

## **RSE and PSHE Policy Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is the difference between PSHE and RSE?**

PSHE stands for Personal, Social and Health Education. Our PSHE curriculum is comprised of 3 core areas of learning:

- Health and well-being
- Relationships
- Living in the wider world

Historically PSHE has not been a statutory part of the National Curriculum, however from September 2020, the government has made Health Education and Relationships Education mandatory in Primary Schools in England. Since September 2020, it has also been statutory for all Secondary schools to deliver Relationship and Sex Education (RSE). Primary schools are not obliged to deliver Sex Education lessons, however they must have an RSE Policy, written following consultation with parents, which outlines how the statutory Relationships Education will be taught. It also outlines any non-statutory Sex Education lessons that the school has chosen to include in their PSHE programme.

### **Are you teaching any Sex Education?**

Following consultation with parents and governors, we have chosen to include one additional sex education lesson. This is called 'How a Baby is Made' and will be delivered in Year 6. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from this one lesson. There is no right to withdraw from any of the health and relationships lessons.

### **What is the difference between the Year 5 Science objectives (Reproduction in mammals including humans) and the Y6 Sex Education lesson 'How a Baby is Made'?**

The Year 5 Science curriculum introduces the children to the concept of sexual reproduction through male sperm fertilising the female egg. The Year 6 'How a

Baby is Made' lesson introduces the act of sexual intercourse as one way that consenting adults might choose to have a child together.

### **How will I know what my child is learning in PSHE?**

Every term your child's class teacher will share an overview of their learning in their class intention letter. This will include a summary of the PSHE learning for the term. Where your child is about to start a unit of PSHE which might stimulate more discussion at home, such as puberty and sex education, we will always inform you in advance and give you the opportunity to view resources to facilitate any further questions your child might have at home. The PSHE curriculum overviews for each year group are also available to view on the PSHE Curriculum page on the school website and include core texts and resources which may be used within the lessons. We work closely with the PSHE Association and Manchester Healthy Schools to make sure that all resources that we use are quality assured and age appropriate.

### **What is my child going to learn about FGM?**

We have a duty to safeguard any pupils who may be at risk of FGM. As a Christian school, we also aim to provide our pupils with the knowledge that they need to be courageous advocates for those who are unable to speak for themselves. Following consultation with parents, governors, staff and pupils, we agreed that FGM will be introduced in Year 6. Children will be taught that Female Genital Mutilation is a procedure that some girls are pressured into or forced to have. They will learn that this practice is illegal in the UK and advised that they should tell a trusted adult if they feel that they or a friend are at risk of FGM. This will be covered as part of a wider discussion about personal space and respecting boundaries and will not go into any detail about the procedure of FGM.

### **What will my child learn about the LGBTQ+ Community?**

We are proud of the wonderfully diverse community that we have at Chorlton C of E and want to ensure that every child feels that their background, beliefs and experiences are valued. From the EYFS, carefully chosen texts support

children to share and learn about their own and each other's families. They will learn that there are many ways to make a family and that a common feature of a family is love. As they progress through school, books and age appropriate resources will give them the vocabulary to explain their understanding of different types of relationships. They will learn that people have different sexual orientations and that some people do not identify with the gender that they were assigned at birth. They will learn about the history of PRIDE in the UK and the significance of the Rainbow flag.

### **How else does the PSHE curriculum reflect the diversity of the school and wider community?**

Linked to our Rights Respecting School ethos and our British and Christian values, children learn about respecting and understanding our similarities and differences through opportunities to share their own ideas and experiences. Children should have the opportunity to see and learn about people who look like them, and so across the PSHE and wider curriculum will learn about significant contributions of people from the BAME community, people with physical disabilities and those with SEND.

### **How does the PSHE and RSE curriculum help to keep my child safe online?**

As with our PSHE curriculum, we are committed to ensuring that our computing curriculum is bespoke to the needs of our pupils and reflective of the world that they are growing up in. The two strands of the computing curriculum- online safety and ICT skills- work hand in hand to ensure a holistic approach to digital resilience and literacy which will support your child to understand how to keep themselves and others safe in the digital world. Linked to the RSE curriculum, they will develop their understanding of the impact of and own responsibility in their online interactions. Please see the Computing curriculum page for more details about how the Computing curriculum is structured and the ways that you can interact with it at home.

## **How does the PSHE and RSE curriculum support my child's mental health?**

At Chorlton C of E, we recognise that our children's mental health is as important as their physical health and children are encouraged and given the vocabulary to discuss their emotions from the moment that they start school. The PSHE curriculum is designed to support discussions about a range of issues that may affect their mental health as they move through school, exploring for example the impact that bullying (both in person and virtually), peer pressure and social media use can have on our own and others' mental health and self-image. The Zones of Regulation

## **How does the PSHE and RSE curriculum protect my child from peer on peer abuse?**

At Chorlton CE Primary our Christian values of Respect, Friendship, Honesty, Perseverance, Tolerance and Enjoyment are central to all aspects of our school life. In respect of sexual violence and sexual harassment between children, the school takes a proactive approach to prevent such incidents from taking place. Throughout school, safeguarding is taught as part of our PSHE and wider school curriculum. We appreciate that whilst adults in school are working hard to keep children safe, children also play a large part in keeping themselves and their peers safe from abuse and neglect. Our PSHE curriculum is designed to be a spiral curriculum which builds our students' understanding of how to stay safe, and what actions they can take if they feel they are at risk. Students are taught to understand the issue and meaning of consent in an age appropriate manner and are made aware of what constitutes unreasonable pressure from peers to engage in risk taking or inappropriate behaviour. All of our PSHE and RSE lessons end with signposting to further support both within and outside of school.