



## Relationships and Sex Education Response to consultation / FAQs

### Faith perspective

The RSE curriculum is designed to help children from all backgrounds build positive and safe relationships, and to thrive in modern Britain. Our School has a distinctive Christian religious character, and we believe that teaching about Relationships builds on our Core Christian Values of Love and Equality and is in line with the Church's teaching. The Church of England charter, [Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education \(RSE\) and Health Education \(RSHE\) in Church of England Schools](#), states, 'All pupils have a right to an education which enables them to flourish and is set in a learning community where differences of lifestyle and opinion (within that which is permissible under UK law) are treated with dignity and respect'.

### Marriage and relationships

Relationships Education is not taught just through the RSE unit – other units include Mental Health and Wellbeing; Identity, Society and Equality; Keeping Well and Managing Risk. Some of the content is taught through Mindmate modules – Feeling good and being me; Friends and family; Being the same being different; Life changes. Mindmate lessons are modern Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) lessons. For more details about the Mindmate lessons, please take a look at the Scheme of Work in the [documents section here](#). Some of the statutory content on online relationships is also explored through our Computing Curriculum.

See below for statutory Relationships Education content relating to marriage in 'Family and People who care for me'. Although marriage is explored as a formal and legal commitment, it is caring and loving relationships that are recognised as important as a basis of family life.

### Gender identity

At Aberford CE Primary School we teach about equality. Gender identity is not explicitly 'taught' as such, but the approach of the school is that we want our children to grow up respectful and tolerant members of our community and we want all children in school to feel their feelings are valid. Britain is diverse and they are going to meet people who are different to them as they grow up.

Gender comes up explicitly in the RSE unit in Year 2 when talking about common stereotypes of boys and girls. We want children to understand that boys and girls can do the same tasks and enjoy the same things, but that stories, TV and people sometimes say boys do this and girls do that. From the Church of England document on [Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education \(RSE\) and Health Education \(RSHE\) in Church of England Schools](#), 'RSHE should ensure that children are able to cherish themselves and others as unique and wonderfully made, keep themselves safe and able to form healthy relationships where they respect and afford dignity to others.'

### Homosexuality

In Primary school we do not teach faith perspectives on homosexuality (indeed each religion doesn't necessarily have one viewpoint). Although a faith school, we will be teaching in line with the law and equality act. Again it is not explicitly 'taught' but family relationships are discussed as being of all shapes, sizes and make ups. Loving relationships are promoted above all else. From the Church of England document on [Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education \(RSE\) and Health Education \(RSHE\) in Church of England Schools](#), 'Everyone will be treated with dignity as all people are made in the image of God and loved equally by God.'



When faith perspectives are at odds with other people's views, we will welcome open and respectful discussions, but ensure children understand that people are entitled to their own opinion. As the CofE charter states, the RSE curriculum *'should afford dignity and worth to the views of pupils from the faith and other communities represented in the school as part of ensuring that the Equality Act of 2010 is applied in the school. It should recognise that there is no hierarchy of protected characteristics in the Equality Act and that sometimes different protected characteristics can be in tension as they cannot necessarily be equally protected at all times.'*

### **Single sex teaching**

The DFE recommends whole class teaching rather than teaching certain topics single sex. Children will be given the opportunity to ask teachers questions in small groups or individually.

From the [Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education \(RSE\) and Health Education Statutory Guidance](#): *'Schools should consider what they can do to foster healthy and respectful peer-to-peer communication and behaviour between boys and girls, and provide an environment, which challenges perceived limits on pupils based on their gender or any other characteristic, including through these subjects and as part of a whole-school approach.'*

### **Resources and Right to Withdraw**

There are no real life images in the resources that we use – they are cartoons or drawings. Parents will be sent a letter before Y6 Sex Education lessons. If you so wish, you can speak with the teacher at the time and take a look at the resources ahead of the lessons. Parents have a right to withdraw their child from any Sex Education lessons that go above and beyond the statutory science, relationships education, health education content.

The statutory content of the Relationships Education states:

Pupils should know:

- that families are important for children growing up because they can give love, security and stability.
- the characteristics of healthy family life, commitment to each other, including in times of difficulty, protection and care for children and other family members, the importance of spending time together and sharing each other's lives.
- that others' families, either in school or in the wider world, sometimes look different from their family, but that they should respect those differences and know that other children's families are also characterised by love and care for them.
- that stable, caring relationships, which may be of different types, are at the heart of happy families, and are important for children's security as they grow up.
- that marriage represents a formal and legally recognised commitment of two people to each other which is intended to be lifelong.