

Federation of St Charles and St Mary's Catholic Primary Schools



Primary PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education) Policy Including Relationships, Sex and Health Education

This Policy was approved by the Governing Body in July 2026

The Policy will be reviewed in July 2028

Contents

1. Federation Vision, Mission, Catholic Ethos and Rationale
2. Aims of PSHE
3. Purpose of the Policy
4. Policy Development
5. Definitions: PSHE, Relationships Education, Health Education and Sex Education
6. Legislation and Guidance
7. Links to Other Policies
8. Catholic, Diocesan and Ten Ten Guidance
9. Curriculum Organisation and Delivery
10. Statutory Content: Relationships Education and Health Education
11. National Curriculum Science and Computing Links
12. Non-Statutory Wider PSHE: Economic Wellbeing and Careers
13. Adaptations to the PSHE Curriculum
14. Non-Statutory Sex Education and Year 6 Relationships Conference
15. Engaging with Parents and Carers
16. Right to Withdraw
17. Safe and Effective Delivery
18. SEND, Inclusion and Equality
19. Assessment, Monitoring and Review
20. Appendices

The School Governors Federation Ethos Statement

As Governors, we acknowledge our responsibilities as strategic leaders to ensure every child in St Charles and St Mary's Schools is given the best possible opportunities to reach their full potential, spiritually and academically. We do this by promoting high standards of educational achievement, pastoral care and by modelling the values proclaimed in the Gospel in both communities.

We are strongly committed to building and strengthening the shared Catholic ethos of both schools whilst maintaining their individual identities.

We strive to build on the values started at home and seek to provide an environment where beliefs and the ethos of the Catholic faith are taught, explored, developed and nurtured. We aim for all our children to believe in their own potential, in an environment where they can flourish, succeed and achieve.

As governors, we bring a wide variety of experience and expertise to the schools, and this ensures that both schools move forward and standards are constantly raised in a way that is in line with the overarching ethos and vision of the schools, along with the statutory directives from the Department for Education and The Archdiocese of Westminster.

As a governing body, we have a strong focus on three core strategic functions:

Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction, which aim to deliver high expectations and improve the lives and outcomes of all pupils.

Holding the Executive Headteacher and both Heads of School to account for the educational performance of the schools and their pupils, and for ensuring excellent quality of teaching.

Overseeing the financial performance of the schools and making sure money is well spent.

Federation Motto:

Together in faith, we love and learn.

1. Federation Vision, Mission, Catholic Ethos and Rationale

The Federation of St Charles and St Mary's Catholic Primary Schools is rooted in our shared Catholic mission and our federation motto: "Together in faith, we love and learn."

As a federation, we are committed to ensuring that every child in both St Charles and St Mary's is given the best possible opportunities to reach their full potential: spiritually, academically, socially, emotionally, morally and physically. We seek to build and strengthen the shared Catholic ethos of both schools, while maintaining the distinctive identity of each school community.

We believe that children flourish when they are loved, valued and supported within a community shaped by the Gospel. We work in partnership with parents, carers, governors, parish communities and wider partners to help pupils grow in faith, confidence, responsibility and respect for others.

Our PSHE curriculum is an important part of this mission. Through PSHE, including Relationships, Sex and Health Education, pupils are supported to understand themselves, build healthy relationships, keep themselves safe, care for their physical and mental wellbeing, make informed choices and contribute positively to society.

As Catholic schools, our approach is rooted in the belief that every person is created in the image and likeness of God and has equal dignity and worth. Pupils are taught to respect themselves and others, to recognise the dignity of every person, and to understand the importance of kindness, compassion, forgiveness, honesty, responsibility, justice and love of neighbour.

PSHE is therefore not simply about providing information. It is part of our wider Catholic mission to nurture the whole child and help pupils understand what it means to live well: to know that they are loved by God, to care for their bodies and minds, to form positive relationships, to make safe and moral choices, and to contribute to the common good.

This policy is written within the context of our Catholic ethos, diocesan guidance, Catholic Education Service guidance, Ten Ten's Life to the Full programme and statutory Department for Education guidance. It aims to ensure that PSHE across the federation is age-appropriate, inclusive, safeguarding-focused, faithful to the Catholic character of both schools and fully compliant with statutory requirements.

2. Aims of PSHE

With our children living in an ever-changing online and offline world, and facing increasing opportunities and more complex challenges, the Federation of St Charles and St Mary's Catholic Primary Schools recognises the importance of equipping pupils with the knowledge, understanding, attitudes, virtues and skills they need to live safe, healthy, happy, respectful and fulfilling lives.

Our PSHE curriculum supports pupils' wider personal development. It helps them to understand themselves, care for their physical and mental wellbeing, build positive relationships, stay safe, make informed choices, develop resilience, understand their rights and responsibilities, and contribute positively to their school, parish, local and wider community.

As Catholic schools, our PSHE curriculum is rooted in the belief that every person is created in the image and likeness of God and has equal dignity and worth. Through our federation motto, "Together in faith, we love and learn," we seek to nurture pupils who understand their own value, respect the dignity of others, and live out Jesus' commandment to love God and love our neighbour.

Our PSHE curriculum aims to support pupils to:

- become confident individuals who know how to live safe, healthy and fulfilling lives
- understand that they are created, known and loved by God, and that each person has unique dignity and worth
- develop self-respect, self-worth and a sense of responsibility for their own actions, choices and wellbeing
- grow in virtues such as honesty, integrity, courage, humility, kindness, generosity, compassion, forgiveness, trustworthiness, justice and respect
- build and maintain safe, positive, respectful and healthy relationships, including friendships, family relationships and relationships online
- understand the importance of treating others with dignity, equality, compassion and respect
- recognise and value the diversity of families, backgrounds, cultures and experiences within our school communities and wider society
- understand personal boundaries, privacy and consent in an age-appropriate way, including knowing how to resist pressure and how not to place pressure on others
- understand the links between physical health, mental wellbeing, emotional wellbeing and spiritual development

- keep themselves and others safe in physical and digital spaces, including recognising risks, harms, unsafe situations and harmful online content
- develop critical thinking skills so that they can analyse information, make informed choices and recognise the influence of media, peers, online content and wider society
- know where and how to seek help, advice and support from trusted adults when they have worries or concerns
- develop resilience, confidence and decision-making skills, understanding that choices have consequences for themselves and others
- develop financial awareness and an age-appropriate understanding of economic wellbeing, including how to recognise and manage financial risks and harms
- understand their rights and responsibilities as members of a school, parish, local, national and global community
- contribute positively to society and the common good, acting with respect, responsibility and care for others
- celebrate their own progress and achievements, setting personal and academic goals that help them flourish as the people God calls them to be.

3. Purpose of the Policy

This policy has been written to give clear guidance to staff, governors, parents and carers, pupils, outside visitors and partners about the federation's approach to PSHE, including Relationships, Sex and Health Education.

It sets out:

The federation's overall intention and aims for PSHE;

- how PSHE supports pupils' personal development, safeguarding, wellbeing, relationships, economic understanding and Catholic formation
- definitions for PSHE, Relationships Education, Health Education and Sex Education
- how the curriculum is organised, taught and adapted across both schools
- statutory requirements for Relationships Education, Health Education and relevant National Curriculum Science
- how wider non-statutory PSHE content, including Economic Wellbeing and Careers, is included
- how non-statutory Sex Education is delivered in Year 6 only, including the Year 6 Relationships Conference or equivalent planned Year 6 provision
- how parents and carers are engaged, consulted and supported to understand the curriculum
- parents' and carers' right to withdraw their child from Year 6 non-statutory Sex Education
- expectations for safe and effective delivery, including safeguarding, confidentiality, external visitors and responding to pupils' questions
- how the federation ensures accessibility, inclusion and equality
- How PSHE is assessed, monitored and reviewed

4. Policy Development

This policy has been developed by the Governing Body, senior leaders and the PSHE Lead, in line with the latest Department for Education statutory and non-statutory guidance.

It has been informed by feedback gathered from school and community stakeholders, including pupils, parents and carers, staff, governors and relevant wider partners. As Catholic schools, the policy is also informed by diocesan guidance, Catholic Education Service guidance and Ten Ten's Life to the Full programme.

The policy has been prepared for implementation from September 2026 and will be reviewed in response to further statutory updates, diocesan guidance, Ten Ten curriculum mapping, stakeholder feedback and the needs of pupils across both schools.

5. Definitions: PSHE, Relationships Education, Health Education and Sex Education

PSHE - Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education

PSHE stands for Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education. It is the wider curriculum area through which pupils learn about personal development, health, wellbeing, relationships, safety, online safety, economic wellbeing, careers, responsibility and their role within the school, parish, local and wider community.

Through PSHE, pupils develop the knowledge, understanding, attitudes, virtues and skills they need to manage their lives, make informed choices, build positive relationships, keep themselves and others safe, and contribute to the common good.

Relationships Education

Relationships Education enables the physical, cultural, social, emotional, moral and spiritual development of pupils. It provides children with the knowledge, skills, attitudes and positive values needed to have happy, healthy and safe relationships, to understand the legal aspects of human relationships and to develop respect for others now and in the future.

Within our Catholic federation, pupils are taught that healthy relationships are rooted in dignity, love, care, respect, responsibility, safety and love of neighbour.

Health Education

Health Education is learning about the characteristics of good physical health and mental wellbeing and the equally important role that each of these plays in everyday life. It supports pupils to understand health-related choices and behaviours, both mentally and physically, so that they can take responsibility for their own wellbeing and safety.

Within our Catholic federation, pupils are taught that their bodies and minds should be treated with dignity, care and respect. They are supported to develop self-respect, make healthy choices, seek help when needed and understand their responsibility to care for themselves and others.

Sex Education

Sex Education is learning about the physical, social, emotional, moral and legal aspects of human sexuality, including information about human reproduction, conception and birth.

Within the Federation of St Charles and St Mary's Catholic Primary Schools, additional non-statutory Sex Education is taught in Year 6 only. It is carefully planned, age-appropriate and rooted in Catholic teaching on dignity, family life, love, marriage, respect and responsibility.

6. Legislation and Guidance

This policy has been written for implementation from September 2026 and has been reviewed in light of the Department for Education's statutory guidance for Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education, including the revised guidance published in July 2025 for introduction from 1 September 2026.

The policy is informed by, and should be read alongside, the following legislation and guidance:

- Department for Education statutory guidance: Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education, including the revised guidance published in July 2025 for introduction from 1 September 2026
- Sections 34 and 35 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017
- The Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education Regulations 2019
- The Equality Act 2010
- Department for Education statutory safeguarding guidance: Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025
- Working Together to Safeguard Children
- The National Curriculum for Science
- The National Curriculum for Computing, where relevant to online safety and digital life;
- SEND code of practice: 0 to 25 years
- Teaching Online Safety in Schools
- Behaviour in Schools and Preventing and Tackling Bullying guidance
- DfE Careers Guidance, where relevant to wider PSHE and careers education
- guidance and training from the Catholic Education Service and the Diocese
- Ten Ten's Life to the Full programme, which supports the delivery of Relationships, Sex and Health Education within a Catholic primary setting.

Relationships Education is compulsory for all primary-aged pupils. Health Education is also compulsory for pupils in maintained primary schools. Relevant aspects of human growth, life cycles, puberty and reproduction are taught through the statutory National Curriculum for Science.

In addition to statutory requirements, the Department for Education recommends that primary schools provide a Sex Education programme tailored to the age and physical and emotional maturity of pupils. Within the federation, this additional non-statutory Sex Education is taught in Year 6 only and is clearly identified for parents and carers.

Catholic, diocesan, Catholic Education Service and Ten Ten guidance support the federation in delivering statutory content in a way that is faithful to the Catholic character of both schools. This guidance enhances, but does not replace, the federation's responsibility to meet statutory Department for Education requirements.

7. Links to Other Policies

PSHE sits within our whole-school approach to supporting pupils' personal development, relationships, behaviour, safety, health and wellbeing. This policy should be read alongside the following federation and school policies:

- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy
- Online Safety Policy
- SEND Policy and SEND Information Report
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy
- Religious Education Policy
- Science Policy
- Computing Policy
- SMSC and Catholic Life policies or guidance
- Managing Drug-Related Incidents Statement, where applicable

8. Catholic, Diocesan and Ten Ten Guidance

As Catholic schools, the Federation of St Charles and St Mary's Catholic Primary Schools delivers PSHE, including Relationships, Sex and Health Education, within the context of the teachings of the Catholic Church and our shared Catholic ethos.

The federation will have regard to guidance from the Diocese, the Catholic Education Service and other relevant Catholic education guidance when planning, delivering and reviewing PSHE and RSHE. This supports the federation in teaching statutory Relationships Education, statutory Health Education and any non-statutory Sex Education in a way that is faithful to the Catholic character of both schools, while remaining fully compliant with Department for Education statutory guidance.

The federation uses Ten Ten's Life to the Full programme to support the delivery of Relationships, Sex and Health Education in a Catholic primary setting. The programme supports pupils to learn about relationships, health, wellbeing, family life, keeping safe, puberty, life cycles, online safety, living in the wider world and the common good within a Christian understanding of the human person.

Ten Ten resources, curriculum mapping and parent materials will be reviewed alongside Department for Education guidance, diocesan guidance, Catholic Education Service guidance and the needs of pupils across both schools. Any resources used to support PSHE and RSHE, including those from external partners, will be checked to ensure that they are age-appropriate, inclusive, safeguarding-focused, respectful of Catholic teaching and suitable for the pupils being taught.

Catholic, diocesan, Catholic Education Service and Ten Ten guidance will support and enhance curriculum delivery. It will not replace the federation's responsibility to meet statutory Department for Education requirements for Relationships Education, Health Education, safeguarding, equality and National Curriculum Science.

9. Curriculum Organisation and Delivery

PSHE is delivered across the Federation of St Charles and St Mary's Catholic Primary Schools as part of a whole-school approach to pupils' personal development, safeguarding, health, wellbeing, relationships, economic understanding and spiritual formation.

PSHE is taught through planned lessons, assemblies, prayer and liturgy, Religious Education, Science, Computing, PE, wider curriculum links, enrichment opportunities, visits, workshops and the everyday life and Catholic ethos of both schools.

The curriculum is organised as a spiral curriculum so that pupils revisit key themes in an age-appropriate and progressive way as they move through the school. Learning is sequenced so that pupils build knowledge, vocabulary, confidence and understanding over time.

The federation uses Ten Ten's Life to the Full programme to support the delivery of Relationships, Sex and Health Education in a Catholic primary setting. This may be supplemented, where

appropriate, by additional PSHE resources, Health Education Partnership guidance, diocesan guidance, safeguarding materials, online safety resources, external workshops and teacher-planned activities.

Teaching is delivered mainly by class teachers, who know the pupils well and can respond sensitively to their needs. Where appropriate, external visitors, health professionals, diocesan representatives or approved organisations may support aspects of PSHE. External visitors will never replace the role of the teacher and must work within the aims of this policy, the Catholic ethos of the federation, safeguarding procedures and agreed lesson content.

Through identified cross-curricular links with relevant subjects, such as RE, Science, Computing, PE and Design and Technology, pupils' PSHE learning may be complemented, reinforced and extended through related contexts. Leaders will map these links carefully to strengthen consistency of messages and avoid unnecessary repetition.

10. Statutory Content: Relationships Education and Health Education

The federation ensures that all pupils receive the statutory content required for Relationships Education and Health Education. This content is delivered mainly through PSHE and Ten Ten's Life to the Full programme, with relevant links to the wider curriculum.

The statutory topic areas are organised as follows:

Relationships Education

Families and People who Care for Me;
Caring Friendships
Respectful, Kind Relationships
Online Safety and Awareness
Being Safe

Health Education

General Wellbeing
Wellbeing Online
Physical Health and Fitness
Healthy Eating
Drugs, Alcohol, Tobacco and Vaping
Health Protection and Prevention

Personal Safety

Basic First Aid

Developing Bodies, including puberty and naming correct body parts.

All statutory content is taught in an age-appropriate and sensitive way, within the context of our Catholic ethos. Pupils are taught to respect themselves and others, build healthy relationships, keep themselves safe, and care for their physical, mental, emotional and spiritual wellbeing.

11. National Curriculum Science and Computing Links

Relevant aspects of PSHE, Relationships Education and Health Education link with the statutory National Curriculum for Science and Computing. These links help pupils develop consistent knowledge and skills across the curriculum.

Science Curriculum

At Key Stage 1, pupils are taught to:

- identify, name, draw and label the basic parts of the human body and say which part of the body is associated with each sense
- notice that animals, including humans, have offspring which grow into adults
- describe the importance for humans of exercise, eating the right amounts of different types of food, and hygiene.

At Key Stage 2, pupils are taught to:

- describe the life process of reproduction in some plants and animals
- describe the changes as humans develop to old age
- recognise that living things produce offspring of the same kind, but normally offspring vary and are not identical to their parents
- recognise the impact of diet, exercise, drugs and lifestyle on the way their bodies function.

Computing Curriculum

At Key Stage 1, pupils are taught to use technology safely and respectfully, keep personal information private, and identify where to go for help and support when they have concerns about content or contact online.

At Key Stage 2, pupils are taught to use technology safely, respectfully and responsibly, recognise acceptable and unacceptable behaviour, and identify a range of ways to report concerns about content and contact.

Where learning overlaps with Science or Computing, leaders will ensure that content is planned coherently so that pupils receive clear, consistent messages and avoid unnecessary repetition.

12. Non-Statutory Wider PSHE: Economic Wellbeing and Careers

In addition to statutory Relationships Education and Health Education, the federation provides wider PSHE content to support pupils' broader personal development and preparation for life beyond primary school.

This includes learning about Economic Wellbeing and Careers. These areas help pupils begin to understand money, financial choices, financial safety, aspirations, skills, future opportunities and the world of work in an age-appropriate way.

Within our Catholic federation, wider PSHE also supports pupils to understand responsibility, service, stewardship, the common good and the importance of using their gifts to make a positive contribution to others.

Economic Wellbeing

- understanding money, saving, spending and making choices
- identifying financial risks and harms, including online scams, gaming-related spending and pressure
- understanding that choices about money can affect individuals, families and communities;
- knowing where to seek help if they are worried about money-related issues or online financial pressure.

Careers

- exploring strengths, interests and personal goals
- understanding that people have different roles, jobs and responsibilities
- learning about aspirations, skills, teamwork and perseverance
- recognising that their gifts and talents can be used to serve others and contribute to the common good.

13. Adaptations to the PSHE Curriculum

The organisation of the PSHE curriculum is flexible where needed, allowing the federation to respond to feedback gathered from pupils, parents and carers, staff, governors and wider partners. It also allows leaders to respond to emerging concerns, safeguarding themes, relevant local health information, community issues, national developments and news-related events.

The federation regularly engages stakeholders in the review and development of the PSHE curriculum. This may include:

pupil engagement through pupil voice, focus groups, school council discussions, subject reviews and PSHE discussions;

- parent and carer engagement through consultation, information sharing, policy feedback, school communications and opportunities to discuss curriculum materials;
- staff engagement through curriculum review, staff meetings, monitoring, training and feedback;
- governor engagement through policy review, monitoring and challenge;
- partner engagement through diocesan guidance, Catholic Education Service updates, Ten Ten materials, local authority guidance and specialist external training.

As a result of consultation and curriculum review for September 2026 implementation, the federation has prioritised:

- mapping statutory Relationships Education and Health Education against the updated DfE guidance and Health Education Partnership framework topic names;
- retaining clear Catholic identity and teaching on dignity, love of neighbour, family life, respect, responsibility and the common good;
- increasing clarity for parents and carers about which content is statutory and which Year 6 content is non-statutory;
- strengthening content on online safety, wellbeing online, digital pressure, harmful content and where to seek help;
- making Economic Wellbeing and Careers more explicit within wider non-statutory PSHE;
- continuing to review Ten Ten's Life to the Full curriculum mapping and parent materials in light of updated statutory guidance and diocesan guidance;
- ensuring that provision is accessible to pupils with SEND and responsive to pupils who may be more vulnerable to risk, pressure, exploitation or harm.
- Where adaptations are made, leaders will ensure that they remain age-appropriate, safeguarding-focused, consistent with statutory guidance and faithful to the Catholic character of both schools. Parents and carers will be informed where significant changes are made to published curriculum content, particularly where sensitive content is involved.

14. Non-Statutory Sex Education and Year 6 Relationships Conference

In addition to statutory Relationships Education, Health Education and National Curriculum Science, the federation follows the Department for Education recommendation that primary schools provide a programme of Sex Education tailored to the age, physical maturity and emotional maturity of pupils.

Within the Federation of St Charles and St Mary's Catholic Primary Schools, this additional non-statutory Sex Education is taught in Year 6 only. No non-statutory Sex Education is taught in EYFS, Key Stage 1 or Years 3, 4 and 5.

We believe this Year 6 content is important because it addresses questions that many children may have as they prepare for the transition to secondary school and adolescence. It is taught in the context of healthy adult relationships, family life, responsibility, dignity, respect and Catholic teaching.

In Year 6, pupils take part in a Relationships Conference or a carefully planned sequence of lessons. This supports pupils' understanding of creation, self-image, relationships, puberty, marriage, family life, bereavement and human reproduction.

The only non-statutory Sex Education content taught within the federation relates to sexual relationships and conception in Year 6. This may include age-appropriate learning about:

- basic scientific facts about sexual intercourse and conception;
- how human life begins;
- the physical, emotional, moral and spiritual implications of sexual relationships;
- the Christian understanding that sexual intimacy belongs within marriage;
- family life, responsibility, love and respect.

This content is taught factually, sensitively and in a safe learning environment. Staff use agreed ground rules, distancing techniques and age-appropriate resources to support pupils' understanding and ensure that questions are handled carefully.

As Catholic schools, we recognise that parents and carers are the first educators of their children. Parents and carers will be informed before this Year 6 non-statutory Sex Education is taught. The federation will make clear which content is statutory and which content is non-statutory. Parents and carers will have opportunities to view relevant curriculum information and resources, including Ten Ten parent materials where available.

The Year 6 content relating to sexual relationships and conception is the only part of the curriculum from which parents and carers have the right to withdraw their child. Further information is set out in Section 16: Right to Withdraw.

The federation believes that the controlled, safe and supportive environment of the classroom is the most appropriate place for pupils to receive accurate, age-appropriate information. This helps ensure that pupils are not left to seek answers from unreliable or unsafe sources, including online content or misinformation from peers.

15. Engaging with Parents and Carers

The Federation of St Charles and St Mary's Catholic Primary Schools recognises that parents and carers are the first educators of their children, particularly in matters relating to faith, family life, relationships, sexuality, moral development and personal wellbeing. As Catholic schools, we work in partnership with parents and carers to support pupils as they grow in understanding of themselves, their relationships, their bodies, their responsibilities and their faith.

This policy has been developed following consultation with parents and carers, staff, governors and relevant stakeholders. The federation will continue to engage with parents and carers as part of the ongoing review of PSHE, including Relationships, Sex and Health Education.

The federation is committed to open and transparent engagement with parents and carers about what is taught in PSHE. Parents and carers will be informed about the organisation and content of the curriculum, including statutory Relationships Education, statutory Health Education, relevant National Curriculum Science content, wider PSHE content and the Year 6 non-statutory Sex Education content.

Parents and carers will be given opportunities to view relevant curriculum information and resources. This may include curriculum overviews, policy documents, school information sessions, consultation materials, letters to parents, Ten Ten parent materials and opportunities to ask questions or share feedback with school leaders.

Parents and carers will be informed before the more sensitive aspects of the curriculum are taught, particularly content relating to puberty, the changing adolescent body and the Year 6 non-statutory Sex Education content on sexual relationships and conception.

The federation will make clear to parents and carers that non-statutory Sex Education is taught in Year 6 only, and that the right to withdraw applies only to the specific Year 6 content on sexual relationships and conception.

Ten Ten provides an Online Parent Portal, which gives parents and carers access to lesson summaries, links to specific content and suggestions for further engagement at home. Where parents or carers have questions, comments or concerns about Ten Ten materials or RSHE content, these should be raised with the school. The school will respond to questions and, where appropriate, may seek further clarification or support from Ten Ten, the Diocese or the Catholic Education Service.

Where parents or carers have questions or concerns about PSHE, they are encouraged to contact the school. The federation will listen carefully to parent and carer views and will respond in a respectful, open and constructive way. Feedback from parents and carers will be considered as part of curriculum review, policy review and future planning.

The federation believes that pupils are best supported when home, school and parish work together. By maintaining open communication with parents and carers, we aim to ensure that pupils receive accurate, age-appropriate and safeguarding-focused learning within a Catholic understanding of dignity, love, respect and responsibility.

16. Right to Withdraw

Parents and carers do not have the right to withdraw their child from statutory Relationships Education, statutory Health Education or statutory National Curriculum Science.

Within the Federation of St Charles and St Mary's Catholic Primary Schools, the right to withdraw applies only to the Year 6 non-statutory Sex Education content on sexual relationships and conception.

No right of withdrawal applies to wider PSHE content, statutory Relationships Education, statutory Health Education or National Curriculum Science in any year group.

Parents and carers will be informed before the Year 6 non-statutory Sex Education content is taught. The federation will make clear which elements of the curriculum are statutory and which elements are non-statutory. Parents and carers will also be given opportunities to view relevant curriculum information and resources, including Ten Ten parent materials where available.

If a parent or carer wishes to withdraw their child from the Year 6 non-statutory Sex Education content, they should contact the Headteacher or Head of School. Parents and carers will be asked to complete the federation's Request for Withdrawal from Year 6 Non-Statutory Sex Education form so that the request can be recorded formally.

The school will respect the legal right of parents and carers to withdraw their child from this specific non-statutory content. Alternative appropriate learning will be provided for pupils who are withdrawn.

The federation believes that pupils are best supported when parents, carers and school work together. Where a parent or carer is considering withdrawal, the school will offer the opportunity to discuss the content, resources and purpose of the learning so that an informed decision can be made.

17. Safe and Effective Delivery

The Federation of St Charles and St Mary's Catholic Primary Schools is committed to ensuring that PSHE is delivered in a safe, respectful, age-appropriate and effective way. Teaching will reflect the Catholic ethos of the federation, safeguarding expectations and the needs of pupils across both schools.

Creating a Safe and Supportive Learning Environment

PSHE may address sensitive issues linked to pupils' real-life experiences, relationships, health, wellbeing, safety and online lives. Staff will create a safe and supportive learning environment by establishing clear ground rules with pupils. These ground rules help pupils understand how to listen respectfully, ask questions appropriately, disagree kindly and respect the privacy of others.

Teachers will use age-appropriate approaches such as stories, scenarios, distancing techniques, role play, discussion, reflection, questioning, group work and independent tasks. This allows pupils to explore important issues safely without being expected to share personal experiences.

Safeguarding and Confidentiality

PSHE has an important role in safeguarding pupils. Lessons may help pupils recognise unsafe situations, understand boundaries, identify trusted adults and know how to seek help. Discussions may also lead to pupils raising concerns or making disclosures.

Staff must follow the federation's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and the current statutory guidance in Keeping Children Safe in Education. If a safeguarding concern arises, staff must report it in line with school procedures.

Pupils will be reminded that adults in school cannot promise unconditional confidentiality. Staff will reassure pupils that their best interests will always be considered, but that information may need to be shared if there is a concern about safety or wellbeing.

A Skilled Delivery Team

PSHE will be taught mainly by class teachers, who know the pupils well and can respond sensitively to their needs. Staff delivering PSHE will be supported through appropriate training, guidance, planning materials and continuing professional development.

Training may include support from senior leaders, the PSHE Lead, safeguarding leads, the Diocese, the Catholic Education Service, Ten Ten, local authority partners and other relevant organisations. This will help staff feel confident in teaching sensitive content, responding to questions, managing discussion and supporting pupils effectively.

Teaching and Learning Approaches

Staff will use active, engaging and age-appropriate teaching approaches to support pupils' understanding. These may include discussion, reflection, role play, stories, videos, group tasks, written activities, pupil voice, scenarios and prayerful reflection where appropriate.

Teaching will be factual, balanced, respectful and rooted in the Catholic understanding of the dignity of the human person. Staff will ensure that pupils are given accurate information, while also helping them to understand values such as respect, responsibility, compassion, honesty, forgiveness, self-control, kindness and love of neighbour.

Choosing Resources

Resources used to support PSHE, including Ten Ten resources and any materials from external partners, will be reviewed to ensure they are age-appropriate, inclusive, factually accurate, safeguarding-focused and accessible for pupils.

Resources will also be reviewed to ensure that they are respectful of the Catholic character of the federation and suitable for the needs, maturity and context of pupils in both schools. Any materials used will support the aims of this policy and will not undermine statutory guidance, safeguarding responsibilities or Catholic teaching.

External Visitors and Partners

External visitors, health professionals, diocesan representatives or approved organisations may be invited to support aspects of PSHE. Their role will be to enhance and enrich the planned curriculum, not to replace teacher-led provision.

All external visitors must work within the aims of this policy, the Catholic ethos of the federation, safeguarding procedures and agreed lesson content. Visitors will be made aware of the federation's expectations around confidentiality, safeguarding, appropriate language, age-appropriate delivery and respect for Catholic teaching.

Responding to Pupils' Questions

Pupils will be encouraged to ask questions in a safe and respectful way. Staff will answer questions honestly, factually and in an age-appropriate manner, taking account of the pupil's age, maturity, context and the agreed curriculum content.

If a question raises a safeguarding concern, staff will follow the federation's safeguarding procedures. If a question is not appropriate to answer in front of the whole class, the teacher may respond individually, speak with parents or carers where appropriate, or seek advice from a senior leader or safeguarding lead.

The federation recognises that if pupils' questions are not answered appropriately, they may seek information from unreliable or unsafe sources, including online content or peers. Staff will therefore respond carefully and sensitively, while remaining within the boundaries of this policy and safeguarding guidance.

18. SEND, Inclusion and Equality

The Federation of St Charles and St Mary's Catholic Primary Schools is committed to ensuring that PSHE is accessible, inclusive and responsive to the needs of all pupils, including those with special educational needs and disabilities, those who are disadvantaged, pupils known or previously known to children's social care, and pupils who may face other barriers to learning or wellbeing.

As Catholic schools, we believe that every child is created in the image and likeness of God and has equal dignity and worth. All pupils should be supported to understand themselves, their relationships, their bodies, their feelings, their safety and their responsibilities in a way that is appropriate to their age, stage of development, maturity and individual needs.

Pupils with SEND or other vulnerabilities may be more vulnerable to exploitation, bullying, pressure, online harms, unsafe relationships or difficulties understanding personal boundaries. For this reason, sensitive and age-appropriate PSHE, including Relationships Education and Health Education, is an essential part of their learning.

Teachers will adapt teaching, resources, vocabulary, pace, grouping and support where needed. Adaptations may include:

- simplifying language and key vocabulary
- using visual resources, symbols, stories or social scenarios
- pre-teaching important vocabulary or concepts
- providing additional adult support

- using smaller group work or individual support where appropriate;
- allowing additional processing time
- revisiting key learning regularly
- adapting written tasks or recording methods
- working with the SENCO, parents and carers, and external professionals where needed

Teaching will remain age-appropriate and will not reduce pupils' entitlement to important safeguarding, relationships, health and wellbeing knowledge. Where content needs to be adapted, this will be done carefully so that pupils can access the same key messages in a way that is appropriate and meaningful for them.

The federation will ensure that pupils are not excluded from PSHE because of SEND, disability, medical needs, social, emotional or mental health needs, language needs, cultural background, family circumstance or prior experience. All pupils will be treated with dignity and respect, and teaching will be delivered in a way that promotes inclusion, compassion and love of neighbour.

In line with the Equality Act 2010, the federation will ensure that pupils are not discriminated against because of protected characteristics, including age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation. Pupils will be taught, in an age-appropriate way, to recognise and challenge prejudice, discrimination, bullying, harmful language and stereotypes.

Within our Catholic ethos, teaching about equality will be rooted in the dignity of the human person, the common good, love of neighbour and respect for all. Catholic teaching will be presented clearly and sensitively, while ensuring that all pupils and families are treated with dignity, compassion and respect.

The personal views of individual members of staff must not influence the teaching of PSHE. Staff will teach within the framework of this policy, statutory guidance, safeguarding responsibilities, Catholic teaching and the agreed curriculum.

The PSHE Lead, SENCO, senior leaders and governors will monitor provision to ensure that PSHE remains accessible, inclusive and responsive to the needs of pupils across both schools.

19. Assessment, Monitoring and Review

The Federation of St Charles and St Mary's Catholic Primary Schools is committed to ensuring that PSHE is taught effectively and has a positive impact on pupils' knowledge, understanding, attitudes, virtues, relationships, safety, wellbeing and personal development.

Assessment

Assessment in PSHE is used to help teachers understand what pupils know, what they can explain, what misconceptions they may have, and how confidently they can apply their learning to real-life situations.

Assessment will usually be formative and ongoing. Teachers will assess pupils' understanding through:

- questioning and discussion
- pupil voice
- reflection tasks
- role play and scenarios
- written or recorded responses
- baseline and end-point activities
- Ten Ten assessment opportunities
- floor books, class books or pupil booklets
- observations during lessons and group activities

Assessment in PSHE is not about judging pupils' personal experiences, beliefs or family circumstances. It is used to check pupils' understanding of taught knowledge, key vocabulary, safety messages, relationships, health, wellbeing, economic understanding and where to seek help.

Teachers will use assessment to address misconceptions, adapt teaching, identify pupils who may need further support, and inform future planning. Where concerns arise during assessment or discussion, staff will follow the federation's safeguarding procedures.

Monitoring

The PSHE Lead, senior leaders, SENCO and governors will monitor the quality and effectiveness of PSHE across both schools. Monitoring may include:

- reviewing curriculum planning and progression
- checking coverage of statutory Relationships Education and Health Education
- checking relevant National Curriculum Science and Computing links
- reviewing Ten Ten curriculum mapping and assessment materials
- reviewing floor books, pupil booklets or other evidence of learning
- pupil voice
- staff feedback
- parent and carer feedback

- learning walks or lesson visits where appropriate
- reviewing the quality and suitability of resources
- monitoring SEND access and adaptations
- reviewing safeguarding themes or emerging needs that may affect curriculum planning

Monitoring will help the federation to ensure that PSHE is taught consistently, safely and effectively across both schools. It will also help leaders identify strengths, areas for development, staff training needs and any necessary curriculum adaptations.

Review

The PSHE Lead, senior leaders and governors will review this policy regularly. The review will take account of:

- Department for Education statutory guidance
- safeguarding guidance, including Keeping Children Safe in Education
- diocesan and Catholic Education Service guidance
- Ten Ten updates and curriculum mapping
- pupil voice
- parent and carer feedback
- staff feedback
- governor monitoring
- SEND, inclusion and equality considerations
- safeguarding concerns or emerging local and national issues
- changes to statutory requirements or school context

The policy will be made available to staff, governors, parents and carers. A copy will be published on the schools' websites.

As a federation of Catholic schools, the review process will ensure that PSHE continues to be faithful to the Catholic character of both schools, rooted in the dignity of the human person, and fully compliant with statutory Department for Education guidance.

The governing body remains ultimately responsible for approving and reviewing this policy. Senior leaders and the PSHE Lead are responsible for ensuring that the policy is implemented effectively across both schools.