

Appendix B

B1 Statutory Guidance on Relationships and Health Education for Primary Schools (taken from DfE July 2025)

Relationships education (Primary)

By the end of primary school:

Families and people who care for me	Pupils should know • that families are important for children growing up because they can give love, security and stability. • the characteristics of healthy family life, commitment to each other, including in times of difficulty, protection and care for children and other family members, the importance of spending time together and sharing each other's lives. • that others' families, either in school or in the wider world, sometimes look different from their family, but that they should respect those differences and know that other children's families are also characterised by love and care. • that stable, caring relationships, which may be of different types, are at the heart of happy families, and are important for children's security as they grow up. • that marriage ¹³ represents a formal and legally recognized commitment of two people to each other which is intended to be lifelong. • how to recognise if family relationships are making them feel unhappy or unsafe, and how to seek help or advice from others if needed.
Caring friendships	Pupils should know • How important friendships are in making us feel happy and secure, and how people choose and make friends. • That healthy friendships are positive and welcoming towards others, and do not make others feel lonely or excluded. Pupils should learn skills for developing caring, kind friendships. • That not every child will have the friends they would like at all times, that most people feel lonely sometimes, and that there is no shame in feeling lonely or talking about it. • The characteristics of friendships that lead to happiness and security, including mutual respect, honesty, trustworthiness, loyalty, kindness, generosity, trust, sharing interests and experiences, and support with problems and difficulties. • That most friendships have ups and downs, and that these can often be worked through so that the friendship is repaired or even strengthened. • How to manage conflict, and that resorting to violence is never right.

¹³ Marriage in England and Wales is available to both opposite sex and same sex couples. The Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013 extended marriage to same sex couples in England and Wales. The ceremony through which a couple get married may be civil or religious.

	• How to recognise when a friendship is making them feel unhappy or uncomfortable, and how to get support when needed.
Respectful, kind relationships	Pupils should know • How to pay attention to the needs and preferences of others, including in families and friendships. Pupils should be encouraged to discuss how we balance the needs and wishes of different people in relationships and why this can be complicated. • The importance of setting and respecting healthy boundaries in relationships with friends, family, peers and adults. • How to communicate effectively and manage conflict with kindness and respect; how to be assertive and express needs and boundaries; how to manage feelings, including disappointment and frustration. • Pupils should have opportunities to discuss the difference between being assertive and being controlling, and conversely the difference between being kind to other people and neglecting your own needs. • That they can expect to be treated with respect by others, and the importance of respecting others, including those who are different (for example, physically, in character, personality or backgrounds), or make different choices, or have different preferences or beliefs. • Practical steps they can take and skills they can develop in a range of different contexts to improve or support their relationships. • The conventions of courtesy and manners. • The importance of self-respect and how this links to their own happiness. Pupils should have opportunities to think about how they foster their own self-esteem and build a strong sense of their own identity, including through developing skills and interests. • The different types of bullying (including online bullying), the impact of bullying, responsibilities of bystanders (primarily reporting bullying to an adult), and how to get help. • What a stereotype is, how stereotypes can be unfair, negative, destructive or lead to bullying and how to challenge a stereotype. • How to seek help when needed, including when they are concerned about violence, harm, or when they are unsure who to trust

Online safety and awareness	Pupils should know • That people should be respectful in online interactions, and that the same rules apply to online relationships as to face-to-face relationships, including where people are anonymous. For example, the importance of avoiding putting pressure on others to share information and images online, and strategies for resisting peer pressure. • How to critically evaluate their online relationships and sources of information, including awareness of the risks associated with people they have never met. For example, that people sometimes behave differently online, including pretending to be someone else, or pretending to be a child, and that this can lead to dangerous situations. How to recognise harmful content or harmful contact, and how to report this. • That there is a minimum age for joining social media sites (currently 13), which protects children from inappropriate content or unsafe contact with older social media users, who may be strangers, including other children and adults. • The importance of exercising caution about sharing any information about themselves online. Understanding the importance of privacy and location settings to protect information online. • Online risks, including that any material provided online might be circulated, and that once a picture or words has been circulated there is no way of deleting it everywhere and no control over where it ends up. • That the internet contains a lot of content that can be inappropriate and upsetting for children, and where to go for advice and support when they feel worried or concerned about something they have seen or engaged with online.
Being safe	Pupils should know • What sorts of boundaries are appropriate in friendships with peers and others (including online). This can include learning about boundaries in play and in negotiations about space, toys, books, resources etc. • The concept of privacy and its implications for both children and adults; including that it is not always right to keep secrets if they relate to being safe. • That each person's body belongs to them, and the differences between appropriate and inappropriate or unsafe contact, including physical contact. • How to respond safely and appropriately to adults they may encounter (in all contexts, including online), including those they do and do not know. • How to recognise when a relationship is harmful or dangerous, including skills for recognising who to trust and who not to trust. • How to report abuse, concerns about something seen online or experienced in real life, or feelings of being unsafe or feeling bad about any adult and the vocabulary and confidence needed to do so. • How to ask for advice or help for themselves or others, and to keep trying until they are heard. Where to get advice e.g. family, school and/or other sources.

Physical health and mental wellbeing (Primary)

By the end of primary school:

General wellbeing	Pupils should know • the benefits of physical activity, time outdoors, and helping others for health, wellbeing and happiness. Simple self-care techniques, including the importance of rest, time spent with friends and family, as well as hobbies, interests and community participation. • the importance of promoting general wellbeing and physical health. • the range and scale of emotions (e.g. happiness, sadness, anger, fear, surprise, nervousness) that they might experience in different situations. Pupils should understand that worrying and feeling down are normal, affect everyone at different times, and are not in themselves a sign of a mental health condition. • how to recognise feelings and use varied vocabulary to talk about their own and others' feelings. • how to judge whether what they are feeling and how they are behaving is appropriate and proportionate. • that isolation and loneliness can affect children, and the benefits of seeking support. • that bullying (including cyberbullying) has a negative and often lasting impact on mental wellbeing and how to seek help for themselves or others. • that change and loss, including bereavement, can provoke a range of feelings, that grief is a natural response to bereavement, and that everyone grieves differently. • where and how to seek support (including recognising the triggers for seeking support), including who in school they should speak to if they are worried about their own or someone else's mental wellbeing or ability to control their emotions (including issues arising online). • that it is common to experience mental health problems, and early support can help.
Wellbeing Online	Pupils should know • that for almost everyone the internet is an integral part of life. Pupils should be supported to think about positive and negative aspects of the internet. • pupils should be supported to discuss how online relationships can complement and support meaningful in-person relationships, but also how they might be in tension, and the reasons why online relationships are unlikely to be a good substitute for high quality in-person relationships, looking at the pros and cons of different ways of using online connection.

	- the benefits of limiting time spent online, the risks of excessive time spent on electronic devices and the impact of positive and negative content online on their own and others' mental and physical wellbeing. - how to consider the impact of their online behaviour on others, and how to recognise and display respectful behaviour online. - why social media, some apps, computer games and online gaming, including gambling sites, are age restricted. - the risks relating to online gaming, video game monetisation, scams, fraud and other financial harms, and that gaming can become addictive. - how to take a critical approach to what they see and read online and make responsible decisions about which content, including content on social media and apps, is appropriate for them. - that abuse, bullying and harassment can take place online and that this can impact wellbeing. How to seek support from trusted adults. - how to understand the information they find online, including from search engines, and know how information is selected and targeted. - that they have rights in relation to sharing personal data, privacy and consent. - where and how to report concerns and get support with issues online.
Physical health and fitness	Pupils should know - the characteristics and mental and physical benefits of an active lifestyle. - the importance of building regular exercise into daily and weekly routines and how to achieve this; for example walking or cycling to school, a daily active mile or other forms of regular, vigorous exercise. - the risks associated with an inactive lifestyle (including obesity). - how and when to seek support including which adults to speak to in school if they are worried about their health.
Healthy eating	Pupils should know - what constitutes a healthy diet (including understanding calories and other nutritional content). - understanding the importance of a healthy relationship with food. - the principles of planning and preparing a range of healthy meals. - the characteristics of a poor diet and risks associated with unhealthy eating (including, for example, obesity and tooth decay) and other behaviours (e.g. the impact of alcohol on diet or health).
Drugs, alcohol and tobacco	Pupils should know the facts about legal and illegal harmful substances and associated risks, including smoking, alcohol use and drug-taking. This should include the risks of nicotine addiction, which are also caused by other nicotine products such as nicotine pouches.

Health protection and prevention	Pupils should know • how to recognise early signs of physical illness, such as weight loss, or unexplained changes to the body. • about safe and unsafe exposure to the sun, and how to reduce the risk of sun damage, including skin cancer. • the importance of sufficient good quality sleep for good health and that a lack of sleep can affect weight, mood and ability to learn. • about dental health and the benefits of good oral hygiene and dental flossing, including regular check-ups at the dentist. • about personal hygiene and germs including bacteria, viruses, how they are spread and treated, and the importance of handwashing. • the facts and science relating to allergies, immunisation and vaccination. The introduction of topics relating to vaccination and immunisation should be aligned with when vaccinations are offered to pupils.
Personal safety	Pupils should know • about hazards (including fire risks) that may cause harm, injury or risk and ways to reduce risks. • how to recognise risk and keep safe around roads, railways, including level crossings, and water, including the water safety code.
Basic first aid	Pupils should know • how to make a clear and efficient call to emergency services if necessary, including the importance of reporting incidents rather than filming them. • concepts of basic first aid, for example dealing with common injuries and ailments, including head injuries.
Developing Bodies	Pupils should know • about growth and other ways the body can change and develop, particularly during adolescence. This topic should include the human lifecycle, and puberty should be discussed as a stage in this process. • the correct names of body parts, including the penis, vulva, vagina, testicles, scrotum, nipples. Pupils should understand that all of these parts of the body are private and have skills to understand and express their own boundaries around these body parts. • the facts about the menstrual cycle, including physical and emotional changes, whilst the average age of the onset of menstruation is twelve, periods can start at eight, so covering this topic before girls' periods start will help them understand what to expect and avoid distress.

Appendix B

B2 Guidance on Sex Education for Primary Schools (taken from DfE July 2025)

Sex Education (Primary)

30. Sex education is not compulsory in primary schools, but we recommend that primaries teach sex education in years 5 and/or 6, in line with content about conception and birth, which forms part of the national curriculum for science. The national curriculum for science includes subject content in related areas, such as the main external body parts, the human body as it grows from birth to old age (including puberty) and reproduction in some plants and animals. Schools may also cover human reproduction in the science curriculum, but where they do so, this should be in line with the factual description of conception in the science curriculum.

31. Primary schools should consult parents about the content of anything that will be taught within sex education. This process should include offering parents support in talking to their children about sex education and how to link this with what is being taught in school as well as advice about parents' right to request withdrawal from sex education.

65. The Relationships Education, RSE, and Health Education (England) Regulations 2019 have made Relationships Education compulsory in all primary schools. Sex education is not compulsory in primary schools and the content set out in this guidance therefore focuses on Relationships Education.

66. The content set out in this guidance covers everything that primary schools should teach about relationships and health, including puberty. The national curriculum for science also includes subject content in related areas, such as the main external body parts, the human body as it grows from birth to old age (including puberty) and reproduction in some plants and animals (see below). It will be for primary schools to determine whether they need to cover any additional content on sex education to meet the needs of their pupils. Many primary schools already choose to teach some aspects of sex education and will continue to do so, although it is not a requirement.

67. It is important that the transition phase before moving to secondary school supports pupils' ongoing emotional and physical development effectively. The Department continues to recommend therefore that all primary schools should have a sex education programme tailored to the age and the physical and emotional maturity of the pupils. It should ensure that both boys and girls are prepared for the changes that adolescence brings and – drawing on knowledge of the human life cycle set out in the national curriculum for science - how a baby is conceived and born. As well as consulting parents more generally about the school's overall policy, primary schools should consult parents before the final year of primary school about the detailed content of what will be taught. This process should include offering parents support in talking to their children about sex education and how to link this with what is being taught in school. Meeting 24 these objectives will require a graduated, age-appropriate programme of sex education. Teaching needs to take account of the developmental differences of children.

68. Where a maintained primary school chooses to teach aspects of sex education (which go beyond the national curriculum for science), the school must set this out in their policy and all schools should consult with parents on what is to be covered. Primary schools that choose to teach sex education must allow parents a right to withdraw their children. Unlike sex education in RSE at secondary, in primary schools, head teachers must comply with a parent's wish to withdraw their child from sex education beyond the national curriculum for science. Schools will want to draw on the good practice for conversations with parents around the right to withdraw as set out in paragraphs 45 and 46. Schools must also ensure that their teaching and materials are appropriate having regard to the age and religious backgrounds of their pupils. Schools will also want to recognise the significance of other factors, such as any special educational needs or disabilities of their pupils.

Health and Wellbeing - Primary

40. Health education in primary school starts with the benefits and importance of physical activity, good nutrition and sufficient sleep, and supports pupils to develop emotional awareness. Schools should emphasise the relationships between physical health and mental wellbeing, and the benefits of physical activity and time spent outdoors. As in all of RSHE, care should be taken to avoid exposing pupils to concepts which are not appropriate for them. Schools should continue to build on the primary health and wellbeing curriculum content in secondary

National curriculum – Science

KS1 - Identify the main parts of the human body

KS1 - Know that animals, including humans have offspring which grow into adults

KS2 - Describe the changes as humans develop into old age