



Part of Synergy Multi Academy Trust

Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education Policy

This relationships, relationships and sex education and health education policy covers **Mattishall Primary School's** approach to teaching relationships, relationships and sex education and health education (RSHE). It was produced following thorough consultation with the whole school community including pupils, parents/carers, staff and school governors. RSHE is known as Life Skills at Mattishall Primary School.

It will be reviewed every three years, or sooner if the RSHE/LIFE SKILLS curriculum is amended, in response to emerging themes, changing pupil needs, or introduction of new legislation and guidance.

Parents will be informed about the policy through annual RSHE/LIFE SKILLS consultation events, and a link from the school website. If a hard copy of the document is required the school will be happy to provide this upon request. The school will work with parents requiring the policy in an alternative format, ensuring equitable accessibility for all.

Values, aims and objectives:

Relationships, Relationships and Sex Education and Health education (RSHE/LIFE SKILLS) is learning about the emotional, social and physical aspects of growing up, relationships and reproduction. It will equip children and young people with accurate information, positive values and the skills to enjoy healthy, safe and positive relationships, to celebrate their uniqueness and to take responsibility for their health and wellbeing now and in the future.

RSHE/LIFE SKILLS is taught in a way which is complementary to the wider ethos, values and principles of our school. RSHE/LIFE SKILLS in this school is learning about the body, feelings, beliefs, relationships, rights and responsibilities and knowing how and when to ask for help if needed. It involves acquiring information, developing skills and forming positive beliefs, values and attitudes.

Some elements of the RSHE/LIFE SKILLS curriculum are a statutory requirement to teach in order for the school to meet the **government RSHE/LIFE SKILLS guidance 2019** and The Equalities Act, 2010. It is important to teach RSHE/LIFE SKILLS through a spiral curriculum. This means pupils will gain knowledge, develop values and acquire skills gradually by re-visiting core themes to build on prior learning. This developmental approach helps pupils to make informed decisions relevant to

their age and stage. RSHE/LIFE SKILLS will support the school's commitment to safeguard pupils, preparing them to live safely in the modern world.

RSHE/LIFE SKILLS empowers children to build self-esteem, offer positive and open views, support mutual respect and celebration of self and others, providing a strong foundation to be successful in life by:

- Providing a spiral curriculum, allowing for the development of knowledge relevant to the age and stage of the learner.
- Providing an inclusive learning environment which is safe and empowering for everyone involved, based on the belief that bullying, prejudice and discrimination is unacceptable.
- Teaching non-biased, accurate and factual information that is positively inclusive.
- Developing character skills to support healthy and safe relationships, ensure comfortable communication about emotions, bodies and relationships using appropriate terminology.
- Promoting critical awareness of differing attitudes and views presented through society, the media and peers to enable the nurturing of personal values based on respect.
- Using appropriate resources to ensure that children are protected from shock or guilt E.g. About body image.
- Actively consulting pupils to assess their current needs and what they would like to learn to ensure relevance and appropriateness.
- Ensuring pupils are informed of their rights, including the legal framework and how to access confidential help to keep themselves and others safe.

Our RSHE/LIFE SKILLS curriculum has been planned following national research and staff, pupil parent/carer and governor consultation. This ensures the needs of all pupils can be met through the delivery of an age and stage-appropriate curriculum. The curriculum addresses national and more local emerging issues, and relevant challenges as identified by the school community. Consultation with pupils will be conducted on a regular basis. The school also looks at the data on the latest 'Local Authority Health Profile' for the Breckland area. All of this will inform the RSHE/LIFE SKILLS curriculum review, ensuring it remains responsive to emerging needs.

Our intended RSHE/LIFE SKILLS curriculum is detailed as follows but may vary in response to emerging issues and to reflect the rapidly changing world in which our pupils are living and learning. If this is the case parent/carers will be provided with appropriate notice before the amended

programme is delivered. Where possible the curriculum will be complemented by themed assemblies, themed days/weeks and cross-curricular links.

The RSHE/LIFE SKILLS programme will be led by **Mrs Findlay** and taught by **Class Teachers** and supported by **Teaching Assistants**. All staff involved in the delivery of RSHE/LIFE SKILLS have received specialist training ensuring pupils are taught with consistent approaches to RSHE/LIFE SKILLS throughout their time at **Mattishall Primary School**.

RSHE/LIFE SKILLS will be taught using a range of teaching methodologies including story-telling, drama, discussions, individual private reflection, quizzes, fact finding, value spectrums, debating, independent research and artistic presentations etc. This wide range of teaching strategies promotes engagement by all pupils, irrespective of preferred learning styles. Distancing techniques, such as the use of characters within RSHE/LIFE SKILLS, avoids pupils feeling under pressure to participate or disclose information beyond that which is appropriate or feels comfortable. This strategy makes RSHE/LIFE SKILLS more accessible to all pupils, including those who may have experienced unhealthy relationships and/or abuse. The school's responsibility to safeguard pupils through a curriculum that prepares them to live safely in the modern world will remain central to curriculum content, teaching methodologies and supporting resources.

At **Mattishall Primary School** we actively celebrate the diversity of our pupils, their families and the wider whole school community. RSHE/LIFE SKILLS will always be taught in a non-judgemental, non-biased and fully inclusive manner through clear, impartial, scientific information as well as covering the law. Through consultation, continual assessment and regular reviews of the curriculum, we ensure that we recognise and respect pupils' different abilities, levels of maturity and personal circumstances including gender identity, faith or culture and that of their family, friends and the wider school community.

At the end of every lesson, pupils will be provided with an opportunity to ask questions as a class and can also ask anonymous questions through the use of an 'ask it basket' or 'ask it box'. Teachers will answer questions as fully as they feel age and stage-appropriate, based on the level of knowledge demonstrated by pupils during the lesson. Staff may ask a pupil to wait for a response to a question if they need time to consult with a colleague, or the school leadership team, to construct an appropriate answer. Staff can refuse to answer a question that they feel is inappropriate. Staff will not answer personal questions about their own body, personal circumstances or lifestyle choices. If a member of staff does not answer a question, the pupil will have the reasons for this decision clearly explained. The member of staff will work with the pupil to identify suitable sources of information, where they can safely obtain an answer to their question. If a child asks an RSHE/LIFE SKILLS question to a member of non-teaching member of staff the child will be referred to the class teacher and any discussion will be recorded and shared as appropriately.

At the end of every lesson, teachers will signpost pupils to information relevant to the topic being taught to ensure safe sources of information, advice and guidance are provided. Teachers will also

work closely with the schools' safeguarding arrangements and can be actioned efficiently if required. If the school has any reason to believe a pupil is at risk of harm, we are required to respond in accordance with the school's safeguarding policy.

Pupils' learning will be assessed at the end of every topic. This will ensure that pupils are making sufficient progress building on prior teaching and learning and that teaching strategies and resources remain relevant and effective. Assessment activities will be implicit, forming part of a normal teaching activity to ensure that pupils do not feel under pressure. The evaluation of teaching and learning assessments will be shared with pupils and parents as appropriate.

RSHE/LIFE SKILLS is most effective when it is a collaboration between school and home. The school will provide support to parents and carers through an annual event/updated curriculum information in October, providing a valuable opportunity to develop awareness of emerging RSHE/LIFE SKILLS topics, meet RSHE/LIFE SKILLS teachers, review the resources being used and consider ways to build on RSHE/LIFE SKILLS at home. The school operates an open-door policy enabling parents to discuss RSHE/LIFE SKILLS at relevant times throughout the school year.

This policy will be reviewed in full by the Governing Board on an annual basis. This policy was uploaded to Governor Hub in September 2023, to be ratified at the next meeting of the LGB. It is due for review in September 2024.