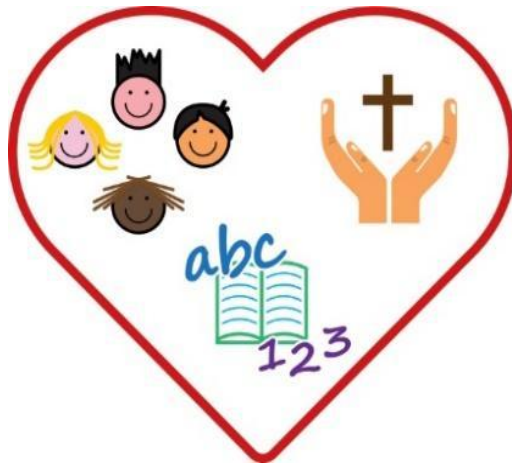


ST. MATTHEW'S C.E. PRIMARY ACADEMY & NURSERY



Relationships and Sex Education Policy

You shall love your neighbour as yourself. Matt 22v39

Reviewed: February 2024
By: Zara Higgins

Date of next review: February 2026

St Matthew's Church of England Primary Academy and Nursery

Relationships Education Policy

Be blessed by God, be happy and aspire to be....

1. Mission Statement

“St. Matthew’s C.E. Primary Academy is dedicated to providing an education which enables every child to fulfil his/her best potential. It seeks to promote spiritual, academic and emotional growth in a Christian environment welcoming children drawn from diverse cultures.”

2. 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 Matthew’s Church of England Academy 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.

St Matthew’s Vision Statement:

Inspired by Jesus’ words (Matthew 5: 1-12), we strive to promote academic, emotional and spiritual growth in a Christian environment for all members of our school family.
We can all **‘Be blessed by God, be happy and aspire to be...’**

3. Aims

The aims of relationship and sex education at St Matthew’s CE Primary Academy are:

- To ensure 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.

4. Statutory requirements

Be blessed by God, be happy and aspire to be....

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.

The Department for Education, Relationships, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education Guidance states;

'Today's children and young people are growing up in an increasingly complex world and living their lives seamlessly on and offline. This presents many positive and exciting opportunities, but also challenges and risks. In this environment, children and young people need to know how to be safe and healthy, and how to manage their academic, personal and social lives in a positive way. In primary schools, we want the subjects to put in place the key building blocks of healthy, respectful relationships, focusing on family and friendships, in all contexts, including online. This will sit alongside the essential understanding of how to be healthy. These subjects represent a huge opportunity to help our children and young people develop. The knowledge and attributes gained will support their own, and others', wellbeing and attainment and help young people to become successful and happy adults who make a meaningful contribution to society.'

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

5. Policy Development and Review

In 2021, this policy had been developed in consultation with staff, pupils and parents. The consultation and policy development process involved the following steps:

1. Review – a working group gathered with 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.
3. Pupil consultation – in whole class discussions pupils were asked as part of their PSHE curriculum what exactly pupils want from their Relationships education.
4. Parent consultation – parents were then invited to respond to a questionnaire about the RSE content.
5. Ratification – once amendments were made, the policy was shared with the working party again before governors and ratified. This policy will be reviewed every 2 years using the above process, drawing on the views of pupils, parents, staff and the community at the time of review.

In 2024, we are currently reviewing the policy and curriculum taking into consideration pupil, staff and parent views. Once completed we will publish the information on our website.

6. 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.

Health Education is a programme of teaching about puberty, physical health and fitness, healthy eating, mental wellbeing, drugs, alcohol and tobacco. Please see the PSHE policy for more information.

Sex Education is a programme of work that covers the biological process of sexual reproduction including human reproduction linked closely to the objectives in the science curriculum.

7. Curriculum Delivery of Relationships and Sex Education

Relationships

Our Relationships curriculum is embedded within our PSHE Curriculum along with the health aspects and is reviewed yearly, for any adaptations when necessary. All learning content is checked and is quality assured by the PSHE Association and is based upon the five topics for relationships.

KS1 & 2 Five Topics:

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

All content is adapted to meet the needs of pupils with special educational needs or disabilities and where specific adaptations are needed. Please see the PSHE policy for more information on our PSHE curriculum along with the health aspects of the curriculum.

Sex Education

As a school we have decided to deliver Sex Education to children in the Summer Term of Year 6. ***Please look to point 8 for information on withdrawing.*** This will be delivered separately for boys and girls. We will also invite parents before delivering to share the learning outcomes as well as giving advice to parents who wish to withdraw and provide their child with this information separately.

Please see **point 13**, for the curriculum overview for the school in relation to Relationships and Sex Education showing which topics are taught in which years.

8. Withdrawals

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 must be put in writing and addressed to the Headteacher who will arrange a meeting to discuss the request with parents and, where appropriate, the child, and take appropriate action.

Relationships Education

Parents **cannot** withdraw their child from any part of Relationship Education as from April 2021 this 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 at St Matthew's C.E. Primary School.

9. Difficult questions & sensitive issues

Our school's Relationship and Sex Education programme will provide opportunities for children to 'talk honestly and openly'. At the same time, we must 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:

Rape, oral sex, exploitative or violent sexual practices, FGM, incest, abortion, prostitution, contraception, masturbation or about forms of sexual intercourse including homosexual practices, AIDS/HIV or foreplay.

Discussions and topics will not go beyond the areas identified on the curriculum overview and learning content.

At St Matthew's, we use the 'Ask it basket' for questions that may wish to be asked in our PSHE lessons, also allowing confidentiality. Consideration should be given to religious or cultural factors, and to parents' wishes before questions are answered. If a child were to ask a question to the teacher that is listed in the above list or any questions which teachers feel uncertain about answering, should be discussed with a senior member of staff and answered at a later date.

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.

10. Roles and responsibilities

The Local Governing Committee

The Local Governing Committee 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 Relationships Education with sensitivity.
- Modelling positive attitudes to Relationships Education.
- Responding to the needs of individual pupils.
- Responding appropriately to pupils whose parents wish them to be withdrawn from sex education.

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. (See difficult questions and sensitive issues)

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.

Pupils

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

11. Training

Staff are trained on the delivery of Relationships through attending courses which may also involve online courses or delivering back to staff during staff meetings or INSET days.

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

12. Monitoring arrangements

The delivery of RSE is monitored in the same as the PSHE curriculum through:

- Learning walks
- Planning
- Floor book and Reflection book scrutinies
- Pupil interviews/questionnaires.

13. Curriculum Overview

Our RSE teaching is based on guidelines published by the PSHE Association. All teaching staff are responsible for teaching RSE. Our curriculum has been discussed, consulted, researched, and used local data to help us to develop a personalised curriculum for the children at St Matthew's. It also ensures that balanced information is provided which considers the different faiths' views and avoid any negative impressions. Lessons have been chosen and are quality assured by the PSHE Association. For more information please see our PSHE Curriculum policy and PSHE page on our school website.

Here is the link for our curriculum overview at St Matthew's:

[PSHE Documents 2023-24\St Matthew's Whole School Overview 2023-24.docx](#)

Below is the learning content for each section on our curriculum overview for each of the sections. Relationships, Health and Living in the Wider World.

Any Sex Education links have been written in red with explanations of how it will be taught at St Matthew's.

Relationships Education

Here is the link for the learning content of Relationships Education at St Matthew's:

[PSHE Documents 2023-24\Relationships Learning Content.docx](#)

Health Education

Here is the link for the learning content of Health Education at St Matthew's:

[PSHE Documents 2023-24\Health Education Learning Content.docx](#)

Living in the Wider World

Here is the link for the learning content of Living in the Wider World at St Matthew's:

[PSHE Documents 2023-24\Living in the Wider World Learning Content.docx](#)