may have about the RSE/PSHE education of their child;

- Take seriously any issue that parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy or the arrangements for RSE/PSHE in the school;
- Inform parents about the best practice known with regard to RSE, so that the teaching in school supports the key messages that parents and carers give to children at home. We believe that, through this mutual exchange of knowledge and information, children will benefit from being given consistent messages about their changing body and their increasing responsibilities.

We have committed to retain parents' **right to withdraw** their child from sex education within RSE (other than sex education in the National Curriculum as part of science). 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.

If a parent wishes their child to be withdrawn from the sex education elements of RSE, they should discuss this with the headteacher, and make it clear which aspects of the programme they do not wish their child to participate in.

Parents should be aware that schools are legally required to provide a broad, balanced curriculum. Sex education topics can arise incidentally and overlap with relationships education lessons and it is not possible to withdraw pupils from these relatively limited and often unplanned discussions.

Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing and addressed to the headteacher. A copy of withdrawal requests will be placed in the pupil's educational record. The headteacher will discuss the request with parents and take appropriate action.

Alternative work will be given to pupils who are withdrawn from these lessons.

### **Training**

Staff are trained on the delivery of PSHE and RSE as part of their induction and it is included in our continuing professional development calendar. The headteacher will also invite visitors from outside the school, such as school nurses or sexual health professionals, to provide support and training to staff teaching RSE.

Appendix: Overview of key areas taught by year group.



## 1.10

Age Group	Being Me In My World	Celebrating Difference	Dreams and Goals	Healthy Me	Relationships	Changing Me
<b>Ages 3-5</b> (F1-F2)	Self-identity Understanding feelings Being in a classroom Being gentle Rights and responsibilities	Identifying talents Being special Families Where we live Making friends Standing up for yourself	Challenges Perseverance Goal-setting Overcoming obstacles Seeking help Jobs Achieving goals	Exercising bodies Physical activity Healthy food Sleep Keeping clean Safety	Family life Friendships Breaking friendships Falling out Dealing with bullying Being a good friend	Bodies Respecting my body Growing up Growth and change Fun and fears Celebrations
<b>Ages 5-6</b>	Feeling special and safe Being part of a class Rights and responsibilities Rewards and feeling proud Consequences Owning the Learning Charter	Similarities and differences Understanding bullying and knowing how to deal with it Making new friends Celebrating the differences in everyone	Setting goals Identifying successes and achievements Learning styles Working well and celebrating achievement with a partner Tackling new challenges Identifying and overcoming obstacles Feelings of success	Keeping myself healthy Healthier lifestyle choices Keeping clean Being safe Medicine safety/safety with household items Road safety Linking health and happiness	Belonging to a family Making friends/being a good friend Physical contact preferences People who help us Qualities as a friend and person Self-acknowledgement Being a good friend to myself Celebrating special relationships	Life cycles – animal and human Changes in me Changes since being a baby Differences between female and male bodies (correct terminology) Linking growing and learning Coping with change Transition
<b>Ages 6-7</b>	Hopes and fears for the year Rights and responsibilities Rewards and consequences Safe and fair learning environment Valuing contributions Choices Recognising feelings	Assumptions and stereotypes about gender Understanding bullying Standing up for self and others Making new friends Gender diversity Celebrating difference and remaining friends	Achieving realistic goals Perseverance Learning strengths Learning with others Group co-operation Contributing to and sharing success	Motivation Healthier choices Relaxation Healthy eating and nutrition Healthier snacks and sharing food	Different types of family Physical contact boundaries Friendship and conflict Secrets Trust and appreciation Expressing appreciation for special relationships	Life cycles in nature Growing from young to old Increasing independence Differences in female and male bodies (correct terminology) Assertiveness Preparing for transition
<b>Ages 7-8</b>	Setting personal goals Self-identity and worth Positivity in challenges Rules, rights and responsibilities Rewards and consequences Responsible choices Seeing things from others' perspectives	Families and their differences Family conflict and how to manage it (child-centred) Witnessing bullying and how to solve it Recognising how words can be hurtful Giving and receiving compliments	Difficult challenges and achieving success Dreams and ambitions New challenges Motivation and enthusiasm Recognising and trying to overcome obstacles Evaluating learning processes Managing feelings Simple budgeting	Exercise Fitness challenges Food labelling and healthy swaps Attitudes towards drugs Keeping safe and why it's important online and off line scenarios Respect for myself and others Healthy and safe choices	Family roles and responsibilities Friendship and negotiation Keeping safe online and who to go to for help Being a global citizen Being aware of how my choices affect others Awareness of how other children have different lives Expressing appreciation for family and friends	How babies grow Understanding a baby's needs Outside body changes Inside body changes Family stereotypes Challenging my ideas Preparing for transition

Age Group	Being Me In My World	Celebrating Difference	Dreams and Goals	Healthy Me	Relationships	Changing Me
<b>Ages 8-9</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Being part of a class team</li> <li>Being a school citizen</li> <li>Rights, responsibilities and democracy (school council)</li> <li>Rewards and consequences</li> <li>Group decision-making</li> <li>Having a voice</li> <li>What motivates behaviour</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Challenging assumptions</li> <li>Judging by appearance</li> <li>Accepting self and others</li> <li>Understanding influences</li> <li>Understanding bullying</li> <li>Problem-solving</li> <li>Identifying how special and unique everyone is</li> <li>First impressions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hopes and dreams</li> <li>Overcoming disappointment</li> <li>Creating new, realistic dreams</li> <li>Achieving goals</li> <li>Working in a group</li> <li>Celebrating contributions</li> <li>Resilience</li> <li>Positive attitudes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Healthier friendships</li> <li>Group dynamics</li> <li>Smoking</li> <li>Alcohol</li> <li>Assertiveness</li> <li>Peer pressure</li> <li>Celebrating inner strength</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jealousy</li> <li>Love and loss</li> <li>Memories of loved ones</li> <li>Getting on and Falling Out</li> <li>Girlfriends and boyfriends</li> <li>Showing appreciation to people and animals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Being unique</li> <li>Having a baby</li> <li>Girls and puberty</li> <li>Confidence in change</li> <li>Accepting change</li> <li>Preparing for transition</li> <li>Environmental change</li> </ul>
<b>Ages 9-10</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planning the forthcoming year</li> <li>Being a citizen</li> <li>Rights and responsibilities</li> <li>Rewards and consequences</li> <li>How behaviour affects groups</li> <li>Democracy, having a voice, participating</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cultural differences and how they can cause conflict</li> <li>Racism</li> <li>Rumours and name-calling</li> <li>Types of bullying</li> <li>Material wealth and happiness</li> <li>Enjoying and respecting other cultures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Future dreams</li> <li>The importance of money</li> <li>Jobs and careers</li> <li>Dream job and how to get there</li> <li>Goals in different cultures</li> <li>Supporting others (charity)</li> <li>Motivation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Smoking, including vaping</li> <li>Alcohol</li> <li>Alcohol and anti-social behaviour</li> <li>Emergency aid</li> <li>Body image</li> <li>Relationships with food</li> <li>Healthy choices</li> <li>Motivation and behaviour</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Self-recognition and self-worth</li> <li>Building self-esteem</li> <li>Safer online communities</li> <li>Rights and responsibilities online</li> <li>Online gaming and gambling</li> <li>Reducing screen time</li> <li>Dangers of online grooming</li> <li>SMARTT internet safety rules</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Self- and body image</li> <li>Influence of online and media on body image</li> <li>Puberty for girls</li> <li>Puberty for boys</li> <li>Conception (including IVF)</li> <li>Growing responsibility</li> <li>Coping with change</li> <li>Preparing for transition</li> </ul>
<b>Ages 10-11</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identifying goals for the year</li> <li>Global citizenship</li> <li>Children's universal rights</li> <li>Feeling welcome and valued</li> <li>Choices, consequences and rewards</li> <li>Group dynamics</li> <li>Democracy, having a voice</li> <li>Anti-social behaviour</li> <li>Role-modelling</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Perceptions of normality</li> <li>Understanding disability</li> <li>Power struggles</li> <li>Understanding bullying</li> <li>Inclusion/exclusion</li> <li>Differences as conflict, difference as celebration</li> <li>Empathy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Personal learning goals, in and out of school</li> <li>Success criteria</li> <li>Emotions in success</li> <li>Making a difference in the world</li> <li>Motivation</li> <li>Recognising achievements</li> <li>Compliments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Taking personal responsibility</li> <li>How substances affect the body</li> <li>Exploitation, including 'county lines' and gang culture</li> <li>Emotional and mental health</li> <li>Managing stress</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mental health</li> <li>Identifying mental health worries and sources of support</li> <li>Love and loss</li> <li>Managing feelings</li> <li>Power and control</li> <li>Assertiveness</li> <li>Technology safety</li> <li>Take responsibility with technology use</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Self-image</li> <li>Body image</li> <li>Puberty and feelings</li> <li>Conception to birth</li> <li>Reflections about change</li> <li>Physical attraction</li> <li>Respect and consent</li> <li>Boyfriends/girlfriends</li> <li>Sexing</li> <li>Transition</li> </ul>