



Relationships and Sex Education Policy

Review of the policy will take place annually or sooner if necessary.

St Mary's Church of England (A) Primary School keeps children safe by ensuring and promoting the safeguarding and welfare of all children in its care: all policies support the most current "Keeping Children Safe in Education Guidance" and "Safeguarding Policy", are fully consistent with the "Every Child Matters" agenda, and fully support the principles of equal opportunities for all.

1. Aims

The aims of Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) at our school are to:

- Provide a framework in which sensitive discussions can take place
- Prepare pupils for puberty, and give them an understanding of sexual development and the importance of health and hygiene
- Teach pupils the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies
- Help pupils develop feelings of self-respect, confidence and empathy
- Create a positive culture around issues of sexuality and relationships, including the importance of family for the care and support of children
- Help children to understand the consequences of their actions and behave responsibly within relationships
- Enable pupils to be able to recognise unsafe situations, protect themselves and ask for help and support

St Mary's C of E Primary School considers that Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) is an integral part of the Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) curriculum. We aim to offer pupils a carefully planned programme on human development, relationships, sexuality and family life within a safe, comfortable atmosphere and in a relaxed relationship between teacher and pupil. The programme is set within a moral framework and matched to the pupils' level of maturity. These aims complement those of the Science curriculum in KS1 and KS2.

2. Statutory requirements

As a maintained primary school we must provide relationships education to all pupils as per section 34 of the Children and Social work act 2017.

In teaching RSE, we must have regard to guidance issued by the secretary of state as outlined in section 403 of the Education Act 1996. At St Mary's we teach RSE as set out in this policy.

Should you like to see the guidance from the government please visit:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/805781/Relationships Education Relationships and Sex Education RSE and Health Education.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/805781/Relationships_Education_Relationships_and_Sex_Education_RSE_and_Health_Education.pdf)

3. Definition

RSE is about the emotional, social and cultural development of pupils, and involves learning about relationships, sexual health, sexuality, consent, healthy lifestyles, diversity and personal identity. RSE involves a combination of sharing information, and exploring issues and values. RSE is not about the promotion of sexual activity.

4. Curriculum

Our RSE curriculum is embedded within our PSHE curriculum and is set out as per Appendix 1, however, this will be adapted when necessary.

Please note that we have developed the curriculum taking into account the age, needs and feelings of pupils. If pupils ask questions outside the scope of this policy, teachers will respond in an age appropriate manner so they are fully informed and don't seek answers online.

Primary sex education will focus on:

- Sexual difference and naming body parts
- Preparing boys and girls for the changes that adolescence brings
- Exploring the impact of puberty on the body and the importance of physical hygiene
- Understanding that menstruation and wet dreams are a normal part of growing up
- How a baby is conceived and born, considered in the context of relationships
- Answering each other's questions about sex and relationships with confidence and knowing where to find support and advice

5. Delivery of RSE

As part of RSE, pupils will be taught about the nature and importance of marriage for family life and bringing up children. They also need to understand that there are strong and mutually supportive relationships outside of marriage. Either of these can include heterosexual or same-sex relationships. We ensure that no stigma is placed on children based on their home circumstances. We aim to provide accurate information and to help to develop skills to enable them to understand differences and respect themselves and others. We hope to prevent and remove prejudice. RSE should contribute to promoting the

spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at school and within our modern society, thus preparing them for the responsibilities and experiences of adult life. We will work towards this aim in partnership with parents and carers.

We carry out the main RSE curriculum in PSHE lessons, however we also teach RSE through other subject areas e.g. Science, Computing, PE and RE, where we feel that they contribute significantly to a child's knowledge and understanding of his or her own body, and how it is changing and developing.

Teaching and Learning including delivery of the RSE curriculum (Appendix 1)

Relationship Education:

Relationship education begins in KS1 and continues its way throughout the curriculum. Relationship education focuses on teaching the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships including:

- Families and people who care for me
- Caring friendships
- Respectful relationships
- Online relationships
- Being safe

These areas of learning are taught within the context of family life taking care to ensure that there is no stigmatisation of children based on their home circumstances (families can include single parent families, LGBT parents, families headed by grandparents, adoptive parents, foster parents/carers amongst other structures) along with reflecting sensitively that some children may have a different structure of support around them (for example: looked after children or young carers).

Sex Education:

In Year 6 we acknowledge that many children will begin to experience puberty at this age. We teach the children about the parts of the body and how they work. We also explain what will happen to their bodies during puberty. We encourage the children to ask for help if they need it and there are opportunities for question sessions with boys and girls being separated to allow pupils to feel comfortable. Teachers will do their best to answer all questions with sensitivity and care. By the end of Key Stage 2, we ensure that both boys and girls know how babies are born, how their bodies change during puberty, and what menstruation is and how it affects women. We always teach this with due regard for the emotional development of the children.

6. Roles and responsibilities

6.1 The governing body

The governing body has delegated the approval of this policy to the Curriculum Committee.

6.2 The head teacher

The head teacher is responsible for ensuring that RSE is taught consistently across the school, and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from non-statutory components of RSE (see section 7).

The head teacher also:

- Ensures that members of staff are given sufficient training, so that they can teach effectively and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity
- Monitors this policy on a regular basis and reports to governors on the effectiveness of the policy

6.3 Staff

Class teachers are responsible for teaching RSE at St Mary's throughout their PSHE and wider curriculum.

All staff are responsible for:

- Delivering RSE in a sensitive way
- Modelling positive attitudes to RSE
- Monitoring progress
- Responding to the needs of individual pupils
- Responding appropriately to pupils whose parents wish them to be withdrawn from the non-statutory components of RSE

Teachers will reply to, and answer, children's questions sensitively and openly. They will ensure that balanced information is provided which will take into account the different faiths' views and avoid any negative impressions.

Teachers will need to answer questions that may arise through the direct teaching of sex education, as well as those that may be asked at other times. All questions will be handled sensitively and set within a general context.

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 head teacher. Questions which teachers feel uncertain about answering should be discussed with a senior member of staff and answered at a later date. Consideration should be given to religious or cultural factors, and to parents' wishes before questions are answered.

6.4 Pupils

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

6.5 Parents

The school is well aware that the primary role in children's RSE lies with parents and carers. We wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents of children at our school through mutual understanding, trust and cooperation. In promoting this objective, we:

- Inform parents about the school's RSE policy and practice; this includes informing parents by letter or email before beginning to teach a unit of RSE
- Answer any questions that parents may have about the RSE of their child; this includes providing opportunities for parents to view the resources that are used in lessons
- Take seriously any issues that parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy or the arrangements for RSE in the school
- Acknowledge that parents have the right to withdraw their children from the non-statutory components of sex education within RSE. However, this rarely happens as, by working in partnership with parents, they recognise the importance of this aspect of their child's education
- Will ensure that a register of any pupils who are removed from lessons will be kept and distributed to all teachers involved

For more support and advice please see Appendix 2 entitled; 'RSE Primary School Guide for Parents'.

7. Parents' right to withdraw

Parents only have the right to withdraw their child from specific content of this relationships education curriculum if it is not part of the Science or PSHE curriculum of the school.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the non-statutory components of sex education within RSE.

The science curriculum in all maintained schools also includes content on human development, including reproduction, from which there is no right to withdraw.

Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing and passed on to the head teacher. Alternative work will be given to pupils who are withdrawn from sex education and that child will go to another class for the duration of the lesson.

8. Confidentiality

Teachers conduct sex education lessons in a sensitive manner. However, if a child makes a reference to being involved, or likely to be involved in sexual activity, then the teacher will take the matter seriously and deal with it as outlined in the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy. Teachers will respond in a similar way if a child indicates that they may have been a victim of abuse or exploitation. If the teacher has concerns, they will draw these to the attention of the designated person responsible for child protection or the head teacher as a matter of urgency. Disclosure of female genital mutilation must be reported to the police (either by the teacher to whom it is disclosed or by the DSL).

Legally, the school cannot offer or guarantee absolute confidentiality. We aim to ensure that pupils' best interests are maintained and try to encourage pupils to talk to their parents or carers to provide support. If confidentiality has to be broken, pupils are informed first and then supported by the designated teacher throughout the whole process.

9. SEND

Pupils with special educational needs will be given the opportunity to fully participate in RSE lessons, and a differentiated program will be provided where necessary, to ensure that all pupils gain a full understanding.

10. Equal Opportunities

RSE will be taught to ensure quality of access for all pupils, regardless of gender, race or disability, so giving equal opportunities and avoiding discrimination.

11. Complaints Procedure

Any complaints or concerns about the Relationships and Sex Education programme should be made to the head teacher in the first instance. If parent^s do not feel that their complaint was dealt with sufficiently then they may follow the St Mary's complaints procedure.

12. Monitoring arrangements

The delivery of RSE is monitored by the Headteacher, for example, planning scrutinies, learning walks and lesson observations.

Pupils' development in RSE is monitored by class teachers as part of our internal assessment systems.

This policy will be reviewed by Rhiannon Rhodes annually. At every review, the policy will be approved by the staff and Governing Board.

14. Further policies

In conjunction with this policy, please also see:

- Behaviour policy and procedures
- Safeguarding and Child Protection policy
- Anti-bullying policy and procedures
- Mental health and wellbeing policy
- Online safety policy
- PSHE Policy

Please see below a useful document produced by the government, which provides answers to frequently asked questions: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-andhealth-education-faqs>

Appendix 1 - St Mary's RSE Curriculum Overview

KS1	KS2 - Year 6
<p>Relationship education: Boys and girls, families</p> <p>Pupils learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to understand and respect the differences and similarities between people • about the biological differences between male and female animals and their role in the life cycle • about growing from young to old and that they are growing and changing • that everybody needs to be cared for and ways in which they care for others • about different types of family and how their home-life is special 	<p>Sex and relationship education: Healthy relationships / How a baby is made</p> <p>Pupils learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • about the changes that occur during puberty • about the impact of puberty in physical hygiene and strategies for managing this • how puberty affects emotions and behaviour and strategies for dealing with the changes associated with puberty • strategies to deal with feelings in the context of relationships • to consider different attitudes and values around gender stereotyping and sexuality and consider their origin and impact • what values are important to them in relationships and to appreciate the importance of friendship in intimate relationships • about human reproduction in the context of the human lifecycle • how a baby is made and grows (conception and pregnancy) • about roles and responsibilities of carers and parents • to answer each other's questions about sex and relationships with confidence, where to find support and advice when they need it

Appendix 2 - 'RSE Primary School Guide for Parents'.

Understanding Relationships and Health Education in your child's primary school: a guide for parents

We want all children to grow up healthy, happy, safe, and able to manage the challenges and opportunities of modern Britain. That is why, from September 2020, all primary age children will be taught Relationships and Health Education.

These subjects are designed to equip your child with knowledge to make informed decisions about their wellbeing, health and relationships as well as preparing them for a successful adult life. The world for all young people looks very different from the way it did 20 years ago when this curriculum was last updated – these changes bring the content into the 21st century, so that it is relevant for your child.

Your child's school will have flexibility to deliver the content in a way that is age and developmentally appropriate and sensitive to the needs and religious background of its pupils.

Relationships Education

Relationships Education will put in place the building blocks needed for positive and safe relationships, including with family, friends and online.

Your child will be taught what a relationship is, what friendship is, what family means and who can support them. In an age-appropriate way, your child's school will cover how to treat each other with kindness, consideration and respect.

By the end of primary school, pupils will have been taught content on:

- families and people who care for me
- caring friendships
- respectful relationships
- online relationships
- being safe

You can find further detail by searching **'relationships and health education'** on GOV.UK.

Health Education

Health Education aims to give your child the information they need to make good decisions about their own health and wellbeing, to recognise issues in themselves and others, and to seek support as early as possible when issues arise.



By the end of primary school, pupils will have been taught content on:

- mental wellbeing
- internet safety and harms
- physical health and fitness
- healthy eating
- facts and risks associated with drugs, alcohol and tobacco
- health and prevention
- basic first aid
- changing adolescent body

You can find further detail by searching **'relationships and health education'** on GOV.UK.

Your rights as a parent

The important lessons you teach your child about healthy relationships, looking after themselves and staying safe, are respected and valued under this new curriculum. Teaching at school will complement and reinforce the lessons you teach your child as they grow up.

Your child's school is required to consult with you when developing and renewing their policies on Relationships Education. These policies must be published online and be available to anybody free of charge.

You can express your opinion, and this will help your child's school decide how and when to cover the content of the statutory guidance. It may also help them decide whether to teach additional non-statutory content. Schools are required to ensure their teaching reflects the age and religious background of their pupils.

Some schools will start to teach these subjects from September 2019 – if you'd like to know more, please speak to your child's school about what they plan to teach.



Right to withdraw your child

You cannot withdraw your child from Relationships Education because it is important that all children receive this content, covering topics such as friendships and how to stay safe.

Your child's primary school can choose to teach Sex Education. If you'd like to know more about this, we recommend speaking to the school to understand what will be taught and when. If you do not want your child to take part in some or all of the lessons on Sex Education, you can ask that they are withdrawn. At primary level, the head teacher must grant this request.

The science curriculum in all maintained schools also includes content on human development, including reproduction, which there is no right to withdraw from.



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If you want to know more about what will be taught as part of the new subjects, the best thing to do is speak to your child's school.