

# St Thomas of Canterbury

## Relationships and Health Education Policy

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## **Together with God, we reach for the stars**

In this policy the Governors and teachers, in partnership with pupils and their parents, set out their intentions about relationships and sex education (RSE). We set out our rationale for and approach to relationships and sex education in the school.

### **Implementation and Review of Policy**

This policy will be reviewed every year by the Head teacher, RSE Co-ordinator, the Governing Body and Staff.

### **Dissemination**

The draft policy will be given to all members of the Governing Body, and all teaching and non-teaching members of staff. Copies of the document will be available to all parents through the school's prospectus and a copy is available in the school office. Details of the content of the RSE curriculum will also be published on the school's web site.

### **Defining Relationship and Sex Education**

The DFE guidance defines RSE as "lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of marriage and family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality and sexual health"<sup>1</sup>. It is about the development of the pupil's knowledge and understanding of her or him as a sexual being, about what it means to be fully human, called to live in right relationships with self and others and being enabled to make moral decisions in conscience. The DFE identifies three main elements: "attitudes and values, personal and social skills, and knowledge and understanding"

We acknowledge that Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) and Citizenship, as well as Relationship and Sex Education (RSE), are all underpinned by a theology of relationship and are all encompassed in the title 'Relationships and Sex Education' (RSE).

### **Statutory Curriculum Requirements**

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

### **Statement of intent**

At St Thomas of Canterbury, we understand that pupils must be provided with an education that prepares them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life. A key part of this relates to relationships and health education, which must be delivered to every primary-aged pupil. Primary schools also have the option to decide whether pupils are taught sex education.

Relationships education focusses on giving pupils the knowledge they need to make informed decisions about their wellbeing, health and relationships, and to build their self-efficacy. Health education focusses on equipping pupils with the knowledge they need to make good decisions about their own health and wellbeing.

We understand our responsibility to deliver a high-quality, age-appropriate and evidence-based relationships and health curriculum for all our pupils. This policy sets out the framework for our relationships and health curriculum, providing clarity on how it is informed, organised and delivered.

Our belief in the unique dignity of the human person as made in the image and likeness of God underpins the approach to all education in our school. Our approach to relationship and sex education therefore is rooted in the Catholic Church's teaching of the human person and is presented positively and prudently.

Stemming from this vision of what it means to be human, we seek to educate the whole child: spiritually, intellectually, morally, emotionally, psychologically, and physically towards our understanding of Christian maturity.

Following guidance from our own Bishop and Diocese, the Conference of Bishops of England and Wales and as advocated by the DFE, all relationship and sex education in our school will be firmly embedded in the Religious Education framework as it is concerned primarily with nurturing the human wholeness of our pupils.

All relationship and sex education 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.

It is our understanding that any teaching about love and sexual relationships in a Catholic school must be rooted in the Catholic Church's teaching about what it is to be truly human in Christ, what it means to live well in relationship with others and be presented within a positive framework of Christian virtue. In accordance to advice from the CES, we will speak about Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) rather than Sex and Relationship Education (SRE), since this emphasises the importance of healthy relationships to human well-being, as the core learning within an RSE curriculum.

Signed by:

_____	Headteacher	Date: _____
_____	Chair of governors	Date: _____

## 1. Legal framework

1.1. This policy has due regard to legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Section 80A of the Education Act 2002
- Children and Social Work Act 2017
- The Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education (England) Regulations 2019
- Equality Act 2010
- DfE (2019) 'Relationships, Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education'
- DfE (2013) 'Science programmes of study: key stages 1 and 2'

1.2. This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Behavioural Policy

- SEND Policy
- Inclusion Policy
- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Harmful Sexual Behaviour Policy
- Pupil Confidentiality Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy: Pupils
- Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) Policy
- E-safety Policy
- Visitor Policy

## **2. Roles and responsibilities**

2.1. The governing board is responsible for:

- Ensuring all pupils make progress in achieving the expected educational outcomes.
- Ensuring the curriculum is well led, effectively managed and well planned.
- Evaluating the quality of provision through regular and effective self-evaluation.
- Ensuring teaching is delivered in ways that are accessible to all pupils with SEND.
- Providing clear information for parents on subject content and their rights to request that their children are withdrawn.
- Making sure the subjects are resourced, staffed and timetabled in a way that ensures the school can fulfil its legal obligations.
- Ensuring the religious ethos of the school is maintained and developed through the subjects.

2.2. The headteacher is responsible for:

- The overall implementation of this policy.
- Ensuring staff are suitably trained to deliver the subjects.
- Ensuring that parents are fully informed of this policy.
- Reviewing requests from parents to withdraw their children from the subjects.
- Discussing requests for withdrawal with parents.
- Organising alternative education for pupils, where necessary, that is appropriate and purposeful.
- Reporting to the governing board on the effectiveness of this policy.
- Reviewing this policy on an annual basis.

2.3. The relationships, sex and health education subject leader is responsible for:

- Overseeing the delivery of the subjects.
- Ensuring the subjects are age-appropriate and high-quality.
- Ensuring teachers are provided with adequate resources to support teaching of the subjects.
- Ensuring the school meets its statutory requirements in relation to the relationships, sex and health curriculum.
- Ensuring the relationships, sex and health curriculum is inclusive and accessible for all pupils.

- Working with other subject leaders to ensure the relationships, sex and health curriculum complements, but does not duplicate, the content covered in the national curriculum.
- Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the subjects and providing reports to the headteacher.

2.4. All teaching staff are responsible for:

- Delivering a high-quality and age-appropriate relationships, sex and health curriculum in line with statutory requirements.
- Using a variety of teaching methods and resources to provide an engaging curriculum that meets the needs of all pupils.
- Ensuring they do not express personal views or beliefs when delivering the programme.
- Modelling positive attitudes to relationships, sex and health education.
- Responding to any safeguarding concerns in line with the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.
- Acting in accordance with planning, monitoring and assessment requirements for the subjects.
- Liaising with the SENCO to identify and respond to individual needs of pupils with SEND.
- Working with the relationships, sex and health education subject leader to evaluate the quality of provision.

2.5. NA

2.6. The SENCO is responsible for:

- Advising teaching staff how best to identify and support pupils' individual needs.
- Advising staff on the use of TAs in order to meet pupils' individual needs.

### 3. Organisation of the curriculum

3.1. Every primary school is required to deliver statutory relationships education and health education.

3.2. For the purpose of this policy, **“relationships and sex education”** is defined as teaching pupils about healthy, respectful relationships, focussing on family and friendships, in all contexts, including online, as well as developing an understanding of human sexuality.

3.3. For the purpose of this policy, **“health education”** is defined as teaching pupils about physical health and mental wellbeing, focussing on recognising the link between the two and being able to make healthy lifestyle choices.

3.4. The delivery of the relationships education and health education coincide with one another. 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.

- 3.5. The relationships and health curriculum has been organised in line with the statutory requirements outlined in the DfE (2019) 'Relationships, Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education' guidance.
- 3.6. The relationships and health curriculum takes into account the views of teachers, pupils and parents. We are dedicated to ensuring our curriculum meets the needs of the whole-school community.
- 3.7. The relationships and health curriculum is informed by issues in the school and wider community to ensure it is tailored to pupils' needs; for example, if there was a local prevalence of specific sexually transmitted infections, our curriculum would be tailored to address this issue.
- 3.8. We consult with parents, pupils and staff in the following ways:
  - Questionnaires and surveys
  - Focus groups
  - Meetings
  - Training sessions
  - Newsletters and letters
- 3.9. Any parent, teacher or pupil wishing to provide feedback about the curriculum can do so at any time during the academic year by:
  - Organising a meeting with the headteacher
- 3.10. The school has organised a curriculum that is age-appropriate for pupils within each year group, based on the views of teachers, parents and pupils.
- 3.11. When organising the curriculum, the religious backgrounds of all pupils will be considered, so that the topics that are covered are taught appropriately.

#### **4. Consultation with parents**

- 4.1. The school understands the important role parents play in enhancing their children's understanding of relationships, sex and health. Similarly, we also understand how important parents' views are in shaping the curriculum. The Church has always recognised that it is the privilege and the responsibility of parents to educate and inform their children in all matters pertaining to personal growth and development particularly in the sensitive area of their moral education and sexual development. The Church also recognises that many parents require help and support in this task from both schools and parishes.

- 4.2. The school works closely with parents by establishing open communication – all parents are consulted in the development and delivery of the curriculum, as outlined in [section 3](#) of this policy.
- 4.3. The governing body fully subscribes to the views expressed by the Bishop's Conference and will always ensure that parents are supported in their task and are provided with the following information:
  - The content of the relationships, sex and health curriculum
  - The delivery of the relationships, sex and health curriculum, including what is taught in each year group
  - The legalities surrounding withdrawing their child from the subjects
  - The resources that will be used to support the curriculum
- 4.4. The school aims to build positive relationships with parents by inviting them into school to discuss what will be taught, address any concerns and help parents in managing conversations with their children on the issues covered by the curriculum.
- 4.5. Parents are consulted in the review of the curriculum and this policy, and are encouraged to provide their views at any time.

## **5. Relationships education overview**

### **Families and people who care for me**

- 5.1. By the end of primary school, pupils will know:
  - That families are important for them growing up because they can give love, security and stability.
  - The characteristics of healthy family life, commitment to each other, including in times of difficulty, protection and care for children and other family members, the importance of spending time together and sharing each other's lives.
  - That others' families, either in school or in the wider world, sometimes look different from their family, but that they should respect those differences and know that other children's families are also characterised by love and care.
  - That stable, caring relationships, which may be of different types, are at the heart of happy families, and are important for children's security as they grow up.
  - That marriage represents a formal and legally recognised commitment of two people to each other which is intended to be lifelong.
  - How to recognise if family relationships are making them feel unhappy or unsafe, and how to seek help or advice from others if needed.

### **Caring friendships**

- 5.2. By the end of primary school, pupils will know:



- How important friendships are in making us feel happy and secure, and how people choose and make friends.
- The characteristics of friendships, including mutual respect, truthfulness, trustworthiness, loyalty, kindness, generosity, trust, sharing interests and experiences, and support with problems and difficulties.
- That healthy friendships are positive and welcoming towards others, and do not make others feel lonely or excluded.
- That most friendships have ups and downs, but that these can often be worked through so that the friendship is repaired or even strengthened, and that resorting to violence is never right.
- How to recognise who to trust and who not to trust.
- How to judge when a friendship is making them feel unhappy or uncomfortable.
- How to manage conflict.
- How to manage different situations and how to seek help from others if needed.

### **Respectful relationships**

5.3. By the end of primary school, pupils will know:

- The importance of respecting others, even when they are very different from them (for example, physically, in character, personality or backgrounds), make different choices, or have different preferences or beliefs.
- Which practical steps they can take in a range of different contexts to improve or support respectful relationships.
- The conventions of courtesy and manners.
- The importance of self-respect and how this links to their own happiness.
- That in school and wider society they can expect to be treated with respect by others, and that in turn they should show due respect to others, including those in positions of authority.
- About the different types of bullying (including cyberbullying), the impact of bullying, responsibilities of bystanders to report bullying to an adult, and how to seek help.
- What a stereotype is, and how they can be unfair, negative or destructive.
- The importance of permission-seeking and giving in relationships with friends, peers and adults.

### **Online relationships**

5.4. By the end of primary school, pupils will know:

- That people sometimes behave differently online, including pretending to be someone they are not.

- That the same principles apply to online relationships as to face-to-face relationships, including the importance of respect for others online, even when we are anonymous.
- The rules and principles for keeping safe online.
- How to recognise harmful content and contact online, and how to report these.
- How to critically consider their online friendships and sources of information.
- The risks associated with people they have never met.
- How information and data is shared and used online.

### **Being safe**

5.5. By the end of primary school, pupils will know:

- What sorts of boundaries are appropriate in friendships with peers and others – including in a digital context.
- About the concept of privacy and the implications of it for both children and adults.
- That it is not always right to keep secrets if they relate to being safe.
- That each person's body belongs to them, and the differences between appropriate and inappropriate or unsafe physical, and other, contact.
- How to respond safely and appropriately to adults they may encounter (in all contexts, including online) who they do not know.
- How to recognise and report feelings of being unsafe or feeling bad about any adult.
- How to ask for advice or help for themselves and others, and to keep trying until they are heard.
- How to report concerns or abuse, and the vocabulary and confidence needed to do so.
- Where to seek advice, for example, from their family, their school and other sources.

## **6. Relationships and Sex Education per year group**

- 6.1. Alongside the DFE statutory curriculum content outlined in section 5, it is recognised that RSE elements delivered, will be in accordance to the teaching of the Church.
- 6.2. All pupils must be taught the aspects of sex education outlined in the primary science curriculum – this includes teaching about the main external parts of the human body, how it changes as it grows from birth to old age, including puberty, and the reproductive process in some plants and animals.
- 6.3. The school always considers the age and development of pupils when deciding what will be taught in each year group.
- 6.4. Supported by the PSHE Association, the school plans a progressive curriculum that asks 'big questions', such that topics are built upon prior knowledge taught in previous years as they progress through school to provide a smooth transition to secondary school.

6.5. To compliment the PSHE and Science curricula taught within the school, 'Ten:Ten' is too being utilised. As a progressive scheme of work, that supports Religious Education, this programme supports the mission of Catholic schools to educate the whole person. It is understood that it should be carried out as part of the holistic education which seeks to inform young people in preparation for adult life. Themes covered by Ten:Ten are; Created and Loved by God, Created to Love Others, Created to Live in Community.

#### 6.6. Year 1

**PSHE Theme - How do we feel?** Different kinds of feelings; strategies to manage feelings; change and loss. What makes us special? Respecting similarities and differences between people; special people; that everyone is unique; but that everyone has similarities

**Ten:Ten** – We are created individually by God as a unit of mind, body and spirit; we are unique, with individual gifts, talents and skills; our bodies – similarities and differences, saying sorry is important, know that God is love and being made in his image means being called to love and love others, importance of living in a community

#### Year 2

**PSHE Theme - How do we show our feelings?** Different kinds of feelings; strategies to manage feelings; change and loss; recognising how others are feeling; sharing feelings, What is bullying? Hurtful teasing and bullying is wrong, what to do about bullying; unsafe secrets; inappropriate touch what to do if it happens. What is the same and different about us? Recognise what they are good at; set simple goals; growing; and changing and being more independent; naming body parts correctly (including external genitalia); belonging to different groups.

**Ten:Ten** – Trust, similarities and differences with likes and dislikes, describing feelings, understanding the differences between feelings and actions, and that our actions can 'form' our feelings and our character, strategies for managing feelings, choices have consequences, identify special people, importance of nuclear and wider family, trust and the importance of telling someone if something is troubling them, behaviour, positive and negative relationships, apologising to our friends and God

#### Year 3

**PSHE Theme - What can we do about bullying?** Recognising bullying; how to respond and ask for help; consequences of anti-social, aggressive and harmful behaviours such as bullying and discrimination of communities and individuals, support for themselves or for others at risk, recognise and challenge stereotypes, develop strategies to solve disputes and conflict through negotiation and appropriate compromise, people who help them stay healthy and safe How can we describe our feelings? Wider range of feelings; conflicting feelings experiences at the same time; describing feelings; feelings associated with change; recognising wider range of feelings in others; responding to other's feeling

**Ten:Ten** – Emotions change as they grow, emotional wellbeing, recognise that images in the media do not always reflect reality, some behaviour is wrong, thankfulness builds resilience

#### **Year 4**

**PSHE Theme** - How do we grow and change? Changes that happen at puberty; keeping good hygiene; describing intensity of feelings to others; managing complex emotions; different types of relationships; what makes a healthy relationship (friendship); maintaining positive relationships; who is responsible for their health and wellbeing; to ask for advice. What is diversity? Difference and diversity of people living in the UK; values and customs of people around the world; stereotypes

**Ten:Ten** – How a baby grows and develops, conception and life cycle, similarities and differences as they grow and make choices, respecting and looking after their bodies, changes

#### **Year 5**

**PSHE Theme** – What does discrimination mean? Actions can affect self and others, discrimination, teasing and bullying, stereotypes, differences and similarities between people, equalities. What makes a community? What it means to be in a community; groups and individuals that support the local community; voluntary, community and pressure groups; appreciating the range of identities in the UK; values and customs of people living around the world

**Ten:Ten** – Find ways that they can spread love in their community, to know that God calls us to love others

#### **Year 6**

**PSHE Theme** - What makes a healthy and happy relationship? Different relationships; what makes positive; healthy relationships; recognise when relationships are unhealthy; committed; loving relationships (including marriage, civil partnership); human reproduction

**Ten:Ten** – Becoming an adult is a natural phase of life, similarities and differences that arise between people as they grow and change including puberty, unique growth and development of humans, the need for modesty and appropriate boundaries, recognise the difference between harmful and harmless videos, the impact and how to deal with these

## **7. Health education overview**

- 7.1. The focus at primary level is teaching the characteristics of good physical health and mental wellbeing.

### **Mental wellbeing**

- 7.2. By the end of primary school pupils will know:

- That mental wellbeing is a normal part of daily life, in the same way as physical health.
- That there is a normal range of emotions, e.g. happiness, sadness, anger, fear, surprise and nervousness.
- The scale of emotions that humans experience in response to different experiences and situations.
- How to recognise and talk about their emotions, including having a varied vocabulary of words to use when talking about their own and others' feelings.
- How to judge whether what they are feeling and how they are behaving is appropriate and proportionate.
- The benefits of physical exercise, time outdoors, community participation, and voluntary and service-based activity on mental wellbeing and happiness.
- Simple self-care techniques, including the importance of rest, time spent with friends and family, and the benefits of hobbies and interests.
- How isolation and loneliness can affect children and that it is very important they discuss their feelings with an adult and seek support.
- That bullying (including cyberbullying) has a negative and often lasting impact on mental wellbeing.
- Where and how to seek support (including recognising the triggers for seeking support), extending to who in school they should speak to if they are worried about themselves or others.
- That it is common to experience mental ill health and, for the many people who do, the problems can be resolved if the right support is made available, especially if accessed early enough.

### **Internet safety and harms**

7.3. By the end of primary school, pupils will know:

- That for most people, the internet is an integral part of life and has many benefits.
- About the benefits of rationing time spent online.
- The risks of excessive time spent on electronic devices.
- The impact of positive and negative content online on their own and others' mental and physical wellbeing.
- How to consider the effect of their online actions on others.
- How to recognise and display respectful behaviour online.
- The importance of keeping personal information private.
- Why social media, some computer games and online gaming, for example, are age-restricted.
- That the internet can also be a negative place where online abuse, trolling, bullying and harassment can take place, which can have a negative impact on mental health.
- How to be a discerning consumer of information online, including understanding that information (inclusive of that from search engines) is ranked, selected and targeted.
- Where and how to report concerns and get support with issues online.

### **Physical health and fitness**

7.4. By the end of primary school, pupils will know:

- The characteristics and mental and physical benefits of an active lifestyle.
- The importance of building regular exercise into daily and weekly routines and how to achieve this, for example by walking or cycling to school, a daily active mile, or other forms of regular, vigorous exercise.
- The risks associated with an inactive lifestyle, including obesity.
- How and when to seek support, including which adults to speak to in school if they are worried about their health.

### **Healthy eating**

7.5. By the end of primary school, pupils will know:

- What constitutes a healthy diet, including an understanding of calories and other nutritional content.
- The principles of planning and preparing a range of healthy meals.
- The characteristics of a poor diet and risks associated with unhealthy eating, including obesity, and other behaviours, e.g. the impact of alcohol on diet or health.

### **Drugs alcohol and tobacco**

7.6. By the end of primary school, pupils will know:

- The facts about legal and illegal harmful substances and associated risks, including smoking, alcohol use and drug-taking.

### **Health and prevention**

7.7. By the end of primary school, pupils will know:

- How to recognise early signs of physical illness, such as weight loss or unexplained changes to the body.
- About safe and unsafe exposure to the sun, and how to reduce the risk of sun damage, including skin cancer.
- The importance of sufficient good-quality sleep for good health, and that a lack of sleep can affect weight, mood and ability to learn.
- About dental health and the benefits of good oral hygiene and dental flossing, including regular check-ups at the dentist.
- About personal hygiene and germs including bacteria and viruses, how they are spread and treated, and the importance of hand washing.
- The facts and science relating to immunisation and vaccination.

### **Basic first aid**

7.8. By the end of primary school, pupils will know:

- How to make a clear and efficient call to emergency services if necessary.
- Concepts of basic first-aid, for example dealing with common injuries, including head injuries.

### **Changing adolescent body**

7.9. By the end of primary school, pupils will know:

- Key facts about puberty and the changing adolescent body, particularly from age 9 through to age 11, including physical and emotional changes.
- About menstrual wellbeing and key facts relating to the menstrual cycle.

## **8. Health education per year group**

8.1. The school always considers the age and development of pupils when deciding what will be taught in each year group.

8.2. The school plans a progressive curriculum as approved by the PSHE Association, such that topics are built upon prior knowledge taught in previous years as they progress through school to provide a smooth transition to secondary school. Big questions are asked in conjunction with each topic.

8.3. **Reception and Year 1** How do we keep safe? Keeping safe in familiar and unfamiliar situations; household products (including medicines) can be harmful; secrets and surprises; appropriate/inappropriate touch; who helps keep us safe; asking for help. How can we be healthy? Things that keep our bodies healthy (physical activity, sleep, rest, healthy food), making healthy choices, basic personal hygiene routines and why these are important

**Ten:Ten** – our bodies are good and we need to look after them, what constitutes a healthy lifestyle, the importance of rest and recreation

**Year 2** How can we keep safe in different places? Rules for keeping safe in different places; including online; people who work in the community; asking for help; including in an emergency. How can we be healthy? Things that keep bodies and minds healthy (activity, rest, food); hygiene routines; healthy choice

**Ten:Ten** - Understand safe and unsafe situations, including online; know the difference between good and bad secrets; resisting pressure when feeling unsafe; know that they are entitled to bodily privacy; who they can trust

**Year 3** What are the rules that keep us safe? Importance of school rules for health and safety; hygiene routines; difference between appropriate and inappropriate touch; how to respond; keeping safe in local environment; how to get help in an emergency; people who help them stay safe. How can we eat well? What makes a balanced lifestyle; balanced diet; making choices; what influences choices

**Ten:Ten** - There are different people that we can trust for help

**Year 4** How can we keep safe in our local area? Managing risk in familiar situations and the local environment; feeling negative pressure and managing this; recognising and managing dares; actions affect themselves and others; people who help them stay healthy and safe. How can we be a good friend? Recognise wider range of feelings in others; responding to feelings; strategies to resolve disputes; negotiation and compromise; resolving differences; feedback.

**Ten:Ten** - Ways to maintain and develop trusting relationships; strategies for when things go wrong; relationships; difference between a group of friends and a 'clique'; bullying and harassment

**Year 5** How can we be safe online and using social media? Keeping safe and well using a mobile phone; strategies for managing personal safety online; managing requests for images; personal boundaries. What choices help health? What makes a balanced lifestyle; making choices; what is meant by a habit; drugs common to everyday life; who helps them stay healthy and safe.

**Ten:Ten** - Recognise that increased independence brings increased responsibility; how to use technology safely; reporting online content; cyberbullying

**Year 6** What are human rights? Why and how laws are made; taking part in making and changing rules; importance of human rights; rights of the child; right to protect their bodies (including FGM or forced marriage); confidentiality and when to break a confidence. How can we stay healthy? What positively and negatively affects health; informed choices; balanced lifestyle; how drugs can affect health and safety; the law and drugs; who is responsible for their health and wellbeing

**Ten:Ten** - Recognise that images from the media do not always reflect reality; thankfulness builds resilience; feelings are not good guides for actions; unacceptable and unhealthy behaviours; emotions will change as they grow (including hormonal effects); emotional wellbeing

## 9. Delivery of the curriculum

- 9.1. The relationships, sex and health curriculum will be delivered as part of our PSHE and RE curriculum primarily. We acknowledge that every area of school life can potentially contribute to RSE as the school, of its very nature operates through positive human relationships. We recognise value and greatly appreciate the contribution made by all members of staff in deepening the quality of our Christian community
- 9.2. Through effective organisation and delivery of the subject, we will ensure that:
  - Core knowledge is sectioned into units of manageable size.
  - The required content is communicated to pupils clearly, in a carefully sequenced way, within a planned scheme of work.



- Teaching includes sufficient and well-chosen opportunities and contexts for pupils to embed new knowledge so that it can be used confidently in real-life situations.
  - Teachers will use their professional judgement when addressing issues in RSE. Careful consideration will be given to the wide and varied experience and backgrounds of the pupils in their care.
- 9.3. The curriculum is delivered proactively, such that it addresses issues in a timely way in line with current evidence on children's physical, emotional and sexual development.
  - 9.4. Teaching of the curriculum reflects requirements set out in law, particularly the Equality Act 2010, so that pupils understand what the law does and does not allow, and the wider legal implications of the decisions they make.
  - 9.5. At the point we consider it appropriate to teach pupils about LGBTQ+, we will ensure that this content is fully integrated into the relationships, sex and health curriculum, rather than delivered as a standalone unit or lesson.
  - 9.6. Pupils will be taught about LGBTQ+ in Upper KS2; however, we will always consider the development and maturity of pupils before teaching this topic.
  - 9.7. The school ensures that all teaching and materials are appropriate for the ages of the pupils, their religious backgrounds, their developmental stages and any additional needs, such as SEND.
  - 9.8. Lesson plans will provide appropriate challenge for pupils and be differentiated for pupils' needs.
  - 9.9. Classes may be taught in gender-segregated groups, dependent upon the nature of the topic being delivered at the time, and the cultural background of pupils where it is only appropriate to discuss the body in single gender groups.
  - 9.10. Throughout every year group, appropriate diagrams, videos, books, games, discussion and practical activities will be used to assist learning.
  - 9.11. Inappropriate images, videos, etc., will not be used, and resources will be selected with sensitivity given to the age, developmental stage and cultural background of pupils.
  - 9.12. Pupils will be prevented from accessing inappropriate materials on the internet when using such to assist with their learning. The prevention measures taken to ensure this are outlined in the school's E-safety Policy.
  - 9.13. Teachers will establish what is appropriate for one-to-one and whole-class settings, and alter their teaching of the programme accordingly.
  - 9.14. Teachers will ensure that pupils' views are listened to and will encourage them to ask questions and engage in discussion. Teachers will answer questions sensitively, honestly and appropriate to the pupil's age.

- 9.15. The programme will be designed to focus on boys as much as girls, and activities will be planned to ensure both are actively involved, matching their different learning styles.
- 9.16. Teachers will focus heavily on the importance of marriage and healthy relationships, though sensitivity will always be given as to not stigmatise pupils based on their home circumstances.
- 9.17. Teachers will ensure that lesson plans are centred around reducing stigma, particularly in relation to mental wellbeing, and encouraging openness through discussion activities and group work.
- 9.18. Teachers will ensure lesson plans focus on challenging perceived views of pupils based on protected characteristics, through exploration of, and developing mutual respect for, those different to themselves.
- 9.19. Any resources or materials used to support learning will be formally assessed by the PSHE and RE subject leaders before use to ensure they are appropriate for the age and maturity of pupils, and sensitive to their needs.
- 9.20. In teaching the curriculum, teachers will be aware that pupils may raise topics such as self-harm and suicide. When talking about these topics in lessons, teachers will be aware of the risks of encouraging these behaviours and will avoid any resources or material that appear as instructive rather than preventative.
- 9.21. At all points of delivery of this programme, parents will be consulted, and their views will be valued. What will be taught and how, will be planned in conjunction with parents.
- 9.22. A record is kept in teacher's planning of the delivery of RSE. The programme is assessed, monitored and evaluated by the co-ordinator in accordance with the school's monitoring and evaluation policy. Pupils are given the opportunity for self-evaluation at an appropriate level for each year group. Reporting is made in individual pupil's reports under 'General Development'. Whilst there are no formal examinations for the relationships, sex and health curriculum, the school will undertake informal assessments to determine pupil progress – these include the following:
- Group presentations
  - Group tasks
  - Projects

## **10. Working with external experts**

- 10.1. External experts may be invited to assist from time-to-time with the delivery of the programme and will be expected to comply with the provisions of this policy.
- 10.2. The school will ensure all visitor credentials are checked before they are able to participate in delivery of the curriculum, in line with the Visitor Policy.
- 10.3. The school will ensure that the teaching delivered by the external expert fits with the planned curriculum and this policy.

- 10.4. Before delivering the session, the school will discuss the details of the expert's lesson plan and ensure that the content is age-appropriate and accessible for the pupils.
- 10.5. The school will also ask to see the materials the expert intends to use, as well as a copy of the lesson plan, to ensure it meets all pupils' needs, including those with SEND.
- 10.6. The school will agree with the expert the procedures for confidentiality, ensuring that the expert understands how safeguarding reports should be dealt with in line with the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.
- 10.7. The intended use of external experts is to enhance the curriculum delivered by teachers, rather than as a replacement for teachers.

## **11. Equality and accessibility**

- 11.1. The school understands its responsibilities in relation to the Equality Act 2010, specifically that it must not unlawfully discriminate against any pupil because of their:
  - Age
  - Sex or sexual orientation
  - Race
  - Disability
  - Religion or belief
  - Gender reassignment
  - Pregnancy or maternity
  - Marriage or civil partnership
- 11.2. The school is committed to making reasonable adjustments wherever possible to promote accessibility and inclusivity of the curriculum.
- 11.3. The school understands that pupils with SEND or other needs (such as those with social, emotional or mental health needs) are entitled to learn about relationships, sex and health education, and the programme will be designed to be inclusive of all pupils.
- 11.4. Teachers will understand that they may need to be more explicit and adapt their planning of work and teaching methods in order to appropriately deliver the programme to pupils with SEND or other needs.
- 11.5. Provisions under the Equality Act 2010 allow our school to take positive action, where it can be evidenced to be proportionate, to respond to particular disadvantages affecting a group because of a protected characteristic. For example, we could consider taking positive action to support girls if there was evidence that they were being disproportionately subjected to sexual violence or sexual harassment.
- 11.6. When deciding whether support is necessary to support pupils with a particular protected characteristic, we will consider our pupils' needs, including the gender and age range of our pupils.

- 11.7. In order to foster healthy and respectful peer-to-peer communication and behaviour between boys and girls, the school implements a robust Behavioural Policy, as well as a Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy, which set out expectations of pupils.

## 12. Curriculum links

- 12.1. The school seeks opportunities to draw links between relationships, sex and health education and other curriculum subjects wherever possible to enhance pupils' learning.
- 12.2. Relationships, sex and health education will be linked to the following subjects in particular:
- **Science** – pupils learn about the main external parts of the body and changes to the body as it grows from birth to old age, including puberty.
  - **Computing and ICT** – pupils learn about e-safety, including how to use technology safely, responsibly, respectfully and securely, how to keep personal information private and how to access help and support.
  - **PE** – pupils explore various physical activities, are physically active for sustained periods of time, engage in competitive sport and understand how exercise can lead to healthier lifestyles.
  - **Citizenship** – pupils learn about the requirements of the law, their responsibilities and the possible consequences of their actions.
  - **PSHE** – pupils learn about respect and difference, values and characteristics of individuals.

## 13. Withdrawing from the subjects

- 13.1. Relationships and health education are statutory at primary and parents **do not** have the right to withdraw their child from the subjects.
- 13.2. As sex education is not statutory at primary level (other than what must be taught as part of the science curriculum), parents have the right to request to withdraw their child from all or part of the sex education curriculum. It is our hope that parents would wish their children to be involved in the schools positive and prudent programme of relationship and sex education, following annual consultation regarding the school's approach. However, we recognise parents have the right to withdraw their children from such lessons (not included in National Curriculum Science) after discussion with the headteacher.
- 13.3. The headteacher will automatically grant withdrawal requests in accordance with point 13.2; however, the headteacher will discuss the request with the parent and, if appropriate, their child, to ensure that their wishes are understood and to clarify the nature and purpose of the curriculum.
- 13.4. The headteacher will discuss with the parent, the benefits or receiving this important education and any adverse effects that withdrawal may have on the pupil – this could include, for example, social and emotional effects of being excluded.

- 13.5. The headteacher will keep a record of the discussion between themselves, the pupil and the parent.
- 13.6. The headteacher will grant a parent's request to withdraw their child from sex education, other than the content that must be taught as part of the science curriculum.
- 13.7. The parent will be informed in writing of the headteacher's decision.
- 13.8. Where a pupil is withdrawn from sex education, the headteacher will ensure that the pupil receives appropriate alternative education.

## **14. Behaviour**

- 14.1. The school has a zero-tolerance approach to bullying. We aim to foster a culture based on mutual respect and understanding for one another.
- 14.2. Any bullying incidents caused as a result of the relationships, sex and health education programme, such as those relating to sexual orientation, will be dealt with as seriously as other bullying incidents within the school.
- 14.3. Any occurrence of these incidents will be reported to a member of school staff, who will then discipline the pupil once they are on school premises.
- 14.4. These incidents will be dealt with following the processes in our Behavioural Policy and Anti-Bullying Policy.
- 14.5. The headteacher will decide whether it is appropriate to notify the police or an anti-social behaviour coordinator in their LA of the action taken against a pupil.

## **15. Staff training**

- 15.1. All staff members at the school will undergo training on a termly basis to ensure they are up-to-date with the relationship, sex and health education programme and associated issues. All staff have access to the PSHE Association website and are encouraged to liaise with the RE and PSHE leads to enhance quality of learning.
- 15.2. Training of staff will also be scheduled around any updated guidance on the programme and any new developments, such as 'sexting', which may need to be addressed in relation to the programme.

## **16. Confidentiality**

- 16.1. Confidentiality within the classroom is an important component of relationships, sex and health education, and teachers are expected to respect the confidentiality of their pupils as far as is possible.
- 16.2. Teachers will, however, alert the headteacher about any suspicions of inappropriate behaviour or potential abuse as per the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

- 16.3. Pupils will be fully informed of the school's responsibilities in terms of confidentiality and will be aware of what action may be taken if they choose to report a concern or make a disclosure.
- 16.4. Any reports made during lessons, or as a result of the content taught through the curriculum, will be reported to the DSL and handled in accordance with the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

## **17. Monitoring quality**

- 17.1. The PSHE and RE is responsible for monitoring the quality of teaching and learning for the subjects.
- 17.2. The PSHE and RE leads will conduct subject assessments as per the monitoring schedule, which will include a mixture of the following:
  - Self-evaluations
  - Lesson observations
  - Topic feedback forms
  - Learning walks
  - Work scrutiny
  - Lesson planning scrutiny
- 17.3. The PSHE and RE lead will create annual subject reports for the headteacher and governing board to report on the quality of the subjects.

## **18. Monitoring and review**

- 18.1. This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis by the relationships, sex and health education subject leader and headteacher. The next scheduled review date for this policy is Spring 2021.
- 18.2. This policy will also be reviewed in light of any changes to statutory guidance, feedback from parents, staff or pupils, and issues in the school or local area that may need addressing.
- 18.3. The governing board is responsible for approving this policy.
- 18.4. Any changes made to this policy will be communicated to all staff, parents and, where necessary, pupils.