



St John's Church of England Primary School

## **Relationships, Sex and Health Education Policy**

Written with reference to the The Church of England model for RSE

Date Approved:	Autumn 2023
Headteacher:	Ms Anna Pyatt
Chair of Governors:	Mr Robin Davis
Review Date:	Autumn 2024

Love, Respect, Value

St John's Church of England Primary School is committed to high expectations for all and to embracing equality.

## **Purpose**

'Loving your neighbour', 'Respecting each other' and 'Valuing Diversity' sit at the heart of St John's C of E Primary School and reflect our Christian ethos of valuing every child as a unique child of God.

'We undertake to follow the principles in the Church of England *Charter for faith sensitive and inclusive relationships education, relationships and sex education (RSE) and health education (RSHE)*':

It should be read in conjunction with the following policies:

- Teaching and Learning Policy
- Physical Education Policy
- PSHE policy
- Child Protection Policy
- Confidentiality Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Anti-bullying Policy
- Inclusion/SEND policy
- Equality Statement and Objectives
- Equality Act 2010

## **Morals and Values Framework**

At St John's C of E Primary School, we want young people to flourish and to gain every opportunity to live fulfilled lives. Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education is about the emotional, social and physical aspects of growing up, healthy relationships, sex, human sexuality and sexual health. It is also about the spiritual and moral aspects of relationships within a context of a Christian vision for the purpose of life.

As such, in C of E Schools, Relationships, Sex and Health Education lessons will help pupils explore the foundational ethic of "Love your neighbour as yourself" (Mark 12.31). Pupils will have considered how to ensure that they treat themselves and others, at all times and in all contexts, with dignity and respect.

## **Aims**

The aims of this policy are in accordance with the DfE Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education (2019) which makes relationships education compulsory in primary schools. In an age appropriate way, we endeavour for the children to understand the following:

## **Relationships Education:**

### **Learning to have healthy life-giving relationships with others**

- To teach fundamental building blocks of characteristics of positive relationships (friendships, family and relationships with other children/adults)
- To know what a relationship is, what friendship is, what family means and who can support them
- To establish awareness of personal space and boundaries
- To show respect and understanding of the difference between appropriate and inappropriate contact
- To understand features of healthy relationships in a range of contexts so children understand the features which will lead to happiness and security
- To understand online safety and appropriate relationships within this context
- To know that families of many forms other than two birth parents provide a nurturing environment for children. These families can include single parent families, step and extended families, LGBTQ+ parents, families headed by grandparents, adoptive parents, foster parents and carers among other structures
- To ensure there is no stigmatisation of children based on their home circumstances and needs
- To know that the ability to form positive relationships also contributes to certain character traits such as being able to achieve, perseverance and resilience
- To nurture self-respect and personal attributes including honesty, integrity, courage, kindness, generosity and a sense of justice
- To help children gain access to information and support if required

## **Sex Education:**

### **Learning about what might make healthy life-giving intimate relationships**

The National Curriculum for Science includes content about human body parts, growth, puberty and reproduction. Parents do not have the right to withdraw from this aspect of the curriculum.

At St John's C of E Primary School, we have decided that it is important to include age appropriate sex education as part of our PSHE programme to protect and prepare the children in our community. Parents do have the right to excuse their children from this aspect of sex education and can do so by applying in writing to the Headteacher. We will invite you to talk through your concerns, review the materials we will use and explain our rationale.

- To ensure that both boys and girls are prepared for puberty
- To build upon the science curriculum so they understand how a baby is conceived and born

The National Curriculum for Science and the aspects of Relationships and Sex Education for each year group can be viewed here:

[Science and RSE \(Jigsaw\) overview](#)

### **Health Education:**

#### **Learning to be in a healthy relationship with myself and how to look after myself:**

- To ensure children understand the characteristics of good physical health and mental well-being
- To know that mental well-being is a normal part of daily life, in the same way as physical health
- To equip children to make good decisions about their own health and well-being (including sleep, nutrition, exercise)
- To help children articulate how they are feeling and develop the language to talk about their bodies, health and emotions
- To know how to seek support as early as possible from appropriate sources
- To understand that good physical health contributes to good mental well-being, and vice versa
- To promote children's self-control and ability to self-regulate, and strategies for doing so
- To reduce stigma attached to health issues, in particular those to do with mental well-being
- To ensure children understand the changes that will occur in puberty (including menstruation)
- To understand the benefits of rationing time online

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

The PSHE Lead is the designated teacher with responsibility for relationship and sex education.

All staff teaching this sensitive and important subject have received training and it is taught by the classroom teacher. It is important that pupils have confidence in the teacher and that a 'safe space' is created where pupils feel confident and can ask age appropriate questions. There may, however, be occasions when outside visitors are invited to teach (such as the School Nurse). It is delivered through the Jigsaw PSHE curriculum, Science, RE as well as our whole school approach to Protective Behaviours and pastoral care.

## **Access to RSE**

In accordance with the Equality Act 2010 we seek to: a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the act, b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it, c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Our RSE Policy seeks to eliminate discrimination and foster good relations by teaching pupils about a wide spectrum of people and their lives; including people who share protected characteristics (ethnicity, sex, religion, age, culture, disability, sexuality, language, special needs, disadvantage and/or legal status).

It is our intention that all children have the opportunity to experience a programme of RSE at a level which is appropriate for their age and physical development with differentiated provision if required. Pupils with SEND will have had the content made accessible to them by differentiated questions and resources as well as targeted support in or out of class should this be required.

## **Specific Issues**

Parents/Carers have the right to withdraw their children from Sex Education provided at school except for those parts included in statutory National Curriculum Science. Those parents/carers wishing to exercise this right are invited in to see the Headteacher and/or PSHE Leader who will explore any concerns and discuss any impact that withdrawal may have on the child.

Once a child has been withdrawn they cannot take part in the Sex Education programme until the request for withdrawal has been removed. Materials are available to parents/carers who wish to supplement the school programme

As outlined in the DfE document, parents cannot withdraw their child from any of the Relationships aspect of the RSE curriculum.

## **Confidentiality and Child Protection**

Teachers need to be aware that effective relationships and sex education, which brings an understanding of what is and is not acceptable in a relationship, may lead to a disclosure of a child protection issue. If this happens, the staff member involved will inform the Designated Safeguarding Lead Miss Anna Pyatt or one of the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads (Mrs

Moore and Ms Stevens ) who will act in accordance with our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policies.

A staff member cannot promise confidentiality if concerns arise. The child will be supported by the teacher throughout the process.

**Answering Difficult Questions**

Staff are aware that views around RSE related issues are varied. However, while personal views are respected, all RSE issues are taught without bias. Topics are presented using a variety of views and beliefs so that pupils are able to form their own, informed opinions but also respect others that may have a different opinion. Both formal and informal RSE topics and concerns arising from pupils’ questions are answered according to the age and maturity of the pupil(s) involved. Questions do not have to be answered directly, and can be addressed individually later. Provision may be made to meet the individual child’s needs.

**Monitoring and evaluation**

It is important to engage parents in the consultation process and, to do so, a working group will be formed where a selection of parents are invited to join and participate in discussion pertaining to RSE. This group may meet twice a year. In addition, the Subject Lead will plan and produce a pre-recorded presentation which will be shared with staff and parents as part of an Information Evening. Feedback from this will be evaluated, considered and discussed as part of the consultation process.

This policy will be monitored and evaluated by the PSHE Subject Lead annually in discussion with Governors, staff and parents in the working group.

Signed and date	The policy document must be signed and dated by the Headteacher and Chair of the Governing Body. A review date should also be stated.
-----------------	---