



CONIFERS HOUSE SCHOOL

PSHE Policy

Relationships Education - Primary

Relationships Sex and Health Education – Secondary

Equality Act 2010 in the Curriculum

Equality and Diversity Aims and Objectives

Review due	October 2026
Last review	October 2025
Reviewed by	Headteacher
Approved by	Julie Smith – Chair of the Board

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Aims

At Conifers House School, we believe that Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE) provides children and young people with opportunities for lifelong learning about physical and mental wellbeing; moral and emotional development and the wider world of which they are a part. It is about understanding themselves and the people and world around them. It is the curriculum subject through which children and young people develop the knowledge, skills, and attributes they need to keep themselves healthy, safe, and prepared for life and work. It involves acquiring information, developing skills, and forming positive beliefs, values, and attitudes.

The aim of PSHE is to provide children and young people with age-appropriate information, explore attitudes and values and develop skills to empower them to manage their lives now and in the future.

Our curriculum provides a consistent, high quality PSHE education for all young people in school setting. We have created and curated developmentally appropriate resources that are customizable for all children. The curriculum is trauma informed throughout.

The main aims of our curriculum are to enable the children:

- to stay as healthy as possible
- to learn to keep themselves and others safe, including recognising signs of bullying and knowing where to turn to for help
- to learn how to use the internet, including social media, safely and responsibly
- to develop effective, satisfying and safe relationships
- to learn to recognise similarities and differences between themselves and others and to respect these differences
- to be independent and responsible members of the school community
- to be positive and active members of a democratic society
- to develop self-confidence and self-esteem, and to make informed choices regarding personal and social issues
- to develop good relationships with other members of the school and wider community.

Through the curriculum we are able to nurture and support the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of our students and promote the Fundamental British Values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs' according to the requirements of the Education Act 2002 (section 78).

Our PSHE curriculum is an essential element of our curriculum offer, as it supports our students for maximum independence and in preparation for a safe and healthy adult life.

At Conifers House School we believe that relationships and sex education are best considered as part of the ongoing PSHE work within the school and are to be dealt with sensitively in a context that takes careful account of the pupil's age and level of maturity. All pupils with additional needs have both a need and a right to learn about their sexuality and about relationships as part of their education in preparation for adult life in the community.

The aims of relationships and sex education (RSE) at our school are to: ➤

- Provide a framework in which sensitive discussions can take place
- Prepare pupils for puberty, and give them an understanding of sexual development and the importance of health and hygiene
- Help pupils develop feelings of self-respect, confidence and empathy
- Create a positive culture around issues of sexuality and relationships
- Teach pupils the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies

Overview

Conifers House School is an independent co-educational SEN school for pupils in the age range 5-16 years with severe and complex learning difficulties including pupils with ASC. All pupils who attend Conifers House School have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

We understand the importance of adapting the curriculum content (INTENT); delivery (IMPLEMENTATION) and outcomes (IMPACT) to make learning accessible to a range of levels of ability and learning styles. We are, therefore, committed to providing the best possible PSHE curriculum which encompasses opportunities for our pupils to learn about Relationships Education (Primary: KS 1 & KS 2); and about RSE (Secondary: KS 3 & KS 4) and Health Education (across all Key Stages) at the appropriate level in preparation for adulthood.

Parents receive a letter informing about the RSE and Health Education curriculum and are consulted regarding requests of withdrawal from some or all of sex education delivered as part of statutory RSE. The science curriculum includes content on human development, including reproduction. There is no right to withdraw from the Science Curriculum. Where applicable and relevant, pupils will be involved in giving their views about the RSE and Health Education curriculum at their level of ability.

Teachers, teaching staff, therapists and other relevant professionals will contribute with their views during training opportunities and other relevant means. The curriculum has been developed in line with the DfE's 'Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education' guidance.

The school considers the religious background of all pupils when planning teaching, to ensure all topics included are appropriately handled.

The PSHE Curriculum, including RSE and health education is informed by topical issues in the school and wider community, to ensure it is tailored to pupils' needs.

Statutory requirements

Relationships Education is compulsory for primary aged children.

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) is compulsory for secondary aged children. At Conifers House School we teach RSE as set out in this policy.

DfE Guidance

"Lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of marriage for family life, stable and unstable; and loving relationships, respect, love and care. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality and sexual health."

Extract from the Secretary of State's forward to the 'Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education' – statutory guidance

"Today's children and young people are growing up in an increasingly complex world and living their lives seamlessly on and offline. This presents many positive and exciting opportunities, but also challenges and risks. In this environment, children and young people need to know how to be safe and healthy, and how to manage their academic, personal and social lives in a positive way.

This is why we have made Relationships Education compulsory in all primary schools in England and Relationships and Sex Education compulsory in all secondary schools, as well as making Health Education compulsory in all state-funded schools."

This policy has been written in line with the following guidance:

- Equality Act 2010
- DfE (2021) 'Keeping children safe in education'
- DfE (published – 2019; updated - 2021) 'Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education'
- DfE (2015) 'National curriculum in England: science programmes of study'
- The Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education (England) Regulations 2019
- Children and Social Work Act 2017

This policy is intended to be used in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Special Educational Needs, Disability and Inclusion Policy
- ICT and Acceptable Internet Use Policy
- Data Protection Policy

Curriculum Content - INTENT

Our PSHE Curriculum Framework is based on the *PSHE Education Framework for Pupils with SEND – PSHE Association*, and includes all statutory Relationships Education (Primary), Relationships and Sex Education (Secondary) and Health Education (Primary and Secondary) content adheres to three core strands in line with the Department for Education: Health & Wellbeing; Living in the Wider World; Relationships.

Using resources from the PSHE Association, Learn Brook and Jigsaw (provision for nursery and EYFS) the planning of the PSHE curriculum takes a thematic approach to primary PSHE education. The curriculum that we offer at Conifers House School is split into three core elements, these are:

1. **Health and Wellbeing:** puberty, mental health, keeping active, dental care and healthy eating.
2. **Relationships:** respectful and healthy relationships (both on and offline), kindness and sex education.
3. **Living in the Wider World:** career planning, financial literacy and exploring our rights and responsibilities.

The curriculum that we follow offers a program including statutory Relationships and Health Education, in a spiral, progressive and fully planned scheme of work, whilst giving the children relevant learning experiences to help them navigate their world and to develop positive relationships with themselves and others. With a strong emphasis on emotional literacy, building resilience and nurturing mental and physical health, the PSHE curriculum equips Conifers House School to deliver engaging and relevant PSHE within a whole-school approach. The curriculum provision allows different year groups to work on the same themes at the same time, building a spiral program year on year, whilst offering flexibility to respond to intelligent informed PSHE events, please see appendices for further information.

Our PSHE Curriculum Framework is available on the Conifers House School website.

Curriculum Delivery - Implementation

The PSHE curriculum is delivered by class teachers who will lead their teaching assistants in supporting the delivery of the programme. Teachers are aware of statutory content and are able, in addition to timetabled PSHE lessons, to take opportunities to teach and monitor PSHE content and skills through inter-curricula links with PE, ICT and core subjects.

There is a minimum of 1 hourly taught session a week, with a chance for children to consolidate and reflect on their learning at the end of the week. Within Conifers House School, we do not restrict the amount of PSHE learning, as we believe that getting this right provides a solid foundation to get children in a place to start learning.

Key messages are introduced, reinforced and built upon year on year at developmentally appropriate stages, through a spiral curriculum. The curriculum has been designed to allow facilitators flexibility in how they choose to deliver the lessons to meet the needs of their children and young people and the practicalities of their settings

Emphasis is placed on active learning within the PSHE taught sessions through planned discussions, role play activities, puppets, group work and problem solving. Staff provide a safe learning environment through the establishment of clear ground rules which are made explicit to the children and reinforced consistently. This allows children to discuss feelings and sensitive issues within a non-threatening and supportive environment. Teachers are careful to ensure that their personal beliefs and attitudes do not influence the teaching of PSHE/Citizenship.

Where appropriate, the curriculum offer for PSHE is supported by visiting speakers and other reputable organisations for example, the NSPCC, contribute to the taught curriculum.

Beyond timetabled PSHE lessons, students are supported in applying skills they are learning in real life situations as they arise e.g. resolving conflict, dealing with emotions or working together as part of a group.

Skills and knowledge build upon students' prior learning and experiences and lessons are bespoke according to physical, emotional and cognitive development of individuals.

PSHE tasks are evidenced in a floor book. This takes the form of a scrap book the children have ownership of how and what is represented in the book. As we progress through the year groups, so the level of independence increases in the children having a say in what and how their work looks within the floor book.

Across the school we endeavour to use The Zones of Regulation daily in order to embed the habits of noticing, labelling and accepting emotions in order to encourage emotional understanding and awareness, good mental health and resilience.

Primary Education

Much of the learning for primary aged pupils takes place daily during their interactions with staff and other pupils, however there is a designated time slot on the timetable for at least one PSHE session per week with a consolidating session held towards the end of the week. Specific relationship and health education is taught in discrete PSHE sessions, science lessons, intervention groups and alongside other subject areas of the curriculum (for example through a topical English book, for example). The structure of the group's specific timetable will be dependent on the needs of the pupils within it, so the ways in which PSHE content is delivered will vary accordingly from group to group.

In primary classes relationships education focuses on teaching the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships including:

- Families and people who care for me
- Caring friendships
- Respectful relationships
- Online relationships
- Being safe

Secondary Education

For some of our secondary pupils it will be necessary to continue to work on objectives set in the programme for primary pupils. These will be addressed in a more age-appropriate manner by selecting and tailoring resources appropriately. Teaching and the content covered will always be adapted with consideration given to the pupil's emotional maturity, developmental stage, and communication methods used.

Specific Relationships, Sex and Health education is taught in discrete PSHE sessions and science lessons, and alongside other parts of the curriculum (when exploring relevant topics in English or Drama texts, for example).

Much of the learning will occur - and be intentionally reinforced – daily, during pupils' interactions with staff and other pupils. The structure of the group's specific timetable will be dependent on the needs of the pupils within it, so the ways in which PSHE content is delivered will vary accordingly from group to group.

In secondary classes RSE focuses on giving young people the information they need to help them develop healthy, nurturing relationships of all kinds including:

- Families
- Respectful relationships, including friendships
- Online and media
- Being safe
- Intimate and sexual relationships, including sexual health

These areas of learning are taught within the context of family life taking care to ensure that there is no stigmatisation of children based on their home circumstances (families can include single parent families, LGBT parents, families headed by grandparents, adoptive parents, foster parents/carers amongst other structures) along with reflecting sensitively that some children may have a different structure of support around them.

Curriculum Outcomes – Impact

Teachers will be responsible for assessing the young people’s learning and progress. At Conifers House School teachers will identify prior learning for each pupil. The assessment of pupils’ learning and progress will be based on observations and evidence of learning (e.g. samples of work through the PSHE floor books, photo evidence and other curriculum workbooks) with reference to relevant parts of the PSHE Curriculum Framework.

Pupils will be encouraged to reflect on their own learning and progress, either through self-evaluation tools or through discussion. This will be integral within the approach to assessment of PSHE - RSE.

We recognise that it is difficult for teachers to accurately assess a pupil’s self-confidence or sense of their own identity and values, however, pupils themselves will be able to judge, for instance, whether they feel more confident, or have a firmer sense of their own beliefs and opinions than they did before a particular series of lessons. Assessing learning must therefore use a combination of teacher assessment and pupil self and peer assessment. In order to assess the small steps of success that the children in our school make during PSHE, we use BSquared software, which allows teachers to easily see the areas of learning that need to be focused upon and allows them to measure and record the small steps of progress that are made.

Learning outcomes will be linked where possible to ‘preparing for adulthood’ EHCP outcomes.



1. Baseline assessment

Carry out a baseline assessment before starting a new ‘piece of learning’ (which might be a single lesson or series of lessons constituting a ‘module’ or ‘topic’).

2. Assessment for Learning (AfL)

Build AfL into the lesson(s) to gauge understanding, adapt teaching, promote and maximise learning. Strategies might include building on the baseline assessment, structured questioning, mini-plenaries between activities, feedback and feed forwards.

3. Assessment of Learning (AoL)

At the end of the ‘piece of learning’, measure progress from the starting point (AoL). Use this to evidence progress and inform future teaching.

Model taken from PSHE Association Primary Toolkit 2017

Training

Staff are trained on the delivery of PSHE - RSE as part of Continuing Professional Development (CPD). This includes training by specialised external professionals and relevant training provided by the PSHE Association, NSPCC and other relevant organisations.

Roles and responsibilities

The Conifers House School Board

The Conifers House School Board will approve the PSHE - RSE policy and hold the Headteacher to account for its implementation.

The Headteacher

The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring that PSHE - RSE is taught consistently across the school, and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from non-statutory/non-science components of RSE.

Staff

Staff are responsible for:

- Delivering PSHE - RSE in a sensitive way Modelling positive attitudes to PSHE - RSE Monitoring progress
- Responding to the needs of individual pupils
- Responding appropriately to pupils whose parents wish them to be withdrawn from non-statutory/non- science components of RSE
- Staff do not have the right to opt out of teaching RSE. Staff who have concerns about teaching RSE are encouraged to discuss this with the Headteacher.
- All teachers are responsible for teaching PSHE - RSE to their class in school.

Pupils

Pupils are expected to engage fully in PSHE including RSE and, when discussing issues related to RSE, treat others with respect and sensitivity.

Parents' right to withdraw

Primary Pupils

For primary pupils, parents do not have the right to withdraw their children from relationships education.

Secondary pupils

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the non-statutory/non-science components of sex education within RSE up to and until 3 terms before the child turns 16. After this point, if the child wishes to receive sex education rather than being withdrawn, the school will arrange this.

Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing using the Conifers House School - Relationships and Sex Education – Secondary - Parental Withdrawal request form (see appendix 1) and addressed to the Headteacher.

A copy of withdrawal requests will be placed in the pupil's educational record. The Headteacher will discuss the request with parents and take appropriate action.

Alternative work will be given to pupils who are withdrawn from sex education. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the non-statutory/non-science components of sex education within RSE.

Links to other policies

Conifers House School – Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy

Conifers House School – Careers Education, Information and Guidance Conifers House School – Curriculum Policy

Appendix 1

PSHE Curriculum response to significant events at Local Level



Appendix 2

PSHE Curriculum response to significant events at National Level



Appendix 3

PSHE Curriculum response to significant events at International Level



Appendix 4

PSHE at Conifers House School – Overview

INTENT

At Conifers House School, we believe that Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE) provides children and young people with opportunities for lifelong learning about physical and mental wellbeing; moral and emotional development and the wider world of which they are a part. It is about understanding themselves and the people and world around them. It is the curriculum subject through which children and young people develop the knowledge, skills, and attributes they need to keep themselves healthy, safe, and prepared for life and work. It involves acquiring information, developing skills, and forming positive beliefs, values, and attitudes. The aim of PSHE is to provide children and young people with age-appropriate information, explore attitudes and values and develop skills to empower them to manage their lives now and in the future.

IMPLEMENTATION

Using resources from the PSHE Association, Learn Brook and Jigsaw the planning of the PSHE curriculum takes a thematic approach to primary PSHE education. Brook offers a programme including statutory Relationships and Health Education, in a spiral, progressive and fully planned scheme of work. The curriculum gives children relevant learning experiences to help them navigate their world and to develop positive relationships with themselves and others. With a strong

emphasis on emotional literacy, building resilience and nurturing mental and physical health, the PSHE curriculum equips Conifers House School to deliver engaging and relevant PSHE within a whole-school approach. The provision allows different year groups to work on the same themes at the same time, building a spiral programme year on year, whilst offering flexibility to respond to specific events. We have specified ways to respond to local, national and international events which are appropriate to the needs of our pupils.

<p>IMPACT</p> <p>At Conifers House School, we recognise that when delivered well PSHE education has a positive impact on both academic and non-academic outcomes for children and young people, particularly the most vulnerable and disadvantaged. PSHE education cannot be assessed in the same way as most other subjects. It is, however, possible to recognise and evidence progress and attainment in PSHE education through the knowledge, understanding, skills and attributes displayed by the children and young people. We adopt a specific PSHE assessment software (BSquared – Progression Steps – PSHE Primary and PSHE Secondary) to determine each pupil’s starting points and progress. We value evidence of learning represented in Workbooks and as part of everyday observations.</p>	<p>PROGRESS</p> <p>By using Jigsaw and Brook, opportunities are available to develop knowledge, skills and attributes, where prior learning is revisited, reinforced and extended year on year. Both schemes of learning identifies a broad range of important issues, which reflect the universal needs of all children and young people. Today’s children and young people live in a rapidly changing world, much of the specific knowledge taught in PSHE education changes regularly, for example as a result of legal changes, medical or technological advances. By using Jigsaw and Brook, frequent opportunities are provided to revisit, reinforce and extend learning to best meet the needs of the children and young people at Conifers House School.</p>
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<p>CROSS CURRICULAR LINKS</p> <p>The PSHE curriculum has strong cross curricular links to both the primary and secondary core and enrichment curriculum. It also supports children and</p>	<p>OUTWARD LOOKING</p> <p>At Conifers House School we believe that it is important, wherever possible, to link to our locality and community. As part of the PSHE curriculum, visitors</p>
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<p>young people at Conifers House School in being active, confident, happy, and safe members of society.</p>	<p>and associations are invited into school because of the expertise or contribution they can make.</p> <p>These may include health and social care, academic, sports, or arts professionals.</p>
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Appendix 5

Parental Withdrawal Request Form

CONIFERS HOUSE SCHOOL RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION SECONDARY PARENTAL WITHDRAWAL REQUEST FORM	
TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENTS	
Name of child	
Name of parent	
Reason for requesting withdrawal from sex education within relationships and sex education	
Any other information you would like the school to consider	
Parent name	
Parent signature	
Date	
TO BE COMPLETED BY THE SCHOOL	
Agreed actions from discussion with parents	
Headteacher signature	
Date	

Appendix 6

Conifers House School – The Equality Act 2010 in the



Curriculum

The Equality Act 2010 and Schools Curriculum (page 14)

2.8 The content of the school curriculum has never been caught by discrimination law, and this Act now states explicitly that it is excluded. However the way in which a school provides education – the delivery of the curriculum – is explicitly included.

2.9 Excluding the content of the curriculum ensures that schools are free to include a full range of issues, ideas and materials in their syllabus, and to expose pupils to thoughts and ideas of all kinds, however challenging or controversial, without fear of legal challenge based on a protected characteristic. But schools will need to ensure that the way in which issues are taught does not subject individual pupils to discrimination.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/315587/Equality_Act_Advice Principles to be actively promoted – British Values (Equality Act 2010):

- i. enable pupils to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence;
- ii. enable pupils to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of England;
- iii. encourage pupils to accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative and understand how they can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in the locality in which the school is situated and to society more widely;
- iv. enable pupils to acquire a broad general knowledge of and respect for public institutions and services in England;
- v. further tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions by enabling pupils to acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures;
- vi. encourage respect for other people, paying particular regard to the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010; and
- vii. encourage respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic processes, including respect for the basis on which the law
- viii. is made and applied in England.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/equality-act-2010-guidance>

The Equality Act 2010 in the Curriculum at Conifers House School - Intent

Conifers House School will ensure that equal opportunities and the principles of fairness underpin all aspects of policy, procedure, education provision, consultation and decision-making.

Conifers House School is committed to equality in its delivery of education, whether or not the service is directly provided by us or contracted to a third party provider. Senior leaders will monitor this education provision to ensure that pupils acquire the skills which enable them to be proactive in their behaviour and learning and to become responsible citizens.

We aim to provide high quality education provision, making sure provision is easily accessible. We will improve what we do by continuing to consult with staff, pupils, parents, Governors, local communities and other partners about equality issues. We will promote our equal opportunities in our contact with parents, staff, governors and external organisations.

We will make every effort in creating equality of opportunity in order to ensure they are accessible and fair to everyone. Every person has the right to be treated fairly, regardless of race, gender, sexuality, disability, age, culture, religion, nationality or caring responsibilities. Where necessary we will implement reasonable adjustments or additional support, to ensure equality of access to an education and suitable learning and working environments.

All those who deliver our education provision and all those involved with the school will recognise diversity and demonstrate a proactive approach this in their day-to-day work. They will ensure that everyone is treated fairly, recognising special educational and physical needs and understanding differences. Behaviour will reach our high standards of conduct (staff and pupils) and the learning environment we provide will be safe and accessible for those studying and working.

Conifers House School will adhere to statutory legislation and give consideration to other relevant guidance, which aims to make sure that everyone is treated equitably. We will work with other people and organisations to encourage fair treatment of all. We will collect information, which will help us plan and develop services to meet the special needs of all members of the community.

Conifers House School will not tolerate any form of discriminatory behaviour against members of the school or local community.

Equality and Diversity Aims & Objectives

Our aims

- to create a fair and just community that promotes social inclusion, community cohesion and equality that respects diversity and which challenges and acts upon all forms of discrimination and inequality, including bullying of any sort.
- To work actively to celebrate difference and challenge racism, sexism, homophobia and all other forms of prejudice.
- To take positive action to promote racial harmony and to promote positive attitudes towards life in a multicultural, multi-ethnic and multi-faith society, through the PSHE curriculum and special projects throughout the year.
- To continuously ensure that all pupils have equal opportunities to achieve to the best of their ability regardless of their gender, ethnic or racial background, religion, ability or sexuality.
- To actively promote British Values of tolerance, fairness, respect for other faiths, and the rule of law and democracy.

Our objectives

- To ensure diversity is celebrated across the curriculum in all subject areas and in particular through our PSHE Curriculum.
- To encourage staff and students to celebrate and embrace cultural diversity increasing their awareness of British Values.
- To encourage increased participation in school life for families through our Engaging with Parents & Carers approach.
- To ensure the school's motto – “Together We Grow And Shine” is at the heart of school life and reflects an inclusive ethos which promotes diversity.
- To promote pupils' understanding of identity, diversity, community and equality through our PSHE curriculum and as part of school life in general.
- To promote effective transition into and from the school.
- To ensure the pupils are prepared for life in modern Britain and their next stage of learning.













