

Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) Policy



You shall love your neighbour as yourself.

Matt 22v39

Approved by: Mrs J Burger Headteacher

Father David Arnold Chair of Governors

Date: November 2020

Review date: November 2021, November 2022, November 2023

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 Adlington St Paul's Church of England School 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.

Aims

The aims of relationship and sex education at Adlington St Paul's CE Primary School are:

- To ensure Sex and 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 both 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.

Statutory requirements

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 Development and Review

This policy has been developed in consultation with staff, pupils, parents and governors. The consultation and policy development process involved the following steps:

1. Review – a working group including staff and governors gather 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. Governor consultation – governors were given the opportunity to look at the policy and make recommendations
4. Parent/stakeholder consultation – parents and any interested parties were invited to respond to a questionnaire about the policy
5. Pupil consultation – pupil feedback from RSE lessons was gathered
6. Ratification – once amendments were made, the policy was shared with governors and ratified

This policy will be reviewed every 3 years using the above process, drawing on the views of pupils, parents, staff and the community at the time of review.

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

Sex Education is a programme of work that covers the statutory objectives in the science national curriculum and also explains conception and cell division and the terminology used, describes the signs and symptoms of pregnancy, outlines the stages of pregnancy and identifies who can help during pregnancy and the health needs of mother and child.

Health Education (see Health Education Policy) is a programme of teaching about puberty, physical health and fitness, healthy eating, mental wellbeing, drugs, alcohol and tobacco.

The Science curriculum covers human reproduction (see Science Policy)

Right to be excused from 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 should be put in writing and addressed to the headteacher. A copy of the withdrawal request will be placed in the pupil's educational record. The Headteacher will arrange a meeting to discuss the request with parents and, where appropriate the child, and take appropriate action.

Parents cannot withdraw their child from any part of Relationship Education as this now forms part of the basic curriculum and is a requirement of the government's statutory guidance

Parents with concerns with any part of the Relationship Education programme in school can arrange a meeting with the head teacher to discuss this further, however, as it is statutory guidance the child will not be able to be withdrawn from any of these lessons.

Alternative work will be given to pupils who are withdrawn from Sex Education.

Curriculum Delivery of RSE

Appendix 1 outlines the curriculum overview for the school in relation to RSE showing which topics are taught in which years. In addition, the overview indicates where cross curricular work covers RSE content.

All content is adapted to meet the needs of pupils with special educational needs or disabilities and where specific adaptations are needed, they are detailed in the overview.

Difficult questions & sensitive issues in relation to sex education

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

Rape, oral sex, exploitative or violent sexual practices, incest, abortion, prostitution, contraception, masturbation or about forms of sexual intercourse including homosexual practices or foreplay. AIDS/HIV issues will be discussed in an age-appropriate and sensitive manner as and when they are encountered.

If a child asks a question on any topic listed in the first section of the above list, teachers will address this matter in school, then inform parents when such a question is asked and the response that was given. The response will always be age appropriate.

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.

Roles and responsibilities

The governing board

The governing board 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 RSE with sensitivity.
- Modelling positive attitudes to RSE.
- Responding to the needs of individual pupils.
- Responding appropriately to pupils whose parents wish them to be withdrawn from sex education.

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.

Miss M Walton-reception teacher

Miss E Collier- Y1 class teacher

Mrs J Chidgey - PSHE lead Y2 class teacher

Mr G Nolan - Y3 class teacher

Miss L Taylor - Y4 class teacher

Mrs L Halsall - Y5 class teacher

Mr R Findlow - Y6 class teacher

Pupils

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

Training

Staff are trained on the delivery of RSE. This will be through support from external agencies such as HHKids and Coram Life Education, staff meetings lead by Mrs J Chidgey PSHE lead and through an approved PSHE scheme of work.

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

At Adlington St. Paul's we work with the external agency HHKids.

Monitoring arrangements

The delivery of RSE is monitored through:

Half termly monitoring of planning, children's books, lesson visits and pupil voice.