



## **RELATIONSHIPS, SEX AND HEALTH EDUCATION POLICY**

### **Relationships, Sex and Health Education Policy**

This policy is underpinned by the Christian ethos and values of the school. At Saxilby Church of England Primary School we seek to support every individual to achieve their best and recognise that each one of us has our own talents which should be nurtured. Our Christian values are vibrant strands woven within the very fabric of this school's culture.

This policy has been developed in consultation with all stakeholders, including governors, staff, pupils and parents and carers.

### **A Definition of Relationships, Sex and Health Education for Church Schools**

All Church of England and Methodist schools within the Diocese of Lincoln are statutorily required to teach Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education. Within the context of Christian beliefs about human dignity (e.g. Genesis 1:26-27) and the need to love your neighbour as you love yourself (e.g. Mark 12:30-31), RSHE enables pupils to flourish and gain every opportunity to live fulfilled lives.

RSHE is about the emotional, social and physical aspects of growing up, healthy relationships, sex, human sexuality and sexual health. It is also about the spiritual and moral aspects of relationships within a context of a Christian vision for the purpose of life. Through RSHE in church schools, pupils will have the chance to learn about how to ensure that they treat themselves and others, at all times and in all contexts, with dignity and respect.

As a school we wholeheartedly support the philosophy of RSHE and believe it is best taught as part of PSHE. The programme seeks to promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils as well as preparing them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life in a digital age.

Relationships Education is learning about how to:

- be appreciative of existing relationships
- to form new healthy relationships
- to enjoy strong positive, non-exploitative, caring relationships online and in person.

This will particularly reference family relationships including marriage, friendships and relationships with peers and adults.

In this school any content that might be regarded as Sex Education: learning about human body parts, growth, puberty and reproduction will be taught through the Science Curriculum using scientific vocabulary.

**Parents do not have the right the excuse their children from this aspect of the curriculum.** Sex Education in primary schools is not mandatory; however, the National Curriculum for Science in primary schools includes content about human body parts, growth, puberty and reproduction.

**Parents or Guardians do not have the right to withdraw from this aspect of the curriculum.**

### **Statutory Requirements**

As a local authority maintained church school, we are statutorily required to provide Relationships Education to all pupils under section 34 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017. We are not required to provide Sex Education, but we are required to teach elements of sex education contained within the Primary Science curriculum.

In teaching RSHE, we have regard to the guidance issued by the secretary of state as outlined in inspection 403 of the Education Act 1996.

At Saxilby C Of E Church of England Primary School, we teach RSHE as set out in this policy.

### **RSHE Curriculum**

Our RSHE curriculum has been developed in consultation with various stakeholders, including governors, staff, pupils and parents/carers and takes into account the context of the school and its pupils.

Topics that are covered:

Health and Wellbeing

Relationships

Living in the Wider World

Through an effective and creative curriculum and by the end of primary school, pupils should know about;

- Families and people who care from them.
- Caring friendships
- Respectful relationships
- Online relationships
- Being safe

## Physical health and mental wellbeing

Pupils will be taught about the characteristics of good physical health and mental wellbeing of the benefits and importance of daily exercise, good nutrition and sufficient sleep, and that mental wellbeing is a normal part of daily life, in the same way as physical health. Within the curriculum and by the end of primary school, pupils should know about;

- Mental wellbeing
- Online behaviour and safety
- Physical health and fitness
- Healthy eating
- Drugs, alcohol and tobacco
- Health and prevention
- Basic first aid
- Changing adolescent body

This RSHE curriculum has been planned in the context of our broader curriculum intent, and the delivery of this part of the curriculum is one of the ways in which we seek to realise our overarching distinctively Christian vision. It reflects core Christian teachings about human beings and healthy relationships, including the belief that all are made in the image of God, are loved by God and are therefore to be treated with dignity and respect. This enables our pupils to understand that they should value the gift of themselves and recognise and respect this gift of uniqueness in others by seeking out healthy relationships. It will also help them understand a range of Christian views on the importance of long-term relationships as building blocks for family stability

### **Delivery of RSHE**

RSHE is taught as part of the broader PSHE curriculum. Biological aspects of RSHE are taught within the Primary Science Curriculum and some elements of RSE may be taught within the RE curriculum, particular with relation to a range of views on relationships from religions and worldviews.

Teaching is delivered by class teachers or teaching assistants, some elements of RSHE education are delivered by a trained health professional. The school uses a range of resources to deliver effective RSHE and all staff involved in delivering RSHE receive appropriate training and support. Pupil progress and attainment in RSHE will be monitored annually

All RSHE is delivered with an understanding that pupils and staff may be personally engaged in different structures of support and familial relationships, including single parent families, LGBTQ families, families headed by grandparents, adoptive parents, foster parents/carers, young carers, etc. The RSHE curriculum has been carefully designed to ensure that no person feels stigmatised; this is set within the context of the biblical teaching that all human beings are created in the image of God

(Genesis 1:26-7) and that Christians are called to respect and honour everyone (e.g. 1 Peter 2:17)

### **Roles and responsibilities**

The Head teacher – has overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation and liaising with the governing body, parents/carers, LA and outside agencies and in identifying a lead teacher who will work closely with colleagues in related curriculum areas in order to complement and not duplicate content.

The Curriculum Lead will take responsibility for;

- Policy development and review involving pupils, staff, governors, parents/carers and relevant partners
- Implementing the policy and monitoring and assessing its effectiveness in practice
- Ensuring evaluation takes place and that this informs policy review
- Assessing and coordinating training and support for staff and parents/carers where appropriate
- Manage all aspects of the RSHE programme developing curriculum materials where appropriate
- Liaise with external agencies to deliver specific elements of the programme
- Monitor and quality assure the programme to ensure continuity and progression within the spiral curriculum

For more information about the delivery of RSHE, please contact the RSHE curriculum leader

Sarah Allen

### **Parental Right to Withdraw from Sex Education**

Parents/guardians do not have the right to withdraw their children from Relationships Education.

Elements of Sex Education are included in the Primary Science Curriculum and parents/guardians do not have the right to withdraw their children from the Science Curriculum.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the non-science elements of Sex Education within RSHE. Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing to the head teacher. We will invite you to talk through your concerns, review the materials we use and explain our rationale.

Withdrawing your child from Sex Education remains a statutory right as a parent or legal guardian.

### **Monitoring, evaluation and review**

To ensure the RSHE programme is effective, is meeting the needs of pupils and complies with the RSHE statutory guidance, the following strategies will be used to quality assure the programme of study;

- Evaluation self-review from pupils after specific topics
- Comments from pupils and representatives from the pupil voice
- Whole class discussions
- Lesson observations or Book Talk

### **Confidentiality and child protection**

It is inevitable that effective RSHE which allows for open discussion to take place may lead to disclosures from pupils. It is essential that those teaching RSHE are completely familiar with the child protection procedures. Pupils disclosures or suspicion of abuse must be followed up with the pupil concerned, that same day and referred to the designated safeguarding lead, and if not present their deputy. They will deal with these disclosures or suspicions in line with the child protection policy.

### **Links with other policies**

The RSHE policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies;

- Safeguarding
- Behaviour
- Anti-bullying
- Online safety
- SEND
- Inclusion
- Equality and Diversity

This Policy will be reviewed in September 2022