



**FAIRCHILDES  
ACADEMY  
COMMUNITY  
TRUST**

# **Monks Orchard Primary School Relationships Education Policy**

Reviewed and agreed: September 2023

Next review: September 2025

## **Rationale**

This policy has been developed in accordance with the DFE 2019 Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education document.

Relationships Education is about the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships, with particular reference to friendships, family relationships, and relationships with other children and with adults

It includes physical, moral and emotional development, providing opportunities for children to develop the life skills that will enable them to make informed decisions and protect themselves against harmful and exploitative situations: such as establishing personal space and boundaries, showing respect and understanding, the differences between appropriate and inappropriate or unsafe physical, and other, contact.

It emphasises the importance of stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care and respects diversity. It provides knowledge and skills which are intended to help students manage a healthy lifestyle.

At Monks Orchard, we are committed to ensuring that the programme is holistic, relevant to and inclusive of all students, and taught in a way that is age and stage appropriate. The programme will ensure that pupils are supported and encouraged to develop the knowledge, skills and understanding they need to play an effective role in society at local, national and international levels. Helping our pupils to become informed, thoughtful and responsible individuals, who are aware of their duties and rights.

## **Objectives**

- To provide a framework in which sensitive discussions can take place.
- To help pupils develop feelings of self-respect, confidence and empathy.
- To create a positive culture around issues of relationships.
- To provide reassurance that change is part of the life cycle
- To teach pupils the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies.
- To prepare older pupils for puberty, and given them an understanding of the importance of health and hygiene.

## **Across all key stages, pupils will be supported to develop the following skills**

- Communication, including how to manage changing relationships and emotions.
- Recognising and assessing potential risks
- Assertiveness.
- Seeking help and support when required
- Informed decision-making
- Self-respect and empathy for others
- Recognising and maximising a healthy lifestyle.
  - Managing conflict

## **Legislation (Statutory regulations and guidance)**

The current regulations and guidance from the Department for Education state that from September 2020, all schools must deliver Relationships Education (in Primary schools) and Sex Education (in Secondary Schools).

## **Parental Rights**

Parents do not have the right to withdraw their children from Relationships Education, but the parental right to withdraw pupils from aspects of Sex Education, which are not part of the Science curriculum, remains. All children have the right to learn about healthy relationships and how to keep themselves safe and healthy, and as such parents do not have the right to remove their child from lessons which are focussed on relationships or health.

Documents that inform this policy include:

- Education Act (2011)
- Equality Act (2010)
- Supplementary Guidance SRE for 21<sup>st</sup> century (2014)
- Keeping children safe in Education (Updated September 2020)
- Children and Social Work Act (2017)

Other related policies and documents include Monks Orchard's Anti-Bullying Policy and Safeguarding Policy.

## **Teaching Relationships Education within PSHE**

Class teachers will take responsibility for teaching Relationships Education and PHSE from the EYFS to Year 6. These lessons are set out in the PSHE curriculum and programme of study. As in all areas of the curriculum, teachers will use a variety of teaching and learning methods and approaches including discussion, project learning, circle time, online resources, group work, drama and role play.

Teachers will follow the plans for their year group and ensure that a safe learning environment is established. Teachers and pupils will agree and set the ground rules to ensure that each pupil feels comfortable and safe during these lessons. Teachers may feel they need to follow up with individual pupils after a lesson on a specific issue and will refer this to SLT, if appropriate.

In general, pupils will be taught in their normal mixed gender classes although on occasions activities may be organised in single gender groupings to enable the pupils to focus on specific issues.

Some areas are also part of other subject curriculums, such as Science, Computing, RE and PE. Subject leads will ensure that lessons complement rather than duplicate content covered in PSHE and Relationships Education.

## **Staff training**

Staff training will be undertaken through an ongoing programme of professional development for all areas of PSHE and Relationships Education, to ensure that teachers are confident and skilled in its delivery.

## **Safeguarding**

Staff are aware that effective Relationships Education, which brings an understanding of what is and what is not appropriate in a relationship, can lead to a disclosure of a child protection matter. This includes staff fulfilling their legal duties and delivering teaching to prevent extremism, forced marriage, honour based violence, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), human trafficking, modern day slavery, sexual exploitation, grooming and any kind of abuse. If children do make disclosures of this nature, teachers will consult with the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Occasionally, appropriate and suitably experienced and/or knowledgeable visitors from outside school may be invited to contribute to the delivery of Relationships Education in school for example: NSPCC, Lives Not Knives etc.

### **Confidentiality**

As a general rule a child's confidentiality is maintained by the teacher or member of staff concerned, however staff must not promise absolute confidentiality, as work relating to Relationships Education may give rise to disclosures. In these cases, staff will follow the school's Safeguarding Policy.

### **Inclusion**

The Relationships Education curriculum will focus on the needs of the individual pupils and meet them as flexibly as possible. The curriculum will be differentiated and personalised to meet the needs of all pupils. Our aim is to respond to the diversity of children's cultures, faiths and family backgrounds. Equal time and provision will be allocated for all groups, with their diverse experiences, including those with special educational needs and disabilities who will be given extra support. All forms of discrimination will be challenged in Relationships Education and in every day school life. All teaching will be sensitive and age appropriate in approach and content. (Refer to Equality Act 2010).

### **Assessment**

At Monks Orchard, assessment is planned as an integral part of teaching and learning. It will be active and participatory, helping pupils to recognise the progress they are making in developing their skills, attitudes, knowledge and understanding including their contribution to learning. The teaching of PHSE and Relationships Education will be monitored by PSHE lead alongside SLT to ensure consistency and continuity.