

# MEADOW VALE PRIMARY SCHOOL



## Personal, Social, and Health Education (PSHE) and Reproductive and Sexual Health Education (RSHE) Policy

**2020-2021**

<b>Audience:</b>	<b>Parents School Staff (in particular teachers and leaders) Local Governing Bodies</b>
<b>Approved:</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Other related policies:</b>	<b>ESafety Policy, Safeguarding Policy, SEND Policy,</b>
<b>Review:</b>	<b>Annually or more frequently if national policy requirements change or if our continuous view finds that significant change is needed</b>
<b>Version number:</b>	<b>1</b>



## **PSHE (Personal, Social, Health Education) Policy (including Relationships and Health Education statutory from September 2020, and our position on Sex Education )**

<b>Name of school</b>	Meadow Vale Primary School
<b>Date of policy</b>	2020-2021
<b>Member of staff responsible</b>	Helen Fish
<b>Review date</b>	July 2021

### **Introduction**

All schools must provide a curriculum that is broadly based, balanced and meets the needs of all pupils. Under section 78 of the Education Act 2002 and the Academies Act 2010, a PSHE curriculum:

- Promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society, and
- Prepares pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.

### **PSHE**

At Meadow Vale Primary School, we teach Personal, Social, Health Education as a whole-school approach to underpin children's development as people and because we believe that this also supports their learning capacity.

The Jigsaw Programme offers us a comprehensive, carefully thought-through Scheme of Work which brings consistency and progression to our children's learning in this vital curriculum area. The overview of the programme can be seen on the school website.

This also supports the "Personal Development" and "Behaviour and Attitude" aspects required under the Ofsted Inspection Framework, as well as significantly contributing to the school's Safeguarding and Equality Duties, the Government's British Values agenda and the SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social, Cultural) development opportunities provided for our children.

### **Statutory Relationships and Health Education**

Here, at Meadow Vale Primary School we value PSHE as one way to support children's development as human beings, to enable them to understand and respect who they are, to empower them with a voice and to equip them for life and learning.

We include the statutory Relationships and Health Education within our whole-school PSHE Programme.

To ensure progression and a spiral curriculum, we use Jigsaw, the mindful approach to PSHE, as our chosen teaching and learning programme and tailor it to your children's needs. The mapping document: Jigsaw 3-11 and statutory Relationships and Health Education (Appendix 1), shows exactly how Jigsaw and therefore our school, meets the statutory Relationships and Health Education requirements.

This programme's complimentary update policy ensures we are always using the most up to date teaching materials and that our teachers are well-supported.

Our PSHE policy is informed by existing DfE guidance:

- [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#) (statutory guidance)
- [Respectful School Communities: Self Review and Signposting Tool](#) (a tool to support a whole school approach that promotes respect and discipline)
- [Behaviour and Discipline in Schools](#) (advice for schools, including advice for appropriate behaviour between pupils)
- [Equality Act 2010 and schools](#)
- [SEND code of practice: 0 to 25 years](#) (statutory guidance)
- [Alternative Provision](#) (statutory guidance)
- [Mental Health and Behaviour in Schools](#) (advice for schools)
- [Preventing and Tackling Bullying](#) (advice for schools, including advice on [cyberbullying](#))
- [Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools](#) (advice for schools)
- [The Equality and Human Rights Commission Advice and Guidance](#) (provides advice on avoiding discrimination in a variety of educational contexts)
- [Promoting Fundamental British Values as part of SMSC in schools](#) (guidance for maintained schools on promoting basic important British values as part of pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC))
- [SMSC requirements for independent schools](#) (guidance for independent schools on how they should support pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development).

The Jigsaw Programme is aligned to the PSHE Association Programmes of Study for PSHE.

### What do we teach when and who teaches it?

#### Whole-school approach

Jigsaw covers all areas of PSHE for the primary phase including statutory Relationships and Health Education. The table below gives the learning theme of each of the six Puzzles (units) and these are taught across the school; the learning deepens and broadens every year.

Term	Puzzle (Unit)	Content
Autumn 1:	Being Me in My World	Includes understanding my own identity and how I fit well in the class, school and global community. Jigsaw Charter established.

<b>Autumn 2:</b>	Celebrating Difference	Includes anti-bullying (cyber and homophobic bullying included) and understanding
<b>Spring 1:</b>	Dreams and Goals	Includes goal-setting, aspirations, who do I want to become and what would I like to do for work and to contribute to society
<b>Spring 2:</b>	Healthy Me	Includes drugs and alcohol education, self-esteem and confidence as well as healthy lifestyle choices, sleep, nutrition, rest and exercise
<b>Summer 1:</b>	Relationships	Includes understanding friendship, family and other relationships, conflict resolution and communication skills, bereavement and loss
<b>Summer 2:</b>	Changing Me	Includes Relationships and Sex Education in the context of coping positively with change

At Meadow Vale Primary School we allocate between 30-40 minutes to PSHE each week in order to teach the PSHE knowledge and skills in a developmental and age-appropriate way.

These explicit lessons are reinforced and enhanced in many ways:

Assemblies and collective worship, praise and reward system, Learning Charter, through relationships child to child, adult to child and adult to adult across the school. We aim to 'live' what is learnt and apply it to everyday situations in the school community.

Class teachers deliver the weekly lessons to their own classes. Support and advice will be sought from the school nurse, Police Support Officers and other outside agencies.

## Relationships Education

### ***What does the DfE statutory guidance on Relationships Education expect children to know by the time they leave primary school?***

Relationships Education in primary schools will cover 'Families and people who care for me', 'Caring friendships', 'Respectful relationships', 'Online relationships', and 'Being safe'.

The expected outcomes for each of these elements can be found further on in this policy. The way the Jigsaw Programme covers these is explained in the mapping document: Jigsaw 3-11 and Statutory Relationships and Health Education (Appendix 1).

It is important to explain that whilst the Relationships Puzzle (unit) in Jigsaw covers most of the statutory Relationships Education, some of the outcomes are also taught elsewhere in Jigsaw e.g. the Celebrating Difference Puzzle helps children appreciate that there are many types of family composition and that each is important to the children involved. This holistic approach ensures the learning is reinforced through the year and across the curriculum.

## Health Education

### ***What does the DfE statutory guidance on Health Education expect children to know by the time they leave primary school?***

Health Education in primary schools will cover 'Mental wellbeing', 'Internet safety and harms', 'Physical health and fitness', 'Healthy eating', 'Drugs, alcohol and tobacco', 'Health and prevention', 'Basic First Aid', 'Changing adolescent body'.

The expected outcomes for each of these elements can be found further on in this policy. The way the Jigsaw Programme covers these is explained in the mapping document: Jigsaw 3-11 and Statutory Relationships and Health Education (Appendix 1).

It is important to explain that whilst the Healthy Me Puzzle (unit) in Jigsaw covers most of the statutory Health Education, some of the outcomes are taught elsewhere in Jigsaw e.g. emotional and mental health is nurtured every lesson through the Calm me time, social skills are grown every lesson through the Connect us activity and respect is enhanced through the use of the Jigsaw Charter.

Also, teaching children about puberty is now a *statutory requirement* which sits within the Health Education part of the DfE guidance within the 'Changing adolescent body' strand, and in Jigsaw this is taught as part of the Changing Me Puzzle (unit).

Again, the mapping document transparently shows how the Jigsaw whole-school approach spirals the learning and meets all statutory requirements and more (Appendix 1).

## Sex Education

The DfE Guidance 2019 (p.23) recommends that all primary schools 'have a sex education programme tailored to the age and the physical and emotional maturity of the pupils. However, 'Sex Education is not compulsory in primary schools'. (p. 23)

Schools are to determine the content of sex education at primary school. Sex education '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'.

At Meadow Vale Primary School, we believe children should understand the facts about human reproduction before they leave primary school so that they move into Year 7 with some knowledge. We define Sex Education as understanding human reproduction and we intend to teach this through science lessons.

### **Parents' right to request their child be excused from Sex Education**

At Meadow Vale Primary School, puberty is taught as a statutory requirement of Health Education and covered by our Jigsaw PSHE Programme in the 'Changing Me' Puzzle (unit), and we conclude from the DfE Guidance that sex education refers to Human Reproduction. In order to teach this in a scientific context, and knowing that National Curriculum Science requires children to know how mammals reproduce, we have opted to teach this within our Science curriculum, not within PSHE or Relationships and Sex Education as we believe this is most appropriate for our children.

Therefore the parent right to withdraw their child is not applicable. We are of course happy to discuss the content of the curriculum and invite you to contact the Headteacher to discuss the aspects of the programme causing concern.

## Monitoring and Review

The Curriculum Committee of the governing body monitors this policy on an annual basis. This committee reports its findings and recommendations to the full governing body, as necessary, if the policy needs modification. The Curriculum Committee gives serious consideration to any comments from parents about the PSHE (RSHE) programme, and makes a record of all such comments. Governors scrutinise and ratify teaching materials to check they are in accordance with the school's ethos.

## Equality

### **This policy will inform the school's Equalities Plan.**

The DfE Guidance 2019 (p. 15) states, "Schools should ensure that the needs of all pupils are appropriately met, and that all pupils understand the importance of equality and respect. Schools must ensure they comply with the relevant provisions of the Equality Act 2010 under which sexual orientation and gender reassignment are amongst the protected characteristics...

At the point at which schools consider it appropriate to teach their pupils about LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender), they should ensure this content is fully integrated into their programmes of study for this area of the curriculum rather than delivered as a stand-alone unit or lesson. Schools are free to determine how they do this, and we expect all pupils to have been taught LGBT content at a timely point as part of this area of the curriculum".

At Meadow Vale Primary School we promote respect for all and value every individual child. We also respect the right of our children, their families and our staff, to hold beliefs, religious or otherwise, and understand that sometimes these may be in tension with our approach to some aspects of Relationships, Health and Sex Education.

For further explanation as to how we approach LGBT relationships in the PSHE (RSHE) Programme please see:

'Including and valuing all children. What does Jigsaw teach about LGBTQ relationships?' (Appendix 2).

## Policy Review

This policy is reviewed annually.

	Signed Headteacher	Signed Chair of Governors
Date of review:		
Date of next review:		

## Relationships Education in Primary schools – DfE Guidance 2019

The focus in primary school should be on teaching the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships, with particular reference to friendships, family relationships, and relationships with other children and with adults.

The guidance states that, by the end of primary school:

	<b>Pupils should know...</b>	<b>How Jigsaw provides the solution</b>
<b>Families and people who care for me</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• that families are important for children growing up because they can give love, security and stability.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• that marriage represents a formal and legally recognised commitment of two people to each other which is intended to be lifelong (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).</li> <li>• how to recognise if family relationships are making them feel unhappy or unsafe, and how to seek help or advice from others if needed.</li> <li>• about different types of bullying (including cyberbullying), the impact of bullying, responsibilities of bystanders (primarily reporting bullying to an adult) and how to get help.</li> <li>• what a stereotype is, and how stereotypes can be unfair, negative or destructive.</li> <li>• the importance of permission-seeking and giving in relationships with friends, peers and adults.</li> </ul>	<p>All of these aspects are covered in lessons within the Puzzles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relationships</li> <li>• Changing Me</li> <li>• Celebrating Difference</li> <li>• Being Me in My World</li> </ul>
<b>Online relationships</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• that people sometimes behave differently online, including by pretending to be someone they are not.</li> </ul>	<p>All of these aspects are covered in lessons within the Puzzles</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• that the same principles apply to online relationships as to face-to-face relationships, including the importance of respect for others online including when we are anonymous.</li> <li>• the rules and principles for keeping safe online, how to recognise risks, harmful content and contact, and how to report them.</li> <li>• how to critically consider their online friendships and sources of information including awareness of the risks associated with people they have never met.</li> <li>• how information and data is shared and used online.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relationships</li> <li>• Changing Me</li> <li>• Celebrating Difference</li> </ul>
<b>Being safe</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• what sorts of boundaries are appropriate in friendships with peers and others (including in a digital context).</li> <li>• about the concept of privacy and the implications of it for both children and adults; including that it is not always right to keep secrets if they relate to being safe.</li> <li>• that each person's body belongs to them, and the differences between appropriate and inappropriate or unsafe physical, and other, contact.</li> <li>• how to respond safely and appropriately to adults they may encounter (in all contexts, including online) whom they do not know.</li> <li>• how to recognise and report feelings of being unsafe or feeling bad about any adult.</li> <li>• how to ask for advice or help for themselves or others, and to keep trying until they are heard,</li> <li>• how to report concerns or abuse, and the vocabulary and confidence needed to do so.</li> <li>• where to get advice e.g. family, school and/or other sources.</li> </ul>	<p>All of these aspects are covered in lessons within the Puzzles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relationships</li> <li>• Changing Me</li> <li>• Celebrating Difference</li> </ul>



## Physical health and mental well-being education in Primary schools – DfE Guidance

The focus in primary school should be on teaching the characteristics of good physical health and mental wellbeing. Teachers should be clear that mental well-being is a normal part of daily life, in the same way as physical health.

By the end of primary school:

	<b>Pupils should know</b>	<b>How Jigsaw provides the solution</b>
<b>Mental wellbeing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• that mental wellbeing is a normal part of daily life, in the same way as physical health.</li> <li>• that there is a normal range of emotions (e.g. happiness, sadness, anger, fear, surprise, nervousness) and scale of emotions that all humans experience in relation to different experiences and situations.</li> <li>• how to recognise and talk about their emotions, including having a varied vocabulary of words to use when talking about their own and others' feelings.</li> <li>• how to judge whether what they are feeling and how they are behaving is appropriate and proportionate.</li> <li>• the benefits of physical exercise, time outdoors, community participation, voluntary and service-based activity on mental well-being and happiness.</li> <li>• simple self-care techniques, including the importance of rest, time spent with friends and family and the benefits of hobbies and interests.</li> <li>• isolation and loneliness can affect children and that it is very important for children to discuss their feelings with an adult and seek support.</li> <li>• that bullying (including cyberbullying) has a negative and often lasting impact on mental well-being.</li> <li>• where and how to seek support (including recognising the triggers for seeking support), including whom in school they should speak to if they are worried about their own or someone else's mental well-being or ability to control their emotions (including issues arising online).</li> </ul>	<p>All of these aspects are covered in lessons within the Puzzles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Healthy Me</li> <li>• Relationships</li> <li>• Changing Me</li> <li>• Celebrating Difference</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• it is common for people to experience mental ill health. For many people who do, the problems can be resolved if the right support is made available, especially if accessed early enough.</li> </ul>	
<b>Internet safety and harms</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• that for most people the internet is an integral part of life and has many benefits.</li> <li>• about the benefits of rationing 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.</li> <li>• how to consider the effect of their online actions on others and knowhow to recognise and display respectful behaviour online and the importance of keeping personal information private.</li> <li>• why social media, some computer games and online gaming, for example, are age restricted.</li> <li>• that the internet can also be a negative place where online abuse, trolling, bullying and harassment can take place, which can have a negative impact on mental health.</li> <li>• how to be a discerning consumer of information online including understanding that information, including that from search engines, is ranked, selected and targeted.</li> <li>• where and how to report concerns and get support with issues online.</li> </ul>	<p>All of these aspects are covered in lessons within the Puzzles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relationships</li> <li>• Healthy Me</li> </ul>
<b>Physical health and fitness</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the characteristics and mental and physical benefits of an active lifestyle.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• the risks associated with an inactive lifestyle (including obesity).</li> <li>• how and when to seek support including which adults to speak to in school if they are worried about their health.</li> </ul>	<p>All of these aspects are covered in lessons within the Puzzles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Healthy Me</li> </ul>
<b>Healthy eating</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• what constitutes a healthy diet (including understanding calories and other nutritional content).</li> <li>• the principles of planning and preparing a range of healthy meals.</li> </ul>	<p>All of these aspects are covered in lessons within the Puzzles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Healthy Me</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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).</li> </ul>	
<b>Drugs, alcohol and tobacco</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>how to recognise early signs of physical illness, such as weight loss, or unexplained changes to the body.</li> <li>about safe and unsafe exposure to the sun, and how to reduce the risk of sun damage, including skin cancer.</li> <li>the importance of sufficient good quality sleep for good health and that a lack of sleep can affect weight, mood and ability to learn.</li> <li>about dental health and the benefits of good oral hygiene and dental flossing, including regular check-ups at the dentist.</li> <li>about personal hygiene and germs including bacteria, viruses, how they are spread and treated, and the importance of handwashing.</li> <li>the facts and science relating to immunisation and vaccination</li> </ul>	<p>All of these aspects are covered in lessons within the Puzzles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Healthy Me</li> </ul>
<b>Basic first aid</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>how to make a clear and efficient call to emergency services if necessary.</li> <li>concepts of basic first-aid, for example dealing with common injuries, including head injuries.</li> </ul>	<p>All of these aspects are covered in lessons within the Puzzles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Healthy Me</li> </ul>
<b>Changing adolescent body</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>key facts about puberty and the changing adolescent body, particularly from age 9 through to age 11, including physical and emotional changes.</li> <li>about menstrual wellbeing including the key facts about the menstrual cycle.</li> </ul>	<p>All of these aspects are covered in lessons within the Puzzles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Changing Me</li> <li>Healthy Me</li> </ul>

## **How is Jigsaw PSHE organised in school?**

Jigsaw brings together PSHE Education, emotional literacy, social skills and spiritual development in a comprehensive scheme of learning. Teaching strategies are varied and are mindful of preferred learning styles and the need for differentiation. Jigsaw is designed as a whole school approach, with all year groups working on the same theme (Puzzle) at the same time. This enables each Puzzle to start with an introductory assembly, generating a whole school focus for adults and children alike.

There are six Puzzles in Jigsaw that are designed to progress in sequence from September to July. Each Puzzle has six Pieces (lessons) which work towards an 'end product', for example, The School Learning Charter or The Garden of Dreams and Goals.

Each Piece has two Learning Intentions: one is based on specific PSHE learning (covering the nonstatutory national framework for PSHE Education but enhanced to address children's needs today); and one is based on emotional literacy and social skills development to enhance children's emotional and mental health. The enhancements mean that Jigsaw, the mindful approach to PSHE, is relevant to children living in today's world as it helps them understand and be equipped to cope with issues like body image, cyber and homophobic bullying, and internet safety.

Every Piece (lesson) contributes to at least one of these aspects of children's development. This is mapped on each Piece and balanced across each year group.

### **Differentiation/SEND**

Jigsaw is written as a universal core curriculum provision for all children. Inclusivity is part of its philosophy. Teachers will need, as always, to tailor each Piece to meet the needs of the children in their classes. To support this differentiation, many Jigsaw Pieces suggest creative learning activities that allow children to choose the media with which they work and give them scope to work to their full potential. To further help teachers differentiate for children in their classes with special educational needs, each Puzzle includes a P-level grid with suggested activities for children working at each of those levels. Schools need to demonstrate how delivery of the content will be made accessible to all pupils, including those with SEND. Schools should be aware that some pupils are more vulnerable to exploitation, bullying and other issues due to the nature of their SEND. Relationships Education and RSE can also be particularly important subjects for some pupils; for example, those with Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs or learning disabilities. Such factors should be taken into consideration in designing and teaching these subjects. In special schools and for some SEND pupils in mainstream schools there may be a need to tailor content and teaching to meet the specific needs of pupils at different developmental stages. As with all teaching for these subjects, schools should ensure that their teaching is sensitive, age-appropriate, developmentally appropriate and delivered with reference to the law.

If any changes are implemented nationally as a result of the Rochford Review Jigsaw will make the necessary amendments and offer this free update to all its schools.

## **Safeguarding**

Teachers need to be aware that sometimes disclosures may be made during these sessions; in which case, safeguarding procedures must be followed immediately. Sometimes it is clear that certain children may need time to talk one-to-one after the circle closes. It is important to allow the time and appropriate staffing for this to happen. If disclosures occur, the school's disclosure and/or confidentiality policy is followed.

In teaching Relationships Education and RSE, schools should ensure that the needs of all pupils are appropriately met, and that all pupils understand the importance of equality and respect. Schools must ensure that they comply with the relevant provisions of the Equality Act 2010, (please see The Equality Act 2010 and schools: Departmental advice), under which sexual orientation and gender reassignment are amongst the protected characteristics.

Schools should ensure that all of their teaching is sensitive and age appropriate in approach and content. At the point at which schools consider it appropriate to teach their pupils about LGBT, they should ensure that this content is fully integrated into their programmes of study for this area of the curriculum rather than delivered as a stand-alone unit or lesson. Schools are free to determine how they do this, and we expect all pupils to have been taught LGBT content at a timely point as part of this area of the curriculum.

## **Assessment, review and monitoring**

As part of the curriculum, teaching staff will carry out informal assessments as part of the units of work taught against the learning outcomes. The programme of study will be reviewed by the PSHE leader with teaching staff on a regular basis. Monitoring will be carried out by class teachers and the PSHE subject leader in line with the school's policy on monitoring. It is the individual teacher's responsibility to monitor and record individual progress. To support the teacher in tracking each child's Jigsaw Learning progress throughout the year, there is an overview sheet for each child: 'My Learning Progress This Year.' This sheet has the three attainment descriptors for each Puzzle (Puzzles 2-6). Teachers will use this to decide whether the child is working at, towards or beyond and highlight the appropriate descriptor box on that child's overview sheet. There is also space for the teacher's comments. This sheet gives a quick visual representation of where the child is in each Puzzle. Throughout the school observations and records will be made of children's knowledge, understanding and comments. These will inform future planning.

## **External contributors**

External contributors from the community, e.g. health promotion specialists, school nurses, social workers, and community police and fire officers, make a valuable contribution to the Jigsaw PSHE programme. Their input should be carefully planned and monitored so as to fit into and complement the programme. Visitors should be aware of the School's policy on visitors coming into school.

Teachers MUST always be present during these sessions and remain responsible for the delivery of the Jigsaw PSHE programme.

## **The Learning Environment**

Establishing a safe, open and positive learning environment based on trusting relationships between all members of the class, adults and children alike, is vital. To enable this, it is important that 'ground rules' are agreed and owned at the beginning of the year and are reinforced in every Piece – by using The Jigsaw Charter (ideally, teachers and children will devise their own Jigsaw Charter at the beginning of the year so that they have ownership of it).

## **Teaching Sensitive and Controversial Issues**

Sensitive and controversial issues are certain to arise in learning from real-life experience. Teachers will be prepared to handle personal issues arising from the work, to deal sensitively with, and to follow up appropriately, disclosures made in a group or individual setting. Issues that we address that are likely to be sensitive and controversial because they have a political, social or personal impact or deal with values and beliefs include: family lifestyles and values, physical and medical issues, financial issues, bullying and bereavement.

Teachers will take all reasonable, practical steps to ensure that, where political or controversial issues are brought to pupils' attention, they are offered a balanced presentation of opposing views. Teachers will adopt strategies that seek to avoid bias on their part and will teach pupils how to recognise bias and evaluate evidence. Teachers will seek to establish a classroom climate in which all pupils are free from any fear of expressing reasonable points of view that contradict those held either by their class teachers or their peers.

## **Answering Difficult Questions and Sensitive Issues**

Staff members are aware that views around RSE- and Drug and Alcohol Education-related issues are varied. However, while personal views are respected, all RSE and Drug and Alcohol Education issues are taught without bias using Jigsaw. Topics are presented using a variety of views and beliefs so that pupils are able to form their own, informed opinions but also respect that others have the right to a different opinion.

Both formal and informal RSE and Drug and Alcohol Education arising from pupils' questions are answered according to the age and maturity of the pupil(s) concerned. Questions do not have to be answered directly, and can be addressed individually later. The school believes that individual teachers must use their skill and discretion in this area and refer to the Child Protection Coordinator if they are concerned.

At Meadow Vale Primary School, we believe that RSE and Drug and Alcohol Education should meet the needs of all pupils, answer appropriate questions and offer support. In Jigsaw Pieces that cover RSE provision, this should be regardless of their developing sexuality and be able to deal honestly and sensitively with sexual orientation, answer appropriate questions and offer support.

Homophobic bullying is dealt with strongly yet sensitively. The school liaises with parents/carers on this issue to reassure them of the content and context.

## Confidentiality and Child Protection

As a general rule a child's confidentiality is maintained by the teacher or member of staff concerned. If this person believes that the child is at risk or in danger, she/he talks to the named child protection co-ordinator who takes action as laid down in the Child Protection Policy. All staff members are familiar with the policy and know the identity of the member of staff with responsibility for Child Protection issues. The child concerned will be informed that confidentiality is being breached and reasons why. The child will be supported by the teacher throughout the process.

## Policy Review

This policy is reviewed annually.

	Signed Headteacher	Signed Chair of Governors
Date of review:		
Date of next review:		