

Platt Bridge Community School



Sex and Relationship Education Policy

School Name: Platt Bridge Community School

Address: Rivington Avenue, Platt Bridge, Wigan, WN2 5NG

Headteacher: Mr. Stephen Wallace

Policy Written By: Nicola Wood

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Review Date: September 2027

1. Introduction

At Platt Bridge Community School, we are committed to providing a comprehensive and inclusive Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education curriculum. We believe that this is essential for empowering our pupils to be healthy, safe, and prepared for life and the opportunities and responsibilities of adulthood.

This policy is based on the statutory guidance from the Department for Education (DfE), which came into effect in September 2020. It should be read in conjunction with our Safeguarding, Online Safety, and Behaviour Policies.

2. Aims and Principles

Our RSE curriculum is designed to:

- Equip pupils with the knowledge to make informed decisions about their wellbeing, health, and relationships.
- Help pupils develop self-respect and empathy for others.
- Teach pupils about the importance of family life and stable, loving relationships.
- Support pupils in understanding and respecting difference and diversity, including different families and backgrounds.
- Provide pupils with a clear understanding of what is and is not acceptable in relationships and how to stay safe.
- Support pupils with the physical and emotional changes they will experience during puberty.

3. Curriculum Organisation and Content

The RSE curriculum is taught as an integral part of our Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education and science curriculum. It is taught in an age-appropriate manner, building on prior knowledge from year to year.

Relationships Education (statutory for all pupils) This is a core part of our curriculum from Early Years to Year 6. It covers:

- **Families and People Who Care for Me:** Different family structures, including single-parent, same-sex, and extended families.
- **Respectful Relationships and Friendships:** The characteristics of healthy and respectful friendships, resolving disputes, and the importance of saying "sorry."
- **Online Relationships:** Online safety, cyber-bullying, and the risks of sharing personal information online.
- **Being Safe:** Understanding what is and is not appropriate touching, how to report concerns, and the importance of personal boundaries.

Health Education (statutory for all pupils) This is also a core part of our curriculum. It includes:

- **Mental Wellbeing:** How to recognize and talk about emotions, the importance of self-care, and who to talk to when worried.

- **Physical Health and Fitness:** The benefits of exercise, healthy eating, and personal hygiene.
- **Puberty:** The physical and emotional changes that happen during puberty. This is taught in an age-appropriate way, primarily in upper Key Stage 2.
- **Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco Education:** The risks associated with these substances.

Sex Education (non-statutory except for the science curriculum)

At Platt Bridge Community School, we teach the biological aspects of human reproduction as part of the **science curriculum** in both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2, as required by the National Curriculum. In Year 6, we deliver additional sex education lessons that cover human reproduction in more detail.

4. Parental Right of Withdrawal

- **Relationships Education is compulsory for all pupils.** Parents do not have the right to withdraw their child from this part of the curriculum.
- Parents **do have the right to request that their child be withdrawn from some or all of the sex education lessons** (excluding the biological aspects taught in the science curriculum). If a parent wishes to do so, they should contact the Headteacher in writing. The Headteacher will discuss the request with the parents and consider it carefully.

5. The Role of External Providers

Where we use external providers (e.g., the school nurse or other health professionals) for the delivery of RSE, the school remains responsible for the curriculum content. All external providers are vetted and monitored to ensure their teaching is consistent with our school's ethos, values, and this policy.

6. Confidentiality and Safeguarding

Staff cannot promise a child confidentiality if they disclose information that raises a safeguarding concern. Our RSE curriculum teaches pupils how to identify and report concerns, and all staff are aware of the school's safeguarding procedures. Any disclosures will be handled in line with our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

7. Monitoring and Review

The Governing Body and the Headteacher will regularly monitor the implementation of this policy. The policy will be reviewed every two years, or sooner if required by changes in legislation or school circumstances. We will also consult with parents and carers during the review process to ensure the policy reflects the needs of our school community.