



Woodside Primary Academy

RSHE FAQ Booklet

Can I withdraw my child from Relationships and Health Education?

No, parents/carers will not be able to withdraw their child from any part of Relationships or Health Education. Relationship and Health Education are part of the curriculum set out by the Department of Education. The Jigsaw scheme of learning has planned lessons that are age-appropriate.

Health Education includes the teaching of the correct terminology for body parts and learning about the changing adolescent body in a timely way to ensure children are prepared for changes they will experience before they happen.

Can I withdraw my child Sex Education curriculum?

Sex education that goes beyond the science curriculum is not compulsory in primary school. As a school, we have been conscientious to follow a scheme of learning that is age-appropriate and child friendly but also allows us to celebrate the diversity within the school. Therefore parents/carers will **only** be able to withdraw their child from the following lessons:

Summer 2 – Year 4 lesson 2 (Having a baby)

Summer 2 – Year 5 lesson 4 (Conception)

Summer 2 – Year 6 lesson 3 (Babies: Conception to birth)

Parents/carers should note that the Science curriculum includes discussion about human reproduction, for example puberty. Parents will not be able to withdraw their child/ren from any other lessons.

RSHE has been introduced into primary schools to put in place the building blocks needed for positive and safe relationships of all kinds. This will start with family and friends, how to treat each other with kindness, and recognising the difference between online and offline friendships.

The Department of Education recommends that primary schools teach sex education lessons that go beyond the existing national curriculum for Science. Jigsaw's lessons are tailored to the age, physical and emotional maturity of their pupils.

Can I request my child is excused from the elements of sex education taught through the Science curriculum?

No. Parents/carers do not have a right to excuse their child from any part of the Science curriculum, including lessons about reproduction and human development.

Will excusing my child from sex education mean they will not learn about sex?

No. Woodside cannot guarantee that pupils will not learn about sex from other sources outside the classroom. There are many places that children can get information from including: parents/carers, peers, older siblings and the internet. The accuracy of the information they access will be variable. The delivery of Sex Education within Relationship, Health and Sex Education ensures that what pupils learn is age and developmentally appropriate, addresses their real questions and is based on important values and the law.

Can I request my child is excused from lessons about the changing adolescent body and puberty?

No. Parents/carers cannot excuse their child from elements of Health Education and elements of the Science curriculum.

Will family diversity be represented?

Yes. Families, both in school and in the wider world, sometimes look different from a child's own family. Pupils will be taught that British society values diversity and that all families deserve respect. Families are characterised by love and care, even though this may be expressed through different traditions and values. In schools, learning about families must be inclusive. The Relationships Education curriculum must allow every child the right to see their family represented and all pupils must be confident and safe to speak about whom they live with and who cares for them.

Can I excuse my child from lessons about LGBT+ people and relationships?

No. The purpose of the Relationships Education is to educate pupils, age appropriately, about relationships and diversity in the world they live in. It is important that pupils know that different families and individuals exist and are respected under the law. LGBT+-inclusive curriculum content is not new: it has been a requirement for all schools under the Equality Act 2010. The new Relationships Education curriculum reinforces this by clarifying that the lessons children receive in school must be inclusive of diverse families and be relevant to all pupils. The teaching must promote equality and respect, present material that is accurate and balanced, and it must be underpinned by legal rights and responsibilities. Content related to LGBT+ people will therefore be fully integrated into the curriculum. Following the Jigsaw scheme of learning, there are no stand-alone lessons on this. However, we are mindful to include pictures that are diverse and inclusive.

We are teaching about equality. We understand and respect all faiths. We are teaching children not to be afraid of difference but to celebrate difference. Any discussion or resources used will be to help your child be respectful and tolerant towards others. We are preparing the children for life in Britain. Britain is diverse and they are going to meet people who are different to them as they grow up.

As a parent it is your right to talk to your child about your beliefs. In school we build our curriculum around UK law. We are teaching children that all people and relationships are equal. We are teaching children that all families are different and your child as they grow up is going to meet people who live in different families. It is important that children learn about people who are different. They need to learn to be tolerant and respectful of people with different views. When they grow up they can make up their own minds about what is right and wrong.

My child isn't friends with anyone who is gay or transgender, so why does it need to be mentioned?

We want our children to grow up respectful and tolerant members of our community. As they grow up, make more friends, watch TV, go to different places they will meet people who are gay or transgender. We want them to understand that this is okay that some children when they grow up may be gay. We don't want children growing up thinking something is wrong with them or with people they recognise who are gay or transgender.

Will Woodside teach about a range of relationships: marriage, civil partnerships, relationships outside of marriage and same sex relationships?

Yes. The curriculum enables children to understand the importance of a stable, secure and loving environment for family life and will include the range of different family types that can provide this. Teaching will therefore represent the full range of committed and mutually supportive stable relationships in our society, including religious and civil marriages, civil partnerships, and relationships outside of formal commitment. The range of families represented will include step families, same-sex parents, grandparents as parents, adoptive families, and more.

What will my role as a parent/carer be in Relationships, Health and Sex Education teaching? Will our family values be undermined by the curriculum in any way?

Parents/carers are partners with the school in this important area of education, helping to keep children safe and supporting them to thrive. Woodside has provided parents/carers with all the lesson plans on the school website that will be used to teach the curriculum. These resources can help inform parents/carers as well as support the learning at home before or after lessons.

There are two progression documents also available on the school website. They both provide family learning questions for each year group that parents/carers can use to support the learning at home, for example:

RL	Knowledge	Social and Emotional Skills	Questions for Family Learning
Ages 3-5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Know what a family is Know that different people in a family have different responsibilities (jobs) Know some of the characteristics of healthy and safe friendship Know that friends sometimes fall out Know some ways to mend a friendship Know that unkind words can never be taken back and they can hurt Know how to use Jigsaw's Calm Me to help when feeling angry Know some reasons why others get angry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can identify what jobs they do in their family and those carried out by parents/carers and siblings Can suggest ways to make a friend or help someone who is lonely Can use different ways to mend a friendship Can recognise what being angry feels like Can use Calm Me when angry or upset 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who is in your family? What jobs do mummy / daddy do around the house? Who are your friends? How do they make you feel? What do you do if your friend makes you upset? Can you tell me about a time when you felt angry – what happened to stop you from feeling angry? How does Jigsaw Jenie or Jigsaw Jerrie Cat help you stay calm?

This gives families the opportunity to talk about their own values, experiences and perspectives. The government recognises in the guidance that: 'parents are the first teachers of their children. They have the most significant influence in enabling their children to grow and mature and to form healthy relationships.'

Does the new curriculum take account of my faith?

The subjects are designed to help children from all backgrounds build positive and safe relationships, and to thrive in modern Britain.

In all schools, when teaching these subjects, the religious background of pupils must be taken into account when planning and teaching, so that topics are appropriately handled.

In developing these subjects, the Department of Education has worked with a number of representative bodies and faith organisations, representing all the major faith groups in England.

Isn't my child too young to learn about this?

Children are interested in 'where a baby comes from' and what makes boys and girls different from a very young age.

Children take in the information around them about sex and relationships from a very young age even if no-one talks to them about it. Many of the things they pick up are incorrect and confusing. For this reason it is important that parents and carers answer their children's questions to help them make sense of it all.

Adults often find questions about sex and relationships difficult and embarrassing - but if adults are able to answer in an honest and confident way this will set the tone for children - making it easier for them to bring up similar topics as they are growing up. There is advice available for parents as well as resources such as story books.

Good quality Relationship, Sex and Health Education is taught through a spiral curriculum which develops with the child. Relationship, Sex and Health Education begins with teaching children about appropriate behaviour, safety and basic understanding of their bodies and how families care for them. In Key Stage 2, children are taught scientifically how babies are made. They are not taught about how people have sex.

In a poll of 1000 parents of school-aged children by the Sex Education Forum, 78% of parents said they wanted primary schools to teach children about the difference between safe and unwanted touch and how to speak up if someone treats them inappropriately, whilst 72% of parents felt that primary schools should educate children on what to do if they find online pictures showing private body parts or are asked to send them. Relationship, Sex and Health Education teaches children about consent and what to do if someone treats them inappropriately.

How will these lessons be taught to my child who has a Special Educational Need?

Woodside is an inclusive school and our lessons are planned and differentiated to meet the needs of all children. We are aware that each child is an individual and what works for one child with special educational needs may not work for another. Jigsaw has planned a range of the tools, resources and strategies which can be adapted to match best practice for supporting a range of needs.

Children have the opportunity to do mindfulness in every PSHE lesson, visual aids are used to support the children's understanding and in important topics such as sex education Jigsaw has diagrammatic animations, PowerPoints and picture cards which follow the same style in every year group to ensure this is explained clearly.



At Woodside we are aware of the language used in the lessons to ensure all children have a clear understanding, for example while teaching puberty, we will not say that a boy's voice "breaks" as this may be very worrying for an autistic child, who may take it literally.

As a school, we will provide additional resources to lessons to ensure all children have a clear understanding of what they are being taught during Relationship, Sex and Health Education sessions. We will provide social stories and visual cue cards when necessary.

How do I know that my child's teacher will be confident in knowing what to teach and how to handle difficult questions?

Every teacher at Woodside has received training on RSHE by Jigsaw this year to help support with confidence and understanding the curriculum. Through the Jigsaw scheme of learning, teachers will follow the lesson plans provided. In those lesson plans, support in answering difficult questions is given. However, if a teacher doesn't feel comfortable asking a difficult question, we will speak with the parent/carer in having an open conversation with their child.

I think some of the resources are not appropriate. I don't want my child to be learning this in primary school.

Jigsaw has designed the resources and images to be as visually accurate yet age appropriate as possible. The new government guidance states that teaching is expected to be age appropriate.

Is it not too young to be teaching children the correct names of the body parts?

Children from a very early age will know the scientific vocabulary for naming their body parts. It is important to have a shared language that is understood by medical professionals and teachers as this safeguards children and prepares them for the wider world.

Why can't I teach my child about sex education?

Parents/carers can teach their child about sex education and at Woodside, we encourage you to continue to support with learning at home using the resources provided on the school website.

If children do not get the correct and accurate information about sex and relationships from a reliable source, they will find the information from other sources (friends, older siblings, websites, TV) which may not be true or age appropriate. The information gathered during the Government consultation found that most children wanted this information and discussion to be provided in school with their teachers so that they could ask their questions in a safe space, and have them answered in an age-appropriate way.

What should I do if I want to withdraw my child from those lessons?

If your child is in Year 4, 5 or 6, you will have the opportunity to complete a withdrawal form after the information sessions. If your child is not in those year groups, you will not complete a withdrawal form until your child is in Year 4.

We recommend that you look at the information available on the school website and attend/watch the recorded information session before completing the form.

Once you have completed the form to withdraw your child from those 3 lessons, you'll be invited to meet a member of the leadership team to discuss your concerns.

Information about withdrawing will be sent to parents in Year 4, 5 and 6 at a later date.