



POLICY FOR RELATIONSHIPS, SEX AND HEALTH EDUCATION

SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

"Do Everything with Love" (1 Corinthians 16:14)

At St Mary & St Joseph's it is our mission to

'Do Everything with Love'

We are committed to this because our faith in God is central and visible in our school, enabling everybody to feel loved and to achieve their very best.

You will see us support and nurture each other, treating everyone with mutual respect, to provide a learning environment that is engaging, challenging and inspiring so that our children will grow to become resilient, self-motivated learners.

We will be a school where every member of our community is valued and able to achieve their full potential.

In this policy the Governors and teachers, in partnership with pupils and their parents, have set out their intentions about relationships and health education (RSHE). Below, we have set out our rationale and approach to relationships and sex education along with health education at St Mary and St Joseph's, Wool.

Implementation and Review of Policy

Implementation of the policy has taken place after consultation with the Governors in the Autumn term 2020. This policy will be reviewed every 2 years by the Head teacher, RSHE Co-ordinator, the Governing Body and Staff. The next review date will be September 2022.

Dissemination

This policy has been given to all members of the Governing Body, and all teaching and non-teaching members of staff. Copies of the document will be available to all parents through the school office. Details of the content of the RSHE curriculum will also be published on the school's web site.

DEFINING RELATIONSHIP AND HEALTH EDUCATION

The DfE guidance states that “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” 1. It is about the development of the pupil’s knowledge and understanding of her or him as a sexual being, about what it means to be fully human, called to live in right relationships with self and others and being enabled to make moral decisions in conscience. In primary schools the focus 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.”2. This would include the topics of families and the people of who care for me, caring friendships, respectful relationships, online relationships and being safe.

STATUTORY CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS

We are legally required to teach those aspects of RSHE which are statutory parts of National Curriculum Science.

RATIONALE

‘I HAVE COME THAT YOU MIGHT HAVE LIFE AND HAVE IT TO THE FULL’

(Jn.10.10)

We are involved in relationships and health education precisely because of our Christian beliefs about God and about the human person. The belief in the unique dignity of the human person made in the image and likeness of God underpins the approach to all education in a Catholic school. Our approach to RSHE therefore is rooted in the Catholic Church’s teaching of the human person and presented in a positive framework of Christian ideals.

All RSHE will be in accordance with the Church’s moral teaching. It will emphasise the central importance of marriage and the family whilst acknowledging that all pupils have a fundamental right to have their life respected whatever household they come from. It will also prepare pupils for life in modern Britain.

VALUES AND VIRTUES

Our programme enshrines Catholic values relating to the importance of stable relationships, marriage and family life. It also promotes those virtues which are essential in responding to God’s call to love others with a proper respect for their dignity and the dignity of the human body. The following virtues will be explicitly explored and promoted: faithfulness, fruitfulness, chastity, integrity, prudence, mercy and compassion.

AIM OF RSHE

Our school aims to raise pupils' self-esteem, help them to grow in knowledge and understanding, recognise the value of all persons and develop caring and sensitive attitudes. We believe that RSHE is an integral part of this education.

Objectives

To develop the following **attitudes and virtues**:

- respect for the dignity of every human being;
- responsibility for their own actions and a recognition of the impact of these on others;
- recognising and valuing their own identity and that of others;
- celebrating the gift of life-long, self-giving love;
- recognising the importance of marriage and family life.

To develop the following **personal and social skills**:

- making sound judgements and good choices which have integrity;
- loving and being loved, and the ability to form friendships and loving, stable relationships free from exploitation, abuse and bullying;
- managing emotions within relationships, and when relationships break down, with confidence, sensitivity and dignity;
- managing conflict positively, recognising the value of difference;
- cultivating humility, mercy and compassion, learning to forgive and be forgiven;
- developing self-esteem and confidence, demonstrating self-respect and empathy for others;
- building resilience and the ability to resist unwanted pressures
- assessing risks and managing behaviours in order to minimise the risk to health and personal integrity.

To **know and understand**:

- the Church's teaching on relationships and the nature and meaning of love;
- the Church's teaching on marriage and the importance of marriage and family life;
- the physical and psychological changes that accompany puberty;
- the facts about human reproduction, how love is expressed sexually and how sexual love plays an essential and sacred role in procreation.

Outcomes

INCLUSION AND DIFFERENTIATED LEARNING

We will ensure RSHE is sensitive to the different needs of individual pupils in respect to pupils' different abilities, levels of maturity and personal circumstances; for example, their own faith or culture and is taught in a way that does not subject pupils to discrimination. Lessons will also help children to realise the nature and consequences of discrimination, teasing, bullying and aggressive behaviours (including cyber-bullying), use of prejudice-based language and how to respond and ask for help.

(See Appendix 1 for copy of Ten Ten RSHE Topic Overview)

PARENTS AND CARERS

We recognise that parents (and other carers who stand in their place) are the primary educators of their children. As a Catholic school, we provide the principal means by which the Church assists parents and carers in educating their children.

Parents/carers will be informed when the more sensitive aspects of RSHE will be covered in order that they can be prepared to answer questions the children may have.

Parents must be consulted before this policy is ratified by the governors. Our aim is that, at the end of the consultation process, every parent and carer will have full confidence in the school's RSHE programme to meet their child's needs.

Parents continue to have **the right to withdraw** their children from Sex Education except in those elements which are required by the National Curriculum science orders. Should parents wish to withdraw their children they are asked to notify the school by contacting the head teacher. The school will provide support by providing material for parents to help the children with their learning.

BALANCED CURRICULUM

Whilst promoting Catholic values and virtues and teaching in accordance with Church teaching, we will ensure that pupils are offered a balanced programme by providing an RSHE programme that offers a range of viewpoints on issues. Pupils will also receive clear scientific information as well as covering the aspects of the law pertaining to RSHE. Knowing about facts and enabling young people to explore differing viewpoints is not the same as promoting behaviour and is not incompatible with our school's promotion of Catholic teaching. We will ensure that pupils have access to the learning they need to stay safe, healthy and understand their rights as individuals.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR TEACHING THE PROGRAMME

RSHE is a whole school issue. All teachers have a responsibility of care; as well as fostering academic progress they should actively contribute to the guardianship and guidance of the physical, moral and spiritual well-being of their pupils. Teachers will be expected to teach RSHE in accordance with the Catholic Ethos of the school. Appropriate training will be made available for all staff teaching RSHE. All staff have been included in the development of this policy and all staff should be aware of the policy and how it relates to them.

PSHE/RSHE Co-Ordinator

The co-ordinator with the head teacher has a general responsibility for supporting other members of staff in the implementation of this policy and will provide a lead in the dissemination of the information relating to RSHE and the provision of in-service training. (They may be supported by the curriculum deputy and the member of staff with responsibility for child protection).

CHILDREN'S QUESTIONS

The governors want to promote a healthy, positive atmosphere in which RSHE can take place. They want to ensure that pupils can ask questions freely, be confident that their questions will be answered, and be sure that they will be free from bullying or harassment from other children and young people.

Controversial or Sensitive issues

There will always be sensitive or controversial issues in the field of RSHE. These may be matter of maturity, of personal involvement or experience of children, of disagreement with the official teaching of the Church, of illegal activity or other doubtful, dubious or harmful activity. The governors believe that children are best educated, protected from harm and exploitation by discussing such issues openly within the context of the RSHE programme. The use of ground rules, negotiated between teachers and pupils, will help to create a supportive climate for discussion. Some questions may raise issues which it would not be appropriate for teachers to answer during ordinary class time.

SUPPORTING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE AT RISK

Children will also need to feel safe and secure in the environment in which RSHE takes place. Effective RSHE will provide opportunities for discussion of what is and is not appropriate in relationships. Such discussion may well lead to 8 CES A Model Policy for Relationships and Sex Education 2016 Revised 2020 disclosure of a safeguarding issue. Teachers will need to be aware of the needs of their pupils and not let any fears and worries go unnoticed. Where a teacher suspects that a child or young person is a victim of or is at risk of abuse, they are required to follow the school's safeguarding policy and immediately inform the designated senior member of staff responsible.

CONFIDENTIALITY AND ADVICE

All governors, all teachers, all support staff, all parents and all pupils must be made aware of this policy, particularly as it relates to issues of advice and confidentiality. Pupils will be encouraged to talk to their parents/carers about the issues which are discussed in the programme.

References

1 Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSHE) and Health Education: Statutory guidance for governing bodies, proprietors, head teachers, principals, senior leadership teams, teachers Page 4

2 Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSHE) and Health Education: Statutory guidance for governing bodies, proprietors, head teachers, principals, senior leadership teams, teachers Page 19