

# Whitehill Junior School



## RSHE Policy

(based on Jigsaw Model Policy- 2020)



## Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed in full by the Curriculum Committee every three years (Or sooner if significant changes to governing body.)

The policy was last reviewed and agreed by the Governing Body on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021.

It is due for review in November 2024 (up to 36 months from the above date).

### Key questions during the review should be:

- Does the policy still meet the needs of the pupils at Whitehill Junior School?
- Does the curriculum still fulfil the statutory requirements of the DfE's guidelines?

Signature .....

Date .....

### Head Teacher

Signature .....

Date .....

### Chair of Governors

### Curriculum Content:

For details of the units of work covered and the curriculum maps for each year group, you should refer to the overviews published on the school website using the links below:

[Year 3 RSHE](#)

[Year 4 RSHE](#)

[Year 5 RSHE](#)

[Year 6 RHSE](#)

## **Context**

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 (RSHE)**

At Whitehill Junior School, we teach Personal, Social, Health Education (now known as RSHE) 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 and specific skills' progression can be seen in the Curriculum section 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.

## **Parent Consultation**

In preparation for the introduction of the statutory content and in selecting a suitable scheme through which to deliver it, Whitehill Junior School engaged in a period of consultation with parents and staff in the Autumn Term 2019. This process will be repeated as appropriate to review the content following a suitable period of delivery.

## **Statutory Relationships and Health Education**

"The Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education (England) Regulations 2019, made under sections 34 and 35 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017, make Relationships Education compulsory for all pupils receiving primary education...They also make Health Education compulsory in all schools except independent schools. Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education(PSHE) continues to be compulsory in independent schools."

DfE Guidance p.8

"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...as well as making Health Education compulsory in all state-funded schools."

"In primary schools, we want the subjects to put in place the key building blocks of healthy, respectful relationships, focusing on family and friendships, in all contexts, including online. This will sit alongside the essential understanding of how to be healthy."

"These subjects represent a huge opportunity to help our children and young people develop. The knowledge and attributes gained will support their own, and others' wellbeing and attainment and

help young people to become successful and happy adults who make a meaningful contribution to society.”

Secretary of State Foreword DfE Guidance 2019 p.4-5

“Schools are free to determine how to deliver the content set out in the DfE guidance 2019 in the context of a broad and balanced curriculum. Effective teaching in these subjects will ensure that core knowledge is broken down into units of manageable size and communicated clearly to pupils, in a carefully sequenced way, within a planned programme of lessons.”

DfE Guidance p.8

“All schools must have in place a written policy for Relationships Education and RSE.”

DfE Guidance p.11

Here, at Whitehill Junior School School we value PSHE (RSHE) 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 (RSHE) 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, 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:

- [Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education \(RSE\) and Health Education](#) (statutory 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))

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 (RSHE) 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
<b>Autumn 1:</b>	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 Whitehill Junior School we allocate 30 minutes to PSHE each week (one hour per fortnight) in order to teach the PSHE (RSHE) 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.

## 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.

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.

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.

## **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'.

"Parents have the right to request that their child be withdrawn from some or all of sex education delivered as part of statutory Relationships and Sex Education" DfE Guidance p. 17

At Whitehill Junior 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 your child's class teacher in the first instance or alternatively, the Headteacher, Mr Steve Mills via the school office.

## **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 Whitehill Junior 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?’

Jigsaw PSHE documents needed to explain this policy:

- Jigsaw 3-11 and statutory Relationships and Health Education (mapping document)
- Including and valuing all children. What does Jigsaw teach about LGBTQ relationships?





## 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 references R3/H5 etc can be cross-referenced on the Jigsaw mapping documents and Puzzle Maps to show which lessons throughout Jigsaw contribute to which statutory outcomes. All statutory outcomes are covered in the Jigsaw 3-11 Programme.

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>• R1 that families are important for children growing up because they can give love, security and stability.</li> <li>• R2 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>• R3 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>• R4 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>• R5 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>• R6 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> </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>Caring friendships</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• R7 how important friendships are in making us feel happy and secure, and how people choose and make friends</li> <li>• R8 the characteristics of friendships, including mutual respect, truthfulness, trustworthiness, loyalty, kindness, generosity, trust, sharing interests and experiences and support with problems and difficulties</li> <li>• R9 that healthy friendships are positive and welcoming towards others and do not make others feel lonely or excluded</li> <li>• R10 that most friendships have ups and downs, and that these can often be worked through so that the friendship is repaired or even strengthened, and that resorting to violence is never right</li> <li>• R11 how to recognise who to trust and who not to trust, how to judge when a friendship is making them feel unhappy or uncomfortable, managing conflict, how to manage these situations and how to seek help and advice from others, if needed</li> </ul>	
<b>Respectful relationships</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• R12 the importance of respecting others, even when they are very different from them (for example, physically, in character, personality or backgrounds), or make different choices or have different preferences or beliefs</li> <li>• R13 practical steps they can take in a range of different contexts to improve or support respectful relationships</li> <li>• R14 the conventions of courtesy and manners</li> <li>• R15 the importance of self-respect and how this links to their own happiness</li> <li>• R16 that in school and in wider society they can expect to be treated with respect by others, and that in turn they should show due respect to others, including those in positions of authority</li> <li>• R17 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>• R18 what a stereotype is, and how stereotypes can be unfair, negative or destructive</li> <li>• R19 the importance of permission-seeking and giving in relationships with friends, peers and adults</li> </ul>	
<b>Online relationships</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• R20 that people sometimes behave differently online, including by pretending to be someone they are not.</li> <li>• R21 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> </ul>	<p>All of these aspects are covered in lessons within the Puzzles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relationships</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• R22 the rules and principles for keeping safe online, how to recognise risks, harmful content and contact, and how to report them.</li> <li>• R23 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>• R24 how information and data is shared and used online.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changing Me</li> <li>• Celebrating Difference</li> </ul>
<b>Being safe</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• R25 what sorts of boundaries are appropriate in friendships with peers and others (including in a digital context).</li> <li>• R26 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>• R27 that each person's body belongs to them, and the differences between appropriate and inappropriate or unsafe physical, and other, contact.</li> <li>• R28 how to respond safely and appropriately to adults they may encounter (in all contexts, including online) whom they do not know.</li> <li>• R29 how to recognise and report feelings of being unsafe or feeling bad about any adult.</li> <li>• R30 how to ask for advice or help for themselves or others, and to keep trying until they are heard,</li> <li>• R31 how to report concerns or abuse, and the vocabulary and confidence needed to do so.</li> <li>• R32 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>• H1 that mental wellbeing is a normal part of daily life, in the same way as physical health.</li> <li>• H2 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>• H3 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>• H4 how to judge whether what they are feeling and how they are behaving is appropriate and proportionate.</li> <li>• H5 the benefits of physical exercise, time outdoors, community participation, voluntary and service-based activity on mental well-being and happiness.</li> <li>• H6 simple self-care techniques, including the importance of rest, time spent with friends and family and the benefits of hobbies and interests.</li> <li>• H7 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>• H8 that bullying (including cyberbullying) has a negative and often lasting impact on mental well-being.</li> <li>• H9 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>• H10 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>• H11 that for most people the internet is an integral part of life and has many benefits.</li> <li>• H12 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>• H13 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>• H14 why social media, some computer games and online gaming, for example, are age restricted.</li> <li>• H15 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>• H16 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>• H17 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>• H18 the characteristics and mental and physical benefits of an active lifestyle.</li> <li>• H19 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>• H20 the risks associated with an inactive lifestyle (including obesity).</li> <li>• H21 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>• H22 what constitutes a healthy diet (including understanding calories and other nutritional content).</li> </ul>	<p>All of these aspects are covered in lessons within the Puzzles</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• H23 the principles of planning and preparing a range of healthy meals.</li> <li>• H24 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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Healthy Me</li> </ul>
<b>Drugs, alcohol and tobacco</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• H25 the facts about legal and illegal harmful substances and associated risks, including smoking, alcohol use and drug-taking</li> </ul>	
<b>Health and prevention</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• H26 how to recognise early signs of physical illness, such as weight loss, or unexplained changes to the body.</li> <li>• H27 about safe and unsafe exposure to the sun, and how to reduce the risk of sun damage, including skin cancer.</li> <li>• H28 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>• H29 about dental health and the benefits of good oral hygiene and dental flossing, including regular check-ups at the dentist.</li> <li>• H30 about personal hygiene and germs including bacteria, viruses, how they are spread and treated, and the importance of handwashing.</li> <li>• H31 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>• H32 how to make a clear and efficient call to emergency services if necessary.</li> <li>• H33 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>• H34 key facts about puberty and the changing adolescent body, particularly from age 9 through to age 11, including physical and emotional changes.</li> <li>• H35 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>



## Including and valuing ALL children

### What does Jigsaw teach about LGBT+ relationships?

Jigsaw, the mindful approach to PSHE, is a teaching programme for Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) which includes statutory Relationships Education, statutory Health Education and non-statutory Sex Education (DfE England 2019).

It is a comprehensive programme for pupils aged from 3-16, and designed by Jan Lever MBE, a teacher and psychotherapist.

There are six half-term Puzzles (units) sequenced from the beginning to the end of the school year:

- Being Me in My World
- Celebrating Difference
- Dreams and Goals
- Healthy Me
- Relationships
- Changing Me Each Puzzle has six lessons.

The Jigsaw Friends are used as distancing tools along with the Jigsaw Charter to ensure a safe learning environment. Mindfulness philosophy and practice underpins and permeates the programme.

This information leaflet has been written to provide information about Jigsaw's approach to LGBT+ relationships in the age 3-11 programme.

#### **Terminology:**

LGBT+: lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender. The + acknowledges sexualities and gender identities other than lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender.

In Jigsaw, we also ensure children understand the term heterosexual.

#### **Premise:**

Our experience shows us that children are good at accepting and looking past differences to the person. They are happy to be friends with/work with any peer they like and feel comfortable with, regardless of the differences that might be apparent. Of course, difference is sometimes used as a source of bullying and Jigsaw works hard to alleviate this.

So, firstly, it is important to state that Jigsaw nurtures positive and healthy relationships across the school community. It is concerned that all children understand what makes a relationship positive and healthy and can recognise and get help if they are experiencing something unhealthy etc. The starting point is building a positive, respectful relationship with self, engendering a sense of

belonging and inclusion. This work begins in the Being Me in My World Puzzle (unit) in all year groups and is reinforced throughout.

Therefore, there is minimal focus on sexual orientation and gender identity in the age 3 -11 programme; enough to enable children to understand the meaning of the words lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and heterosexual. At no point in this work is there any mention of sexual activity. It is about people and who they love, are attracted to and may want to marry or spend their lives with.

This work is about alleviating stereotyping, accepting and respecting all people and celebrating differences of all sorts. In this way we aim to value and include all children and all family compositions, not to mention all teachers and members of the school community, thus equipping children for life in the UK today.

### **What does Jigsaw PSHE teach about LGBT+ relationships and why?**

#### **1) Jigsaw believes all children should feel included**

Jigsaw is underpinned by the philosophy to value every child as a unique human being, to enable everyone to feel included and to celebrate difference, thus developing empathy, compassion and respect for self and others.

We believe that school is a place where all children should feel safe and respected.

Part of this is helping children to understand there are many differences and similarities between people and that this can be positive rather than a source of negativity, bullying or discrimination.

Jigsaw talks about children and people as being of equal value, without labels, and considers the qualities most important in human beings. It unpacks stereotypes and influences and helps children become mindful, aware of their thoughts and feelings and the impact these may have.

#### **Families**

One of the differences children will be familiar with is family composition.

There are many family situations; some children will have parents who are separated, some may live with a mum and a dad, some may have stepparents, some may live in extended multi-generational families, and some may be fostered or adopted. Some may have other family arrangements; and some of those in parenting roles will be heterosexual and some will be LGBT+. We believe the gender identity and sexual orientation of parents and family members is what it is. This is their business, no-one else's, and in children's eyes is insignificant as these are the people they love and who love and care for them.

Jigsaw therefore makes every effort to reflect a wide range of families in its images so that all children can resonate with their own experience of 'family'. No child should ever be made to feel less accepted, or that their family is any less loving and caring than another. Careful treatment is given to this work in Jigsaw to avoid children being at risk of picking up 'hidden messages that may suggest to them their family is 'not as good as' or 'not right'.

Children who feel unaccepted or isolated are more vulnerable, possibly feel less secure, and potentially less able to apply themselves to learning. Jigsaw works hard to ensure its materials are



accepting of all children and all families, (of course helping children to know how to get help if they are being harmed in any way).

The Jigsaw philosophy values every child as a unique human being and does not discriminate but supports them all to become the best they can be.

Jigsaw's lessons help children explore why a loving and caring family is important and how they contribute to that as members of their own families.

## **2) Jigsaw aims to eliminate bullying and give age-appropriate understanding**

Bullying is often focused on some aspect of difference, hence the Celebrating Difference work which includes anti-bullying work.

When discussing any differences between people, Jigsaw helps teach children to form opinions about others based on whether they are kind, law-abiding, respectful, trustworthy, and responsible people, rather than judging them on appearance or any other aspect of difference or on first impressions or unsubstantiated judgements.

Children will have heard, or will come to hear, words such as 'gay', 'lesbian' or 'transgender'. Sometimes these words can be used as insults or derogatory terms. In this context, Jigsaw explains the meanings of these words age-appropriately and teaches that these are not to be used in derogatory ways as this could cause hurt or harm and are disrespectful. No words are ever to be used to cause hurt or harm.

At no point in Jigsaw is any reference made to sexual activity of any adults regardless of their sexuality. This we strongly believe would be inappropriate and unacceptable. In ages 9-11 when human reproduction is taught (at the school's discretion) this is done from a biological standpoint. IVF and adoption are mentioned to ensure children are aware, but the focus is on teaching the biology of human reproduction.

Jigsaw lessons help by giving age-appropriate information, and by assisting teachers to clarify children's understanding of words and terminology. Explanations as to LGBT+ are always accompanied by explaining heterosexual so that LGBT+ relationships are not singled out as different to the 'norm' but rather seen as part of the whole range of relationships, sexual orientations and gender identities.

However, for ages 3-11 this work is minimal as we are most concerned to nurture accepting attitudes. Further understanding can follow at secondary school.

## **3) Schools have a duty to uphold the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED)**

The PSED or the Equality Act, as it is more commonly known, requires schools to eliminate discrimination; advance equality of opportunity; and foster good relationships. By doing so, the Equality Act encourages schools to meet the diverse needs of children and to improve outcomes for all pupils regardless of background. Part of the Equality 'duty' is to teach children about rights and responsibilities, acceptance, empathy and understanding of others. Jigsaw aligns to this throughout.

## **4) English schools have a duty to promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of their pupils, including understanding British values.**

The requirement to develop children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding is set out in the Education Act (2002).

In 2014, additional guidance was published for schools with regards to teaching British values. Guidance states that schools should promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance, and makes it clear that children should learn about discrimination and how to combat it. As previously discussed, Jigsaw lessons, particularly in the Celebrating Difference units of work, include teaching children about acceptance, empathy, prejudice and discrimination, and the rights and responsibilities they have as UK and global citizens. A school's SMSC education is an important part of the Ofsted inspection framework.

### **5) Schools have a legal obligation to safeguard their pupils**

Safeguarding guidance establishes that schools must protect all children from physical and emotional abuse including bullying (on and offline) and abuse that could happen from an adult or from other children. Teaching children to accept there are a whole range of differences in people, helps combat stigma, discrimination and bullying. Children also need to be taught how to access help if they are involved in a bullying, or abusive situation. Jigsaw's lessons, particularly in the Celebrating Difference and Relationships units of work, teach children why bullying can happen and why it is unfair, how to recognise a bullying/ abusive situation and how to get help. Within this work children discuss a wide range of reasons why some people are bullied, or become bullies, and this includes some discussion around name-calling which includes the inappropriate use of words such as 'gay' and 'lesbian' as an insult towards another person.

### **6) Statutory Relationships and Health Education in England**

Relationships Education and Health Education became statutory for all primary schools in England from September 2020; schools being required to follow the published guidance.

Primary children learn that not all families are the same and to respect these differences.

They also learn about bullying and how to treat others with respect, whether this is within their immediate relationships, or in the wider community.

The guidance also states that when learning about different families, care should be taken to avoid stigmatisation of children based on their home circumstances. It also reaffirms the duty for schools to comply with the Equality Act, where sexual orientation and genderreassignment are two of the nine protected characteristics.

The Relationships and Health Education guidance does not suggest a specific age when LGBT+ relationships should be brought into the curriculum, but there is an expectation for this to be included in a sensitive and age-appropriate manner, and in an inclusive way throughout, not simply as a one-off lesson or topic.

It is left to schools' discretion as to how and when they teach what in this regard, taking account of their children and families, situations, beliefs etc.

Schools using Jigsaw will be compliant with this statutory guidance.