

Frequently Asked Questions

In April 2021 the RSE policy was shared with all stakeholders. A presentation explaining the policy and the changes was shared on the school website. All parents and staff were invited to feedback their thoughts. This document shares what was asked and how we responded.

It looks like sex isn't taught until year 6 and will be taught as part of science? Is there a risk that the consent part will be missed if sex is taught as part of science?

We feel Jigsaw introduces the idea of consent as early as Year 1 when talking about friendships and their own bodies. For example this is one of the statutory objectives from Summer 1 in year 1, *"Can say no when they receive a touch they don't like."* As Jigsaw is a spiral curriculum the relationship topic is revisited each year and built upon previous learning. This includes encouraging the children they have the right to say no when they feel uncomfortable in certain situations, however the primary curriculum does not cover sexual intercourse consent explicitly. Additionally it is worth noting lessons are always adapted to the needs of the children and class teachers will keep parents informed as to what is being covered in the summer term when these topics are taught. This area would be covered in the relationships part of the PHSE curriculum. However, if it was to come up during a science lesson it would also be discussed at this point too as the two subjects are closely linked and we try to make links where possible.

Jigsaw seems to be a fair and sensitive way to explore this important subject. ... Will you encourage children in lessons to speak to their parents about the content? Overall a good choice and I as a parent am very relieved at this sensible approach.

We agree it is incredibly important that parents are kept informed as to what is being covered in school during your children's PHSE lessons. In the coming weeks you will receive a letter from your year group leader which will outline what is being covered this term during the PHSE lessons.

As an established PSHE programme, how much consideration can be taken for thoughts?

While we are using an established published programme we are able to adapt lessons according to the needs of each class. The class teacher teaches each lesson as we feel this is the person that knows the needs of the class best. We always strive to ensure the lessons meet the needs of the children.

How much focus is put on the potential differences within age group?

Jigsaw is a spiral curriculum so each topic is revisited each year and previous learning is built upon age appropriately. Each puzzle piece interlinked and provide a scaffold to learning.

It is important to highlight that sexual maturity is not a competition.

Yes, we agree and we consciously encourage individuality and emphasise how good it is for everyone to be different. We make it clear that everyone develops at their own rate and it is not a completion.

Regarding drug, alcohol and tobacco; regardless of legality, these are all with risks and can be serious, not only for the body, but also any "side effects" that could happen IF they are not in control.

The puzzle piece Healthy Me, taught in the Spring Term, covers this area at an age appropriate level and re-enforces this. In years 5 and 6 this topic is covered in more detail than lower in the school.

It would be great if topics presented thinking not only about the early developed but the slower or normally developed children.

As with all lessons we teach here at Collis we think carefully about the needs of the cohort, class and child. We adapt and modify the lessons according to the audience.

Does the curriculum extend to learning about how to stay safe online and the exposure to inappropriate content including children being aware of the features of grooming online?

Yes you are correct online safety is an integral part to the PSHE curriculum, however it is also embedded within the computing curriculum and is covered at any further opportunity that may arise. Additionally, annually we have an online safety day here at school and often cover the topic in assemblies and circle times. If you would like further information on this area especially there is quite a lot of information and video presentation from our Local Authority Online safety advisor on our school website <https://www.collis.richmond.sch.uk/e-safety/>.

We feel we have a shared responsibility when teaching this topic and we work hard to work in partnership with the parents on this important area. As you know at Collis we follow Jigsaw which is a spiral curriculum so each topic is revisited each year appropriate to the needs of the children.

Is the teaching of LGBTQ+ and transgender age appropriate for Year 6 students?

We feel that at Collis it is important to prepare pupils for the wider world and allow them to have the tools and information to let them make informed and responsible decisions about their lives, as well as have an understanding of people around them. We have chosen to use the Jigsaw scheme to teach PSHE at Collis because we feel that the lessons help to teach children about themselves and the world that they live in. Jigsaw focuses on developing a strong sense of identity, self-belief and self-esteem, within the whole-school PSHE programme. Jigsaw also includes all the requirements of statutory Relationships and Health Education (DfE England 2019). The Jigsaw programme creates an inclusive ethos. There are opportunities for transgender to be included in classroom discussions at the teacher's discretion, but there is only one lesson (for children aged 10-11 years) where this term is used explicitly. Please contact the school for an opportunity to look at resources linked to this.

Are the class teachers appropriately trained to deliver the content? Is there quality assurance?

PSHE is taught by the class teacher, as we feel it is important for the class teacher to develop a relationship with the class when teaching PSHE. As with any subject at Collis the class teacher plans a lesson that is suitable for the individual class and ensures that is appropriate to their needs. All teaching and learning including the teaching of PSHE is monitored by the

leadership team. Teachers who require support and guidance when teaching PSHE are able to speak to the PSHE co-ordinator, Rachel Cronin, the RSE co-ordinator Isobel McLeish, and the leadership team. We are also very lucky to have a good working relationship with the school nurse who can help teachers with the teaching of the subject. The Jigsaw curriculum also has a Jigsaw Mentor who we can work with to help with all aspects of the subject.

How will teachers support children if they are confused in the lessons?

As with any other subject, if a child was confused the teacher would offer support and guidance to help the child. If appropriate that would be done in the classroom environment, but we are also aware it may be best to speak to the child individually and at all times the parents would be kept informed. If there was a misunderstanding and confusion we would always endeavour to help the child to understand in an age appropriate way.

How do parents support the children when they bring the questions home?

Like all subjects we welcome parental support and the termly curriculum journeys are shared on the school website: <https://www.collis.richmond.sch.uk/topic/curriculum> will give information on what is being taught during that term. If more information was needed then the year group would share this with parents as necessary.

The Genito-urinary medicine doctors throughout my career have advocated for openness regarding sex education combined with guidance on how to protect oneself from STDs and unwanted pregnancy.

In addition, it is my belief that informed and sensitive conversations about assertiveness within the context of an unwanted sexual advance or an abuse of power have an important role alongside this.

We are pleased you feel that Collis are meeting the needs of the children and preparing them for the next stage of their development. It is reassuring to hear that what we are doing is in line with medical advice. We are pleased that parents have taken the time to give feedback and we have found this invaluable.

Other Comments from Parents and Staff:

I particularly appreciated the content of the Jigsaw program including the LGBTQ information which we are wholly supportive of and handled in a very appropriate, educative and straightforward manner I thought the relationship sections were well written and struck a good balance of what was healthy without being too prescriptive.

Just watched your PSHE video on the school website. Interesting (and so good) that Jigsaw covers LGBTQ helping to normalise.

One parent gave verbal feedback to Ms. McLeish at the end of the school day and was happy with what had been presented to parents but felt that it was not clear how they could give that feedback.