

Broadbent Fold Primary School and Nursery



**Tameside Primary Schools'
Relationships and Sex Education
November 2024**

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1. Statement of intent

At Broadbent Fold Primary and Nursery we understand the importance of educating pupils about relationships and sex, in order for pupils to make responsible and well-informed decisions in their lives.

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) needs to start early in primary school so that children learn about their bodies, can recognise if other people make them feel uncomfortable or unsafe and can report abuse and get help. Lots of children start puberty before they leave primary school, so it is important that all pupils know what to expect before it happens.

The programme will be taught objectively and does not intend to promote any form of sexual orientation. However, RSE absolutely must be inclusive and relevant. The following points are just some of the features of contemporary society which need to be acknowledged:

- Some parents/carers are in same-sex relationships;
- Some children are adopted;
- Some children have special educational needs or disabilities and may have different concerns and questions from their peers;
- There are many different family structures;
- Some children may live with domestic violence;
- Some children may already 'feel different' about their sexuality;
- Children of primary school age are known to have participated in 'sexting';
- The age at which some children reach puberty is as young as 9 (year 4 or 5);
- Religious and cultural differences need to be accommodated;
- Access to pornography and harmful material is easier than ever;
- The illusion of the perfect body still persists in the media and pressurises young boys as well as young girls.

Aims and objectives

The sex education and relationship programme is an opportunity for pupils to:

- Develop an understanding of sex, sexuality and relationships.
- Develop a range of appropriate personal skills.

The aims will be achieved through developing an understanding of:

- A range of values and moral issues including the importance of family life.
- The biological facts related to human growth and development, including reproduction.
- The importance of healthy relationships

2. Legislation

2.1. This policy will be compliant with the following guidance:

- Department for Education (DfE) 'Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education' Guidance 2019
- DfE 'Science programmes of study: key stages 1 and 2' 2013
- Programme of Study for PSHE Education (Key stages 1–5) from the PSHE Association 2015

2.2. Meeting Requirement

Under the Education Act 2002/ Academies Act 2010 all schools must provide a balanced and broadly- based curriculum which:

- Promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society, and
- Prepares pupils at school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.

The Department for Education (DfE) 'Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education' Guidance statutory guidance 2019 is issued under Section 80A of the Education Act 2002.

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 and Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) compulsory for all pupils receiving secondary education. They also make Health Education compulsory in all schools except independent schools. Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE) continues to be compulsory in independent schools.

RSE is set within the wider legislative context – The 2006 Education and Inspections Act laid duty on Governing Bodies to 'promote the wellbeing of pupils at the school'. The duty came in effect in 2007. Since that date, an equivalent requirement has been placed on new academies through their funding agreement.

2.3. See also the Education Inspection Framework

2.4. See Ofsted's 'Exploring the school's actions to prevent Homophobic and Transphobic Bullying – all age groups', September 2013 ref no 120181.

2.5. Related policies:

- Anti-bullying Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Curriculum Policies (PSHE, Science)
- E-safety Policy

3. Organisation of the programme

3.1. The sex and relationship education programme will be developed in conjunction with the views of teachers, pupils and parents by the PSHE coordinator, in accordance with DfE guidance.

3.2. The majority of the programme will be delivered through PSHE education, with statutory aspects taught via the science curriculum. However, it is important that this learning is linked to broader school policies and the curriculum in relevant subjects.

3.3. It is good to have some RSE in every year of primary school as it helps pupils to learn progressively as they mature and revisit the subject on a regular basis, to reinforce learning and provide opportunities to ask further questions.

3.4. At key stage 1 and key stage 2, the topics are broken down into specific areas that will be taught appropriate to pupils' ages.

The key areas to address in sex and relationship education are:

- physical development (e.g. learning the correct names for body parts and the changes puberty brings),
- emotions (e.g. how to manage feelings),
- the social side (e.g. positive and negative influences from friends and the media – including social media).

3.5. Elements of the topics for key stage 1 and 2 are statutory in accordance with the science national curriculum and therefore must be taught (see Appendix 2).

4. Key Stage 1 Information

4.1. Pupils in Year 1 are taught:

- About the different ways in which they have changed since they were a baby, including the changes to their bodies.
- Biological names for various body parts including penis, vagina, testicles and breasts.
- The different words families may have for these body parts.

4.2. Pupils in Year 2 are taught:

- To match the correct body parts to a male and female and recognise the differences between girls and boys.
- The function of clothing to make us look nice, keep us warm and keep certain parts of our bodies private.
- To learn which areas of the body are private and should not be touched, and who they can talk to if they are worried or upset about anything.
- To identify and respect the difference between people.
- About the process of aging and the fact that this cannot be controlled.

5. Key stage 2 Information

5.1. Pupils in Year 3 are taught:

- Humans reproduce and produce offspring.
- Women have babies and that in most animals, it is also the female that has babies.
- About the way a baby grows in its mother's uterus.
- About the word "puberty", and that this is used to explain when a child's body turns into an adult.
- About the importance of hygiene.
- The biological terminology used to describe changes in boys' and girls' bodies as they go through puberty.
- That puberty is necessary in order for the body to be able to make babies.
- About stereotypical ideas regarding parenting and family roles.

5.2. Pupils in Year 4 are taught:

- A baby is made when sperm from a man and a woman's egg joins.
- They were made by a sperm and an egg and therefore have some of the characteristics of each of their parents.
- Girls begin periods once they have entered puberty and that this is a natural process necessary to being able to one day make a baby.
- To identify some of the changes which have already happened to their bodies (e.g. growing taller) and accepting that they cannot change these.
- About the importance of relationships, focussing on the development of friendships.

5.3. Pupils in Year 5 are taught:

- More about how girls' and boys' bodies change during puberty, including how they might feel about these changes.
- About 'self-image' and the idea that how they see themselves is not necessarily how others see them.
- That attraction to others of the opposite or same sex is a natural part of growing up.
- About what terms such as "gay" mean, as and when these terms arise.
- About different situations and scenarios represented in the world around them (e.g. same sex parents). That two people who love and care for one another can be in a committed relationship and not be married or in a civil partnership. That forcing anyone to marry is a crime; that there is support to protect and prevent people being forced into marriage and to know where to get support for themselves or others.
- To identify things that they are looking forward to about becoming a teenager and to understand that growing up brings responsibilities.
- To explore media information and examine what is being presented and why it is important to understand how information in social media can be misrepresented or mislead; the importance of being careful of what they send to others
- That the legal age for sexual consent is 16.

5.4. Pupils in Year 6 are taught:

- Babies are made during sexual intercourse.
- Having a baby is a choice which responsible adults make when they are with someone they love.
- Strategies for the development of positive self-image and self-esteem.
- To use their knowledge to answer questions their peers may have about getting older.
- The importance of looking after themselves physically and emotionally.
- The way in which being physically attracted to someone might change the nature of the relationship that they have with each other.
- To know that there are some cultural practices which are against British Law and universal human rights such as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
- About taking care of their body, understanding that they have the right to protect their body from inappropriate and unwanted contact; understanding that actions such as Domestic Violence, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) constitutes as abuse and are a crime, and develop the skills and strategies required to get support if they have fears for themselves or their peers.
- Children will also be interested in knowing about how people can get diseases, including HIV, from sex and how they can be prevented.
- Strategies for keeping safe online; the importance of protecting personal information, including passwords, addresses and the distribution of these with others
- How to manage requests for images of themselves or others and their distribution. What is appropriate to ask for and share; whom to talk to if they feel uncomfortable or are concerned by such a request.
- About what to expect in secondary school and to discuss any worries that they might have about this transition. This reflects the fact that it is precisely during this transition that physical, emotional and social changes occur. With this comes a difficulty in knowing what to teach and where to stop.

Children seem to grow up quickly during this period, and will be subject to pressures the likes of which they will probably not have experienced before. Therefore, children should be appropriately prepared for just such a transition, armed with a healthy balance of:

- knowledge and respect;
- self-confidence and assertiveness;
- communication skills;
- an appreciation of the value of family life (taking into consideration and being sensitive to the possible complex and varied family backgrounds and structures).

5.5. During Year 6 classes, pupils may be taught in gender-segregated groups dependent upon the nature of the topic being taught.

6. Training of staff

6.1. All staff members will undergo training on regular basis to ensure they are up-to-date with the sex and relationship education programme.

6.2. Training of staff will also be scheduled around any updated guidance on the programme and any new developments, such as 'sexting', which may need to be addressed in relation to the programme.

7. Delivery of the programme

7.1. Classes may be taught in gender-segregated groups dependent upon the nature of the topic being delivered at the time, and the cultural background of pupils where it is only appropriate to discuss the body in single gender groups.

7.2. Throughout every year group, appropriate diagrams, videos, books, games, discussion and practical activities will be used to assist learning.

7.3. Inappropriate images, videos, etc. will not be used, and resources will be selected with sensitivity given to the age and cultural background of pupils.

7.4. Pupils will be prevented from accessing inappropriate materials on the internet when using such to assist with their learning. The prevention measures taken to ensure this are outlined in the school's E-safety Policy, and Acceptable Terms of Use Agreement.

7.5. Teachers will establish what is appropriate for one-to-one and whole-class settings, and alter their teaching of the programme accordingly.

7.6. Teachers will ensure that pupils' views are listened to and will encourage them to ask questions and engage in discussion. Teachers will answer questions sensitively and honestly.

7.7. The programme will be designed as to focus on boys as much as girls and activities will be planned to ensure both are actively involved, matching their different learning styles.

7.8. Teachers will focus heavily on the importance of marriage and healthy relationships, though sensitivity will always be given as to not stigmatise pupils on the basis of their home circumstances.

7.9. The school understands that pupils with special education needs and disabilities (SEND) are entitled to learn about sex and relationship education, and the programme will be designed to be inclusive of all pupils.

7.10. Teachers will understand that they may need to be more explicit and adapt their planning of work in order to appropriately deliver the programme to pupils with SEND.

7.11. At all points of delivery of this programme, parents/carers will be consulted and their views will be valued. What will be taught and how, will be planned in conjunction with parents/carers.

7.12. External experts may be invited to assist from time-to-time with the delivery of the sex and relationship education programme, but will be expected to comply with the provisions of this policy.

8. Working with parents

8.1. The school understands that the teaching of some aspects of the programme maybe of concern to parents/carers.

8.2. The school will ensure that no teachers express their personal views or beliefs when delivering the programme.

8.3. Parents/carers will be regularly consulted on the content of the programme, through meetings and letters, and the programme will therefore be planned in conjunction with parents/carers.

8.4. School respects the legal right of parents/carers to withdraw their child from all or part of the sex education programme, except for those statutory parts included in the science national curriculum and the relationships education.

8.5. A list of the statutory topics included in the Science national curriculum at the different key stages, can be found in the Appendix 2.

9. Equal opportunities

9.1. The school understands and abides by The Equality Act 2010, and fully respects the rights of pupils and staff members, regardless of any protected characteristics that he/she may have.

9.2. The school is dedicated to delivering the sex and relationship education programme with sensitivity and respect, avoiding any derogatory or prejudicial terms which may cause offence.

10. Confidentiality

10.1. Confidentiality within the classroom is an important component of sex and relationship education, and teachers are expected to respect the confidentiality of their pupils as far as is possible.

10.2. Teachers must, however, alert the headteacher about any suspicions of inappropriate behaviour or potential abuse as per the school's Child Protection Policy.

11. Bullying incidents

11.1. Broadbent Fold has a zero-tolerance approach to bullying. Any bullying incidents caused as a result of the relationships and sex education programme, such as those relating to sexual orientation, will be dealt with as seriously as other bullying incidents within the school.

11.2. Any occurrence of these incidents should be reported to a member of school staff, who will then discipline the pupil once he/she is on school premises.

11.3. These incidents will be dealt with following the process in our Anti-bullying Policy. The headteacher will decide whether it is appropriate to notify the police or an anti-social behaviour coordinator in their LA of the action taken against a pupil.

12. Monitoring and review

12.1. This policy will be reviewed by the headteacher in conjunction with the PSHE coordinator and Governors on a bi-annual basis.

12.2. Any changes needed to the policy, including changes to the programme, will be implemented by the headteacher.

12.3. Any changes to the policy will be clearly communicated to all members of staff involved in the sex and relationship education programme.

Dear Parent/carer,

RE: Relationship and Sex Education at school

At Broadbent Fold Primary School and Nursery, we believe that it is important to provide our pupils with a thorough and balanced curriculum, including age-appropriate information about relationships and sex.

The details of what will be taught to the various year groups is detailed in our Relationships and Sex Education Policy, which can be accessed on our school website, or in hard copy via your child's teacher.

However, only aspects of the science national curriculum are compulsory for pupils to learn and that within the relationships education. Therefore, as parents/carers, you are entitled to request that your child be removed from sex education lessons.

Such requests should be submitted to myself, the headteacher, who will discuss this with you and your child's teacher and determine an appropriate substitute for these lessons. In most instances, children will be provided with self-directed reading or exercises which they can complete under the supervision of another member of staff.

If you have any concerns or queries about your child's participation in these lessons, please do not hesitate to contact either myself or your child's class teacher to discuss these.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Parker

Headteacher

Appendix 2 – Science national curriculum

In accordance with the DfE's 'Relationships and Sex Education Guidance' 2019, there are certain aspects of sex and relationship education which are compulsory for pupils to learn as they progress through the key stages.

Primary science includes learning about parts of the body, growth, reproduction, life cycles and ageing. Pupils should also learn about the changes experienced in puberty. The programmes of study are set out year by year, but content may be introduced earlier (but not later) if relevant to the pupils' needs.

Key Stage 1 science includes pupils being taught to 'identify, name, draw and label the basic parts of the human body'. It is important that pupils are taught the names of the external genitalia, and know the differences between boys and girls. This is vital for safeguarding, so that a child has the language to describe the private parts of their body, and to seek help if they are abused.

Pupils must be taught:

Key stage 1

- That animals, including humans, move, feed, grow, use their senses and reproduce.
- To recognise and compare the main external parts of the bodies of humans.
- That humans and animals can produce offspring, and they grow into adults.
- To recognise similarities and differences between themselves and others.
- To treat others with sensitivity.

Key stage 2

- That nutrition, growth and reproduction are common life processes for humans and other animals. About the main stages of the human life cycle.