



23 May 2025

Information about Relationships and Health Education

Dear Parents/Carers,

Relationships and Health Education is compulsory in all primary schools. (DfE Guidance 2019) At Ashford Church of England Primary School, we use Jigsaw, as our main scheme of work, to teach PSHE (Personal, Social, Health Education). The programme consists of 6 half-term units, each with 6 lessons. We call these Jigsaw 'Puzzles'. (Being Me in My World, Celebrating Difference, Dreams and Goals, Healthy Me, Relationships and Changing Me).

In the first half of the Summer Term, the focus has been on teaching about relationships. We develop positive relationships throughout the school year and through each Jigsaw Puzzle, but there is a more specific focus on this in this Unit of Work, with children learning about different relationships we have with our friends, family and communities (including staying safe online), and how these relationships change as we grow. We are an inclusive school community that teaches about respect and tolerance and celebrates diversity. Please refer to our website for further information.

In the second half of the Summer Term we will be teaching the 'Changing Me' Puzzle. This helps children learn to cope positively with all sorts of change. The content of these lessons is age appropriate and developmentally appropriate. It is taught sensitively and inclusively, with respect to the backgrounds and beliefs of our families.

Early Years and KS1

In Key Stage 1 the focus is on life cycles, valuing our own bodies and learning some vocabulary for the external body parts, that we might use if we needed to talk to an adult such as a nurse or a doctor. This is also important to lay the foundations for learning about puberty later.

KS2

In Key Stage 2 they will learn about puberty in this Puzzle, with lesson content being age appropriate and developmentally appropriate. There is a particular focus on the Health Education element of puberty in (including menstruation) and the changes that happen inside and outside the body. This is taught in a way that helps pupils feel prepared for the main changes that happen before puberty starts, and to encourage them to talk to an adult at home or at school if they have any questions.

As part of the science curriculum for upper KS2, children are taught about animal reproduction, a compulsory subject.

At Ashford Church of England Primary School, we believe children should understand the facts about human reproduction before they leave primary school.

We have therefore included a small amount of teaching about human reproduction within our PSHE scheme; 3 lessons in total- an introduction to human reproduction in Year 4 (Piece2 "having a baby"), Year 5, Piece 4 "Conception", and Year 6 piece 3, "Babies, conception to birth". We define conception as the act of sexual intercourse between two consenting adults, within a loving relationship. (Please refer to the table below)

The right to withdraw

As parents you have the right to withdraw your child from the non-statutory elements of our teaching. These are the 3 lessons referenced above on human reproduction (please refer to the contents table below for the exact lessons). You are unable to withdraw your child from any lessons within Relationship or Health Education (this includes puberty and menstruation). If you do wish to withdraw your child from the human reproduction lessons, please contact your class teacher, Mrs Forster or Mrs Bailey so we can discuss the implications of withdrawing.

What will my child be taught about puberty and human reproduction?

The Jigsaw unit 'Changing Me' is taught in the Summer Term and contains 6 pieces (lessons). Each year group will be taught appropriate to their age and developmental stage. This content will be taught by the class teacher. We will not teach beyond the remit of the year group. If questions are asked that the teacher feels are inappropriate or are beyond the content for that year group, the teacher may ask the child to ask their parent/carer, or the teacher may acknowledge the question and explain that we will learn about that aspect at another time.

The table below only covers the lessons (pieces) that relate to life cycles, the human body, puberty and human reproduction. The 3 lessons (pieces) that parents are able to withdraw their children from are highlighted in red font.

We are eager to work in partnership with parents

Please be aware that your child may ask you questions on what they have learnt. There is a leaflet attached to this email which gives tips on how to talk to your child about puberty and human reproduction. There is also the Usborne series of growing up books (<https://usborne.com/gb/books/series/growing-up>) that you might find useful.

We hope that the information we have provided is useful in understanding what your child will be learning next term.

Further information, including our Relationships and Health Education Policy, can also be found on our school website.

Should you have any question or concerns, please come and talk to your child's teacher.

Thank you again for your continued support,

Mrs A Forster (PSHE Lead)

Year 3	Piece 1 How Babies Grow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I understand that in animals and humans lots of changes happen from birth to fully grown, and that usually it is the female who has the baby I can express how I feel when they see babies or baby animals
	Piece 2 Babies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I understand how babies grow and develop in the mother's uterus and understand what a baby needs to live and grow (New vocab – uterus /womb) I can express how I might feel if they had a new baby in their family
	Piece 3 Outside Body Changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I understand that boys' and girls' bodies need to change so that when they grow up their bodies can make babies I can identify how boys' and girls' bodies change on the outside during this growing up process (introduce term puberty)
	Piece 4 Inside Body Changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I can identify how boys' and girls' bodies change on the inside during the growing up process and why these changes are necessary so that their bodies can make babies when they grow up (introduce vocab sperm, ovaries, egg, Ovum/ Ova, womb/uterus, vagina and period) I can recognise how I feel about these changes happening to me and know how to cope with these feelings <p>Note – this lesson briefly introduces the term 'period' and explains what a period is in simple terms.</p> <p>This lesson does not attempt any explanation of how the sperm and egg come together. If a child asks the question we will explain that the male and female decide when this happens and we will learn more about it at another time.</p>
Key Vocabulary: Changes, Birth, Animals, Babies, Mother, Growing up, Baby, Grow, Uterus, Womb, Nutrients, Survive, Love, Affection, Care, Puberty, Control, Male, Female, Testicles, Sperm, Penis, Ovaries, Egg, Ovum / ova, Womb / uterus, Vagina, Stereotypes, Task, Roles, Challenge, Looking forward, Excited, Nervous, Anxious, Happy		
Year 4	Piece 1 Unique Me	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I understand that some of my personal characteristics have come from my birth parents and that this happens because I am made from the joining of their egg and sperm. I appreciate that I am a truly unique human being
	Piece 2 Having A Baby Parents have the right to withdraw children from this session as it is classed as human reproduction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I can correctly label the internal and external parts of male and female bodies that are necessary for making a baby and explain in simple terms how this happens I understand that having a baby is a personal choice and express how they feel about having children when they are adults Note: This is a simple introduction to sexual intercourse with the teacher using a script which includes 'an especially close and loving embrace which allows the sperm to be released through the penis into the vagina.'
	Piece 3 Puberty and Menstruation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I can describe how a girl's body changes in order for her to be able to have babies when she is an adult, and that menstruation (having periods) is a natural part of this I have strategies to help me cope with the physical and emotional changes I will experience during puberty <p>Note – teachers will also recap the puberty learning for both girls and boys from year 3 and revisit some of the content if required.</p>
Key Vocabulary: Personal, Unique, Characteristics, Parents, Sperm, Egg / ovum, Penis, Testicles, Vagina / vulva, Womb / uterus, Ovaries, Making love, Having sex, Sexual intercourse, Fertilise,		

Conception, Puberty, Menstruation, Periods, Circle, Seasons, Change, Control, Emotions, Acceptance, Looking forward, Excited, Nervous, Anxious, Happy.		
Year 5	Piece 2 Puberty for Girls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I can explain how girls' bodies change during puberty and understand the importance of looking after themselves physically and emotionally I understand that puberty is a natural process that happens to everybody and that it will be OK for me
	Piece 3 Puberty for Boys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I can describe how boys' and girls' bodies change during puberty I can express how I feel about the changes that will happen to me during puberty
	Piece 4 Conception Parents have the right to withdraw children from this session as it is classed as human reproduction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I understand that sexual intercourse can lead to conception and that is how babies are usually made. I also understand that sometimes people need IVF to help them have a baby I appreciate how amazing it is that human bodies can reproduce in these ways
Key Vocabulary: Body-image, Self-image, Characteristics, Looks, Personality, Perception, Self-esteem, Affirmation, Comparison, Uterus, Womb, Oestrogen, Fallopian Tube, Cervix, Develops, Puberty, Breasts, Vagina, Vulva, Hips, Penis, Testicles, Adam's Apple, Scrotum, Genitals, Hair, Broader, Wider, Sperm, Semen, Erection, Ejaculation, Urethra, Wet dream, Growth spurt, Larynx, Facial hair, Pubic hair, Hormones, Scrotum, Testosterone, Circumcised, Uncircumcised, Foreskin, Epididymis, Ovaries, Egg (Ovum), Period, Fertilised, Unfertilised, Conception, Having sex, Sexual intercourse, Making love, Embryo, Umbilical cord, IVF, Foetus, Contraception, Pregnancy, Menstruation, Sanitary products, Tampon, Pad, Towel, Liner, Hygiene, Age appropriateness, Legal, Laws, Responsible, Teenager, Responsibilities, Rights		
Year 6	Piece 2 Puberty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I can explain how girls' and boys' bodies change during puberty and understand the importance of looking after yourself physically and emotionally I can express how I feel about the changes that will happen to me during puberty
	Piece 3 Babies – Conception to Birth Parents have the right to withdraw children from this session as it is classed as human reproduction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I can describe how a baby develops from conception through the nine months of pregnancy, and how it is born I recognise how I feel when I reflect on the development and birth of a baby

	Piece 4 Attraction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I understand how being physically attracted to someone changes the nature of the relationship • I can express how they feel about the growing independence of becoming a teenager and their confidence that they can cope with this
--	-----------------------	--

Key Vocabulary: Body-image, Self-image, Characteristics, Looks, Personality, Perception, Self-esteem, Affirmation, Comparison, negative body-talk, mental health, Uterus, Womb, Oestrogen, Fallopian Tube, Cervix, Develops, Puberty, Breasts, Vagina, Vulva, Hips, Penis, Testicles, Adam's Apple, Scrotum, Genitals, Hair, Broader, Wider, Sperm, Semen, Erection, Ejaculation, Urethra, Wet dream, Growth spurt, Larynx, Facial hair, Pubic hair, Hormones, Scrotum, Testosterone, Circumcised, Uncircumcised, Foreskin, Epididymis, Ovaries, Egg (Ovum), Period, Fertilised, Unfertilised, Conception, Having sex, Sexual intercourse, Making love, Embryo, Umbilical cord, IVF, Foetus, Contraception, Pregnancy, midwife, labour, Menstruation, Sanitary products, Tampon, Pad, Towel, Liner, Hygiene, Age appropriateness, Legal, Laws, Responsible, Teenager, Responsibilities, Rights, opportunities, freedoms, responsibilities, attraction, relationship, love, sexting, transition, secondary, looking forward, journey, worries, anxiety, excitement