

Bishop Martin CE Primary School



'Learning Together, Growing in Faith'

'May Your Light Shine Before Others So They May See Your Good Deeds' (Matthew 5.16).

Relationships & Sex Education Policy

Jan 2024

Review Date: Jan 26

Vision and Values

Our school motto statement '**Learning Together, Growing in Faith**' is underpinned by the gospel saying '**May Your Light Shine Before Others So They May See Your Good Deeds**' (Matthew 5.16). Our five Core Christian Values are: **Hope, Trust, Respect, Kindness** and in the centre of all four of these, **Love**. These values are represented, throughout school, by our Values Design. Rooted in the Bible Quotes around the outside of the design, the four Values of **Hope, Trust, Kindness and Respect** all flow towards the centre where our motto sits, surrounded by the heart representing **Love**. This design, its meaning and symbolism and these Christian Values were agreed upon with all members of the family of Bishop Martin fully involved.



This document should be read in conjunction with other Safeguarding related school policies and Reference documents.

- **Behaviour Policy**
- **Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy.**
- **Teaching and Learning Policy**
- **Equal Opportunities Policy**

This is the policy of Bishop Martin on the approach taken to Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE), due to be approved Spring term following a consultation with parents and carers in Spring One.

1. Legal Context

The law was changed with effect from September 2020 so that primary schools in England must teach relationships education and health education (*The Children and Social Work Act 2017*).

- The relationships education part of the new curriculum teaches what children need to learn to build positive and safe relationships with family and friends and online.
- The health education part of the new curriculum covers both physical health and mental wellbeing and teaches children how to make good decisions about their own health and wellbeing; how to recognise issues in themselves and in others; and how to seek support as early as possible when issues arise.

Sex education is not compulsory in primary schools, but:

- The new Curriculum for Relationships Education and Health Education does include content on puberty.
- The National Curriculum for Science includes subject content in related areas, such as the main external body parts; the human body as it grows from birth to old age (including puberty); and reproduction in some plants and animals.

Following this change in the law, the Department for Education published *Statutory Guidance for Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education (2019)*. This guidance requires primary schools in England to have a written relationships education policy to cover the following:

- How relationships education is delivered
- What sex education (if any) a school chooses to cover that goes beyond the National Curriculum for Science and Relationships Education.

There is no equivalent requirement for a health education policy but, in line with best practice, this RSHE policy also covers health education.

This RSHE policy also supports legal requirements relating to the following:

- *The Equality Act 2010.*
- *The Education Act 1996.*
- *Statutory guidance, Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020.*

The following policies are also relevant to this Relationships and Health Education policy:

- Anti-bullying
- Child Protection
- Behaviour

2. Definition

RSHE supports children and young people's personal development including their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Its aims are to help children and young people to deal with the real-life issues they face as they grow up and that they will encounter as adults. Their learning will support them both online and offline, to make informed choices about their safety, physical and mental health, enabling them to live positive and fulfilled lives.

RSHE is enhanced by a supportive school ethos where everyone is valued, positive relationships are promoted and there is a safe learning environment for all.

3. Aims

The aims of our RSHE programme are:

- Provide accurate and age-appropriate information.
- Include all children.
- Help children make informed choices.
- Develop knowledge, skills and attitudes.
- Build confidence and self-esteem.
- Develop personal attributes.
- Prepare children for the next stage of education and adulthood.
- Develop positive and inclusive attitudes to everyone, particularly to those with protected characteristics under the *Equality Act 2010*.

4. Roles and Responsibilities

An effective programme of RSHE requires support from the whole school community and the following people have specific roles and responsibilities:

Trustees/Governors

- Receive reports on the teaching of RSE
- Approve the RSE Policy

Head Teacher

- Overseeing the development and delivery of RSHE.
- Providing staff with the opportunity to contribute to the development of RSHE.
- Providing information to the trustees/governors.
- Providing training for the subject leader and staff, as required.
- Supporting the subject leader to liaise with parents and carers.
- Dealing with parents and carers who wish to withdraw a child from sex education

Subject Leader

- Leading the development and delivery of effective RSHE.
- Keeping up-to-date with the development of RSHE.
- Supporting colleagues as required.
- Monitoring and evaluating RSHE and providing necessary reports.
- Liaising with parents and carers.
- Keeping subject information up-to-date, including on the school website.
- Overseeing external visitors and resources used in RSHE.

Staff

- To understand and implement the policy of RSHE in their own practice.
- To teach RSHE in line with the agreed curriculum.
- To act appropriately, following school procedures, if a child shares something that may be seen as concerning.
- To create an environment where the children feel that they can express themselves, their thoughts and opinions free from judgement.
- To assess and monitor the progress of children.
- To respond to the needs of individual children.

5. Curriculum Organisation

The school adopts the following approaches to organise the curriculum to ensure high quality delivery of RSHE:

- RSHE is to be covered as part of a wider programme of PSHE education.
- Length of RSHE lessons.
 - for KS1 – lessons should be 40 - 45 minutes long;
 - for KS2 – lessons should be 50 - 60 minutes long.
- As a school we plan focus days, visits and use visitors to enhance RSHE lessons but do not replace teaching with this.
- Class teachers teach the PHSE lessons throughout the year. The teachers are confident and skilled, particularly for sensitive and controversial.
- The teaching of RSHE is carefully planned in-line with other learning so that the children's understanding progresses and builds throughout the year/years.

6. Teaching and Learning

RSHE is delivered in line with the Teaching and Learning Policy. However, as the subject deals with real-life experiences, it is important to establish a safe and positive learning environment using the following approaches:

- Establishing clear ground rules in consultation with children. Ground rules should include confidentiality, respect for others, privacy and boundaries. Children will

collaboratively create a 'PSHE Guide' at the beginning of the year to establish the environment that they agree to promote during PSHE lessons.

- Using clear language and correct vocabulary to avoid misunderstandings.
- Avoiding prejudice and assumptions about children's abilities, desires, background and experiences.
- Dealing sensitively with unexpected questions and comments.
- Assessing and building on existing knowledge and experiences.
- Ensuring that learning is engaging, using a range of activities, including structured discussion and problem-solving.
- Providing a range of opportunities to learn, practise and demonstrate knowledge, skills and attitudes.
- Allowing time for reflection.
- Adapting learning appropriately so that all children can access content.
- Using a variety of groupings to enhance learning.

7. Curriculum Content

Long term planning

8. The school has chosen to use the *Kapow Primary RSE scheme of work*, which provides full curriculum coverage, including all the statutory content, for each year group. This has been carefully selected and agreed by a range of stakeholders, including the local vicar.

9. Resources

Teachers will select any additional resources that are not taken from Kapow carefully, and the subject leader will oversee the selection. Any change in resources will be communicated with parents, with the option of parents viewing these.

Additional resources will be:

- Up-to-date.
- Relevant to children.
- Consistent with the aims and values of the school.

10. Visitors

Visitors can enhance children's learning. Teachers are given the opportunity to select visitors in liaison with the Subject Leader. The following will be used to guide the use of visitors:

- The school will use visitors to enhance the lessons delivered by the class teacher; and information on where a visitor fits into the long-term plan will be shared with the visitor.
- The school will make visitors aware of the school policy for RSHE.
- The school will check the content of sessions delivered by visitors to make sure that it fits with the school's ethos and meets legal requirements.
- A member of staff will be present in sessions delivered by visitors.
- The school will make sure visitors undergo the necessary checks as required by the school safeguarding policies

11. Equality

Under the *Equality Act 2010*, the school is under a legal duty to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relationships between those with protected characteristics and those without. The protected characteristics are:

- Age
- Marriage and Civil partnership
- Disability
- Race
- Religion and belief
- Sexual orientation
- Sex
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Gender reassignment

In addition, the school must consider the needs of those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). The RSHE programme will meet the needs of all children. Lessons will include content that will tackle discrimination and foster good relationships.

12. Right to Withdraw from Sex Education

A parent or carer cannot legally withdraw their child from any aspect of the statutory relationships education or health education. A parent or carer does have the right to withdraw their child from sex education unless what is being taught is part of the Science National Curriculum.

Following a consultation with the whole school community, the following content is deemed to be sex education:

- Year 6: Safety and the changing body, Lesson 5: Conception
- Year 6: Safety and the changing body, Lesson 6: Pregnancy and birth

The following process must be followed if a parent or carer wishes to withdraw their child from sex education

- Parents/carers will be informed about sex education. They will receive a termly newsletter outlining the content being taught at the end of the half term before the unit is taught.
- Parents can contact the office for more information by phone/email or in person.
- Parents should contact the office who will arrange a meeting, initially with the Subject Leader: Miss Rebecca Bond.
- A meeting will be arranged. Meetings give an opportunity for the school and the parent/carers to discuss concerns and to outline the impact on the children of missing sex education lessons.
- Parents decision to withdraw will be recorded on a signed letter head and stored on our internal system CPoms.

13. Safeguarding

RSHE includes sensitive topics. It is, therefore, possible that discussions will prompt safeguarding disclosures. Reference should be made to safeguarding policies and procedures to deal with these appropriately.

The Subject Leader/Teacher should discuss with the Designated Safeguarding Lead any potentially sensitive topics. Appropriate steps must be taken to provide additional support for children if required.

Staff should consider the timing of lessons to ensure that children have the opportunity to report any concerns they may have either that day or the following day.

14. Support

RSHE should not be a time for children to make disclosures. It is important, however, to inform children of the support that is available to them if they are worried about anything raised in a lesson. The following support will be highlighted to children as appropriate:

In school:

- Class teacher.
- Learning mentors

- Support staff

External:

- Local agencies.
- National agencies such as Child Line.

15. Monitoring and Evaluating

The Head Teacher and Subject Leader will be responsible for monitoring and evaluating RSHE in line with other subjects.

- Scrutiny of planning
- Lesson observations
- Learning walks
- Evidence of learning
- Feedback from staff
- Feedback from parents/carers
- Feedback from children

16. Professional Development

The Head Teacher and Subject Leader will assess the professional development needs of staff regularly. Appropriate development will be provided using internal or external expertise.

17. Communication of Policy

This RSHE policy will be available to read and downloaded from the school website and copies can be requested free of charge from the school office. This policy will also be shared with all staff in school and any visitors to the school who will be teaching such content.

18. Review

This policy will be reviewed every three years, from Spring

