Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) Policy

Harvills Hawthorn Primary School | Academic year 2026–2027

DRAFT FOR PARENT/CARER CONSULTATION — NOT YET APPROVED

RSHE subject leader	Mrs. Marsden
Headteacher	Miss Sheen
Consultation dates	Closes Monday 23 November 2026
Governing body approval	[To be completed following consultation]
Review date	September, 2027
Curriculum resource	1Decision, Purple Mash 2BeSafe and cross-curricular provision

This policy outlines how RSHE is planned, taught, monitored and reviewed. It should be read alongside the school's safeguarding, child protection, SEND, behaviour, anti-bullying, online safety and equality policies.

1. Statutory framework

This policy has been prepared with regard to the Department for Education (DfE) statutory guidance, Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education, effective 1 September 2026; the Children and Social Work Act 2017; relevant provisions of the Education Acts 1996 and 2002; the Equality Act 2010; and the National Curriculum for science.

Relationships Education is compulsory for primary pupils. Health Education is compulsory in state-funded primary schools. Relevant National Curriculum science content is compulsory. Additional

primary sex education beyond those statutory requirements is not compulsory; where offered, parents have a right to request withdrawal, which must be granted.

The school has regard to statutory guidance and reviews its curriculum and resources for coverage and suitability. It publishes the approved policy on the school website and provides a free copy to anyone who requests one.

2. Aims and curriculum intent

At Harvills Hawthorn Primary School, our RSHE curriculum supports children to be healthy, safe, respectful and confident. It helps pupils develop knowledge and understanding of families and friendships, personal boundaries, physical and mental wellbeing, online safety and how to seek help. This is consistent with our school ethos: Dream Believe Achieve.

- Build knowledge progressively, using accurate and age-appropriate language.
- Promote respectful relationships, kindness, individual liberty, responsibility and awareness of difference.
- Equip children to recognise unsafe situations, report concerns and identify trusted adults.
- Make teaching accessible for pupils with SEND, including children accessing Infinity Hub.
- Work openly with parents and carers while meeting all statutory duties.

3. Statutory and additional curriculum content

3.1 Relationships Education

Through age-appropriate and sequenced teaching, pupils learn about families and people who care for them; caring friendships; respectful relationships; online relationships and safety; and being safe. This includes privacy, bodily boundaries, seeking help, bullying, stereotypes, risks online and appropriate ways to report worries.

3.2 Health Education

Compulsory Health Education includes general wellbeing, wellbeing online, physical health and fitness, healthy eating, drugs, alcohol, tobacco and vaping, health protection and prevention, personal safety, basic first aid and developing bodies. All pupils receive teaching about puberty.

3.3 Statutory science

The National Curriculum for science includes knowledge about the body and development, offspring and growth, reproduction in some plants and animals, life cycles and inherited characteristics. The school identifies relevant statutory science objectives in its science curriculum. Any overlapping content remains compulsory, even where discussed in an RSHE context.

3.4 Additional primary sex education

Beyond statutory Relationships Education, Health Education and science, the school has chosen to offer one additional Year 6 1Decision Conception lesson. This is non-statutory sex education and is separate from the compulsory curriculum. Specific lesson resources and objectives will be reviewed prior to delivery to verify that no compulsory content is treated as optional. See section 5 for the school's opt-in procedure.

4. How RSHE is delivered

Class teachers normally deliver weekly planned PSHE/RSHE sessions, supported by 1Decision, with learning reinforced through science, religious education, physical education, computing, assemblies and the wider life of the school. Teachers select, check and adapt resources; use scenarios and discussion; revisit prior learning; and adjust teaching according to pupils' age, maturity and needs. External visitors, where used, follow school safeguarding arrangements and do not replace teacher responsibility. Online safety is also taught through computing using Purple Mash 2BeSafe. DECCA will deliver a smoking workshop for Years 5 and 6.

The school, not the resource provider, remains responsible for ensuring accurate, unbiased, appropriate and complete statutory coverage. The 1Decision year-group overview should be available with this policy.

4.1 EYFS

In the Early Years Foundation Stage, learning is developed through Personal, Social and Emotional Development, including self-regulation, managing self and building relationships. Staff support children in recognising feelings, building friendships, taking turns and seeking support from trusted adults.

4.2 Curriculum progression and school provision

Year 1

Road safety; washing hands; friendship; jealousy; online bullying; responsibilities; democracy; and age-appropriate safety.

Year 2

Keeping safe; healthy eating and dental care; bullying and body language; anger and worry; image sharing and computer safety; rules and responsibilities.

Year 3

Personal safety and touch/boundaries; medicine; grief; online friendships; protecting the environment; tolerance and respect. The school plans a vaccination lesson within Medicine. White Rose Science Light: The Sun provides the sun-safety teaching route, reinforced by the summer assembly.

Year 4

Cycle safety; healthy living; relationships; home responsibilities; jealousy; online bullying; barriers and inclusion; basic first aid. Healthy Living includes recommended sleep for pupils' age.

Year 5

Peer pressure; smoking; puberty; looking out for others; anger; sharing images; inclusion and acceptance; first aid. Smoking includes nicotine pouches. Puberty includes detailed teaching about the menstrual cycle.

Year 6

Water safety; alcohol; responsibility; worry and transition; online friendships and in-app purchases; British values; first aid. Additional optional summer-term lesson: 1Decision Conception. Water Safety includes the Water Safety Code. In-App Purchases includes online scams, fraud and addictive gaming.

Appendix A identifies the teaching routes, available evidence and checks still open. The RSHE lead will update the mapping as lesson materials and delivery are verified.

5. Year 6 Conception: non-statutory lesson and opt-in arrangements

The school has chosen to offer the 1Decision Year 6 Conception topic during the summer term of Year 6 as an additional, non-statutory sex education lesson. This lesson will be offered on an opt-in basis. No pupil will take part unless their parent or carer has provided explicit consent.

- Written information will be sent to Year 6 parents/carers well before the lesson, identifying the date, learning objectives, content and how to respond.
- Parents/carers will be invited into school to view the actual 1Decision video and associated teaching materials and to ask questions before making a decision. Alternative arrangements to view the resources will be offered where required.
- The school will seek and securely record positive parental consent. A lack of response will not be treated as consent.

- Children without consent, or whose parents request withdrawal, will receive purposeful and appropriate supervised alternative education.
- Parents/carers may discuss the lesson with the Headteacher or RSHE leader. A parent's request for withdrawal from additional primary sex education will be granted.
- All pupils will continue to receive compulsory science, Relationships Education and Health Education, including puberty, regardless of whether they attend the additional lesson.

The school has reviewed the lesson slides and will complete the video review before sending the opt-in information. All pupils learn about puberty and the menstrual cycle in Year 5. All pupils will use the adapted Year 6 Growing and Changing summative assessment to revisit relationships and puberty. Conception questions are kept with the opt-in lesson.

6. Parental rights, withdrawal and communication

There is no parental right to withdraw from compulsory Relationships Education, Health Education or statutory science. Parents can request withdrawal from some or all additional primary sex education (conception unit outlined in section 5). Such a request must be granted by the Headteacher. Where possible, a meeting will be offered to explain the content and implications, but agreeing to a meeting is not a condition of withdrawal.

The school will write in advance about any additional sex education, make planned materials available to view, maintain secure records of consent and withdrawal, and arrange purposeful alternative learning. Decisions will be handled sensitively and without disadvantage to the pupil.

7. Parent/carer consultation and transparency

Parents and carers will be consulted during the development or review of this policy. The school will share a draft policy and curriculum information, invite views through a questionnaire and/or meeting, and consider feedback before final approval. The consultation does not remove the school's obligation to teach statutory content.

- Publish the approved policy and curriculum information on the school website, and provide the policy free of charge on request.
- Proactively explain what is taught and make representative samples of planned resources available to view.
- Make all RSHE curriculum materials available for parents/carers to view upon request, including 1Decision resources, with practical copyright-respecting viewing arrangements.
- Offer opportunities for private conversations where a concern relates to an individual pupil or safeguarding matter.
- Keep a record of consultation responses, the school's consideration of them and governor approval.

8. Inclusion and pupils with SEND

RSHE is designed to be accessible to every pupil, including pupils with special educational needs and disabilities, and those needing additional challenge. Teachers make appropriate adaptations to communication, vocabulary, presentation, pace, sensory access and activities, without excluding pupils from statutory content solely because of disability or learning need. The curriculum is sensitive to different families and individual experiences.

For pupils attending Infinity Hub, teaching is adapted to the pupil's developmental and communication needs. Where year-group tasks are not yet appropriate, staff use suitable developmental guidance, including Development Matters, the Sandwell Inclusion Support Complex Communication and Autism Team Pre-skills Curriculum and the Towards Independence Hierarchy, while planning suitable access to statutory RSHE learning. Teachers work with families, SEND staff and safeguarding colleagues when appropriate.

9. Safeguarding, confidentiality and classroom environment

Teachers establish clear ground rules for respectful discussion, including the right not to disclose private experiences and the importance of seeking help. Pupils can ask questions verbally or through a question box. Pupils are taught about boundaries, appropriate and inappropriate contact, privacy, reporting concerns and trusted adults. A class nest or other calm space can be used for support when appropriate.

Staff follow the school's safeguarding and child protection procedures and refer concerns promptly to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). Staff do not promise absolute confidentiality where there may be a risk of harm. Sensitive lessons are planned with consideration for pupils who have experienced trauma, bereavement, care arrangements or other circumstances; relevant colleagues and families are involved when suitable and safe.

10. Sensitive questions and balanced teaching

Questions are answered truthfully, sensitively and in language appropriate to the pupil's age and development. Staff use professional judgement, may answer individual questions privately, and seek DSL advice where needed. Teachers will not use spontaneous questions to deliver detailed non-statutory sex education to pupils whose parents have not opted in. However, they will never withhold essential safeguarding information or discourage a pupil from seeking help. If pupils ask about sex education topics outside the taught curriculum, staff acknowledge the question, give an

age-appropriate response within the curriculum and offer to involve parents or carers where appropriate. Staff follow safeguarding procedures where needed.

Teaching respects different faith backgrounds, family structures and beliefs, complies with equality duties, and does not promote partisan political views. Staff present relevant facts and law carefully, distinguish evidence from opinion, challenge bullying and avoid unfair stereotyping.

11. Staff development and responsibilities

The RSHE subject leader supports planning, checks statutory coverage, evaluates resource suitability, coordinates communication with parents, monitors provision, supports staff training and reports to senior leaders and governors. Teachers deliver the planned curriculum, assess learning and respond appropriately to safeguarding concerns. The Headteacher oversees the policy and opt-in/withdrawal arrangements. Governors monitor statutory compliance, consultation, inclusion, resource access and effective implementation.

Staff training includes safe handling of disclosures, protected characteristics, difficult questions, SEND adjustments, online safety and subject knowledge. Relevant school policies and professional guidance are used to support practice.

12. Assessment, pupil voice and impact

Teachers use discussion, questioning, pupil work and observation to check knowledge and understanding and identify misconceptions. Assessment is formative throughout teaching and may be recorded at the end of units in accordance with school practice. Pupils are not assessed on their personal beliefs, family backgrounds or willingness to disclose experiences.

Pupil voice, work scrutiny, lesson visits, teacher feedback and curriculum reviews help the school evaluate whether pupils know how to form respectful relationships, look after their wellbeing, recognise risks and seek support. Findings inform staff development and curriculum improvements.

13. Monitoring, approval and review

The RSHE leader monitors implementation and provides updates to the Headteacher and governing body. This draft will be reviewed following parent/carer consultation, then submitted for formal approval. The policy is reviewed at least every two years and earlier where statutory guidance, curriculum materials or school arrangements change. Any important revisions will be communicated to families.

Appendix A Statutory curriculum mapping

Read this policy alongside the accompanying Appendix A, which records curriculum coverage and the remaining verification checks. See Appendix A

Appendix B — Access and consultation arrangements

- Consultation closes Friday 13 November 2026. Please complete the accompanying questionnaire. Contact the school office for help accessing or returning it.
- Parents and carers can contact the school office to arrange a viewing of teaching resources.
- All RSHE curriculum materials are available to view on request through the school office.
- Consultation summary and resulting revisions: [complete after consultation].
- Final governing body approval and publication: [complete after approval].

Appendix C — Sources and school documents

- DfE: Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education, statutory guidance effective 1 September 2026. https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education
- DfE National Curriculum in England: science programmes of study.
- School's 1Decision year-group curriculum overview and the Year 6 Conception lesson (resource review required). Purple Mash 2BeSafe objectives and teaching materials.
- Harvills Hawthorn Child Protection and Safeguarding, SEND, Behaviour, Anti-Bullying, Online Safety and Equality policies.