



The Federation of Sacred Heart and St Mary's RC Primary Schools, Battersea

RELATIONSHIP AND SEX EDUCATION POLICY

Approved By	Governors
Reviewed On	March 2024
Review Due	March 2026
Review Cycle	Biennially (Every 2 years)

School Mission Statement

“A man took a grain of mustard seed and sowed it in his field. Indeed, the seed is smaller than all seeds but when it is grown, it is greater than the herbs, and it becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in its branches.” (Matthew 13.31)

Our Mission Statement commits us to educate the whole child (spiritual, physical, intellectual, moral, social, cultural and emotional) and ensure they flourish and grow and we believe that RSE is an integral part of this education.

In drafting this Policy

This policy was produced in consultation with staff and parents/carers. As a federation we invited parents into school for a meeting regarding the consultation of the policy, we had previously discussed the learning of RSE and PSHE within the school with the School Council members and reviewed the RSE curriculum content, along with the delivering of the teaching and learning, with the teaching staff.

Implementation and Review of Policy

Implementation of the policy took place after consultation with the Governors and parents in 2020. This policy will be reviewed every 2 years by the Head teacher, RSE Co-ordinator, the Governing Body and Staff. The next review date is September 2024.

Defining Relationship and Sex Education

The DfE guidance states that “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.” It is about the development of the pupil’s knowledge and understanding about what it means to be fully human, called to live in relationships with self and others and being enabled to make moral decisions in conscience.

In primary schools the focus should be on “teaching the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships, with particular reference to friendships, family relationships, and relationships with other children and with adults.”

This would include the topics of families and the people of who care for me, caring friendships, respectful relationships, online relationships and being safe.

'I HAVE COME THAT YOU MIGHT HAVE LIFE AND HAVE IT TO THE FULL' (Jn.10.10)

We are involved in relationships and sex education precisely because of our Christian beliefs about God and about the human person. The belief in the unique dignity of the human person made in the image and likeness of God underpins the approach to all education in a Catholic school. Our approach to RSE therefore is rooted in the Catholic Church's teaching of the human person and presented in a positive framework of Christian ideals.

At the heart of the Christian life is the Trinity, Father, Son and Spirit in communion, united in loving relationship and embracing all people and all creation. As a consequence of the Christian belief that we are made in the image and likeness of God, gender and sexuality are seen as God's gift, reflect God's beauty, and share in the divine creativity. RSE, therefore, will be placed firmly within the context of relationships.

Following the guidance of the Bishops of England and Wales and as advocated by the DFE RSE will be firmly embedded in the PSHE framework as it is concerned with nurturing human wholeness and integral to the physical, spiritual, emotional, moral, social and intellectual development of pupils. It is centred on Christ's vision of being human as good news and will be positive and prudent, showing the potential for development, while enabling the dangers and risks involved to be understood and appreciated.

All RSE will be in accordance with the Church's moral teaching. It will emphasise the central importance of marriage and the family whilst acknowledging that all pupils have a fundamental right to have their life respected whatever household they come from and support will be provided to help pupils deal with different sets of values.

Aim of RSE

To develop the following Attitudes and Virtues:

- respect for the dignity of every human being – in their own person and in the person of others;
- joy in the goodness of the created world and their own bodily natures;
- responsibility for their own actions and a recognition of the impact of these on others;
- recognising and valuing their own identity and that of others;
- cultural teaching of relationships;
- celebrating the gift of life-long, self-giving love;
- recognising the importance of marriage and family life;

To develop the following Personal and Social Skill:

- making sound judgements and good choices which have integrity and which are respectful of the individual's commitments;
- loving and being loved, and the ability to form friendships and loving, stable relationships;
- managing emotions with relationships, and when relationships breakdown;
- managing conflict positively, recognising the value of difference;
- cultivating humility, mercy and compassion, learning to forgive and be forgiven;
- developing self-esteem and confidence, demonstrating self-respect and empathy for others;
- building resilience and the ability to resist unwanted pressures, recognising the influence and impact of the media, internet and peer groups;

To develop the following Knowledge and Understanding:

- the Church's teaching on marriage and the importance of marriage and family life;
- the centrality and importance of virtue in guiding human living and loving;
- the physical and psychological changes that accompany puberty

These will be covered through overlapping themes within the Primary Curriculum Framework for PSHE - moral, spiritual, physical, emotional and social development.

Inclusion and Differentiated Learning

We will ensure RSE is sensitive to the different needs of individual pupils in respect to pupils' different abilities, levels of maturity and personal circumstances in a way that does not subject pupils to discrimination. Lessons will also help children to realise the nature and consequences of discrimination, teasing, bullying and aggressive behaviours (including cyber-bullying), use of prejudice-based language and how to respond and ask for help. These questions will be responded to in the context of the school's inclusion policy.

Statutory Curriculum Requirements

We are required to teach those aspects of RSE which are statutory parts of National Curriculum Science.

Equalities Obligations

The governing body have wider responsibilities under the Equalities Act 2010 and will ensure that our school strives to do the best for all of the pupils, irrespective of disability, educational needs, race, nationality, ethnic or national origin, pregnancy, maternity, sex, gender identity, religion or sexual orientation or whether they are looked after children.

Broad Content of RSE

Three aspects of RSE - attitudes and values, knowledge and understanding, and personal and social skills will be provided in three inter-related ways: the whole school / ethos dimension; a cross-curricular dimension and a specific RSE curriculum.

Programme / Resources

The main RSE programme will be **Life to the full** a programme in Relationship Education published by Ten:Ten resources.

The Federation also use the following programmes and resources within the PSHE and RSE curriculum;

- **A weekly Paths lesson** which forms the theme of the PSHE lesson for that week.
- **Come and See** (RE Programme).

Assessment of RSE

RSE is monitored, evaluated and assessed as part of the school curriculum. Class teachers will be responsible for assessing children during their learning and developing throughout the programme. Evidence of taught RSE and PSHE will be recorded within books, work on display and/or within RE books when teaching Life to the full. In addition to this, children will participate in self- evaluation.

Parents and Carers

We recognise that parents (and other carers who stand in their place) are the primary educators of their children. As a Catholic school, we provide the principal means by which the Church assists parents and carers in educating their children. Therefore, the school will support parents and carers by providing material to be shared with their children at home and workshops to help parents/carers to find out more. Resources used by the school in the RSE programme will be made available each year for parents/carers to view.

Ten:Ten provide an online parents portal for parents to view resources and keep themselves informed.

Parents have the *right to withdraw* their children from RSE excepting those elements which are required by the National Curriculum science orders. Should parents wish to withdraw their children they should notify the school by contacting the Headteacher in writing. The request will be made on a year by year basis. The school will provide support by providing material for parents to help the children with their learning.

Teaching the Programme

Class teachers have the responsibility for teaching PSHE and, as such, the RSE curriculum.

External Visitors

On some occasions adults from other agencies will be used to deliver some aspects of RSE. Such visits will always complement the current programme and never substitute or replace teacher led sessions. External visitors will be made clear about their roles and responsibilities whilst they are in school delivering a session. Visitors should adhere to our code of practice developed in line with the school visitor policy and will be required to ensure that all teaching is rooted in Catholic principles and practice.

Other Roles and Responsibilities regarding RSE

Governors

- Draw up the RSE policy, in consultation with parents and teachers;
- Ensure that the policy is available to parents;
- Ensure that the policy is in accordance with other whole school policies, e.g., SEN, the ethos of the school and our Christian beliefs;
- Ensure that parent knows of their right to withdraw their children;
- Establish a link governor to share in the monitoring and evaluation of the programme, including resources used;
- Ensure that the policy provides proper and adequate coverage of relevant National Curriculum science topics and the setting of RSE within PSHE.

Headteacher

The Head teacher takes overall delegated responsibility for the implementation of this policy and for liaison with the Governing Body, parents, the Diocesan Schools' Service and the Local Education Authority, also appropriate agencies.

PSHE/RSE Co-ordinator

The co-ordinator with the head teacher has a general responsibility for supporting other members of staff in the implementation of this policy and will provide a lead in the dissemination of the information relating to RSE and the provision of in-service training.

All Staff

RSE is a whole school issue. All teachers have a responsibility of care; as well as fostering academic progress they should actively contribute to the guardianship and guidance of the physical, moral and spiritual well-being of their pupils. Teachers will be expected to teach RSE in accordance with the Catholic Ethos of the school. Appropriate training will be made available for all staff teaching RSE. All staff have been included in the development of this policy and all staff should be aware of the policy and how it relates to them.

Children's Questions

The governors want to promote a healthy, positive atmosphere in which RSE can take place. They want to ensure that pupils can ask questions freely, be confident that their questions will be answered, and be sure that they will be free from bullying or harassment from other children and young people.

Controversial or Sensitive Issues

There will always be sensitive or controversial issues in the field of RSE. These may be matter of maturity, of personal involvement or experience of children, of disagreement with the official teaching of the Church, of illegal activity or other doubtful, dubious or harmful activity. The governors believe that children are best educated, protected from harm and exploitation by discussing such issues openly within the context of the RSE programme. The use of ground rules, negotiated between teachers and pupils, will help to create a supportive climate for discussion.

(See also Sex and Relationship Guidance, 4.5 'Dealing with questions' 0116/2000, Department for Education and Employment, July 2000 for more detail)

Some questions may raise issues which it would not be appropriate for teachers to answer during ordinary class time.

Supporting Children and Young People who are at Risk

Children will also need to feel safe and secure in the environment in which RSE takes place. Effective RSE will provide opportunities for discussion of what is and is not appropriate in relationships.

Such discussion may well lead to disclosure of a safeguarding issue. Teachers will need to be aware of the needs of their pupils and not let any fears and worries go unnoticed. Where a teacher suspects that a child or young person is a victim of or is at risk of abuse they are required to follow the school's safeguarding policy and immediately inform the designated senior member of staff responsible.

Sacred Heart: Mrs N Byrne (Associate Headteacher) Mr J Brading (Executive Head) Mrs T Chowdhury (Senco).

St Mary's: Mrs C Mitchell (Associate Headteacher) Mr J Brading (Executive Head) Mrs E Cadden (Learning Mentor).

Confidentiality and Advice

All governors, all teachers, all support staff, all parents and all pupils must be made aware of this policy, particularly as it relates to issues of advice and confidentiality.

All lessons, especially those in the RSE programme, will have the best interests of pupils at heart, enabling them to grow in knowledge and understanding of relationships and sex, developing appropriate personal and social skills and becoming appreciative of the values and attitudes which underpin the Christian understanding of what it means to be fully human.

Pupils will be encouraged to talk to their parents/carers about the issues which are discussed in the programme. Teachers will always help pupils facing personal difficulties. Teachers should explain to pupils that they cannot offer unconditional confidentiality, in matters which are illegal or abusive for instance.

Teachers will explain that in such circumstance they would have to inform others, e.g., parents, head teacher, but that the pupils would always be informed first that such action was going to be taken

Monitoring and Evaluation

The RSE Coordinator will monitor provision by scrutinising plans, schemes of work and samples of pupils work. The programme will be evaluated biennially. Governors will carry out their own audit of the policy and will consider all such evaluations and suggestions before amending the policy. Parents will also be consulted. Governors remain ultimately responsible for the policy.