

Foulridge St Michael & All Angels C of E (VA) Primary School



Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) Policy

You shall love your neighbour as yourself.

Matt 22:39

Approved by : Curriculum Committee/Full Governing Body

Date: November 2021

Review date:

MISSION STATEMENT

Working together to achieve our best, we listen, love and learn through Christ.

Vision

The greatest commandment Jesus taught was to love God and to love your neighbour. Within this commandment is the foundation of the Christian view of relationships. At St Michael & All Angels Church of England School our relationship education seeks to live out this command and explore how we can 'love our neighbour' through what we say and do. Our school focusses on the importance of relationships and the qualities and character needed to sustain the best relationships that honour each other whether within a friendship, family relationship or romantic relationship.

Each child is a unique being, a child of God, loved and accepted. As such, our school seeks to enable children to develop through an inclusive programme of teaching that is based on Christian principles, which both respects the human body and seeks to ensure health and well-being.

Aims

The aims of relationship and sex education at St Michael & All Angels CE Primary School are:

- To ensure Sex and Relationships Education is part of a child's broad, balanced curriculum, integral to the basic curriculum of the school and part of the child's all-round development.
- To enable pupils to understand the qualities of healthy relationships based on Christian principles, including the importance of marriage and lifelong commitments as a basis for sexual relationship.
- To prepare children for healthy relationships in an online world.
- To understand how to stay safe, know the importance of boundaries and how to report abuse or feelings of being unsafe.

- Help pupils develop a positive and secure personal identity, a sense of their own value and feelings of confidence and empathy.
- Create a positive culture around issues of sexuality and relationship.
- To ensure that all understand the importance of respecting others and accepting those who differ, yet challenging those behaviours and attitudes which exploit others and do not reflect Christian values.
- To know how to 'love your neighbour' even when we might disagree.

Statutory requirements

This school complies with the requirements of the Equality Act and the Public Sector Equality Duty in addition to complying with the statutory guidance on Relationships Education, Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education.

Policy Development and Review

This policy has been developed in consultation with governors, staff, pupils and parents. The consultation and policy development process involved the following steps:

1. Review - an SLT member gathered all relevant information including relevant national, diocesan and local guidance.
2. Staff consultation - all school staff were given the opportunity to look at the policy and make recommendations (8th February 2021)
3. Parent/stakeholder consultation - the draft policy was placed on the school website where parents and any interested parties were invited to ask questions about the proposed policy. Responses to the questions raised by parents/interested parties will be posted on the school website (9th February 2021).
4. Pupil consultation - we investigated what exactly pupils want from their RSE
5. Ratification - once amendments are made, the policy will be shared with Governors Curriculum Committee before formal ratification by the full governing body.

This policy will be reviewed every 3 years using the above process, drawing on the views of pupils, parents, staff and the community at the time of review.

Definitions

Relationships Education

Is the programme of work that forms part of the basic curriculum. It covers all types of relationships including online, peer to peer, family and carer relationships. It also covers respect for others and staying safe.

Sex Education

Is a programme of work that builds on our science curriculum in Key Stage 2 and covers how a baby is conceived and born.

Health Education

Is a programme of teaching about puberty, physical health and fitness, healthy eating, mental wellbeing, drugs, alcohol and tobacco.

The Science curriculum covers human reproduction (see Science Policy)

Right to be excused from sex education

Parents have the right to request that their child be withdrawn from some or all of sex education delivered as part of RSE.

Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing and addressed to the headteacher. A copy of the withdrawal request will be placed in the pupil's educational record. The Headteacher will arrange a meeting to discuss the request with parents and, where appropriate the child, and take appropriate action.

Parents cannot withdraw their child from any part of Relationship Education as this now forms part of the basic curriculum and is a requirement of the government's statutory guidance

Alternative work will be given to pupils who are withdrawn from Sex Education.

Curriculum Delivery of RSE

Appendix 1 outlines the curriculum overview for the school in relation to RSE showing which topics are taught in which years. In addition, the overview indicates where cross curricular work covers RSE content.

All content is adapted to meet the needs of pupils with special educational needs or disabilities and where specific adaptations are needed, they are detailed in the overview.

Difficult questions & sensitive issues in relation to sex education

Our school's Relationship and Sex Education programme will provide opportunities for children to 'talk honestly and openly'. At the same time, we have to respect the pace of children's maturation. We feel that some topics are best postponed until the secondary school years. There are also sensitive or controversial topics (see below) over which some staff, parents and governors may have reasonable concerns.

Our school has decided not to teach about or answer questions on:

- Different forms of sexual intercourse including homosexual practices or foreplay
- Rape
- Exploitative or violent sexual practices
- Incest
- Abortion
- Prostitution
- Contraception
- Masturbation
- Male circumcision / Female Genital Mutilation
- AIDS/HIV issues will be discussed in an age-appropriate and sensitive manner as and when they are encountered

If a child asks a question on any topic listed in the first section of the above list, teachers will explain that this is a matter not dealt with in school, that the child should consult his/her

parent for an answer. The school will normally seek to inform parents when such a question is asked.

In some cases, a question or request for advice may indicate the pupil to be at risk or in danger, in which case appropriate action will be taken in accordance with the school's written policy and procedure for Child Protection. This also means that if a pupil puts a private question to a teacher or other member of staff and requests secrecy, no promise of secrecy or confidentiality will be given, but with the reassurance that any steps taken will always be in the pupil's best interest.

Roles and responsibilities

The Governing Body

The Governing Body will approve the RSE policy and hold the headteacher to account for its implementation.

The headteacher

The headteacher is responsible for ensuring that RSE is taught in a carefully sequenced way within a planned programme, and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from sex education.

Staff

Staff are responsible for:

- Teaching in line with the Church of England foundation of the school.
- Delivering RSE with sensitivity.
- Modelling positive attitudes to RSE.
- Responding to the needs of individual pupils.
- Responding appropriately to pupils whose parents wish them to be withdrawn from sex education.

Staff do not have the right to opt out of teaching RSE. Staff who have concerns about teaching RSE are encouraged to discuss this with the headteacher.

All teaching staff are responsible for teaching RSE at St Michael & All Angels CE Primary School.

Pupils

Pupils are expected to engage fully in RSE and, when discussing issues related to RSE, treat others with respect and sensitivity.

Training

Staff are trained on the delivery of RSE this is completed in house by the subject lead and through external training led by relevant specialists.

The headteacher may also invite visitors, such as school nurses or sexual health professionals, to assist with the delivery of RSE or to train staff. Any visitors will follow the school policy and deliver in line with the Church of England ethos of the school.

Monitoring arrangements

The delivery of RSE is monitored through:

- Teacher planning
- Work scrutinies
- Learning walks
- Discussions with pupils / staff regarding the implementation of our scheme of work

Appendix I-Curriculum Overview