



LINCOLN ANGLICAN
ACADEMY TRUST
DIOCESE OF LINCOLN

Relationships, Sex & Health Education (RSHE) Policy

Policy Owner: St. Peter's Church of England Primary Academy

Policy Implementation Date: May 2024

Our School Vision

We believe that all are made in the image of God. We seek to ensure all are valued, valuable and empowered to be the best they can be. We learn from each other, developing our understanding of different cultures to ensure,

'Life in all its fullness,' (John 10:10)

– the golden strand that runs through all our work.

Our School Values

Peace, Hope & Joy

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

Policy Guidance

This policy refers to:

- the 'Statutory guidance on relationships education, relationships and sex education (RSE) and health education – 13th September 2021'
- the 2010 Equality Act – the characteristics that are protected:
 - age
 - disability
 - gender reassignment
 - marriage or civil partnership (in employment only)
 - pregnancy and maternity
 - race
 - religion or belief
 - sex
 - sexual orientation

'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.'

This is why we have made Relationships Education compulsory in all primary schools in England and Relationships and Sex Education compulsory in all secondary schools, as well as making Health Education compulsory in all state-funded schools. The key decisions on these subjects have been informed by a thorough engagement process, including a public call for evidence that received over 23,000 responses from parents, young people, schools and experts and a public consultation where over 40,000 people contacted the Department for Education

We are clear that parents and carers are the prime educators for children on many of these matters. Schools complement and reinforce this role and have told us that they see building on what pupils learn at home as an important part of delivering a good education.'

A Message from The Secretary of State

The regulations also set out the rights of parents/carers to withdraw pupils from Sex Education but not from Relationships or Health Education. The DfE statutory guidance on Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education can be found at: [Relationships and sex education \(RSE\) and health education](#)

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.

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.

At St. Peter's C. of E. Primary Academy 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.

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/guardians do not have the right to withdraw from this aspect of the curriculum.

Statutory Requirements

As a primary church academy, we must provide Relationships Education to all pupils as per section 34 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017. We do not have to follow the National Curriculum, but we are required to offer all pupils a curriculum that is similar in breadth and depth to the National Curriculum, including requirements to teach science, which would include the 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 in section 403 of the Education Act 1996.

At St Peters C. of E. Primary Academy, we teach RSHE as set out in this policy.

RSHE Curriculum

Our RSHE curriculum at St. Peter's C. of E. Primary Academy incorporates concepts such as:

- Families and people who care for me
- Caring friendships and respectful relationships
- Internet safety, safe online relationships with others and inherent dangers therein
- Mental wellbeing and emotional resilience
- Basic first aid: physical health and fitness, healthy eating, and risks to health such as drugs, alcohol and tobacco use.

All of this knowledge woven into six half-termly topics within the Jigsaw programme.

The Jigsaw framework includes:

- Being in my World - Autumn 1
- Celebrating Difference - Autumn 2
- Dreams and Goals - Spring 1
- Healthy Me - Spring 2
- Relationships - Summer 1
- Changing Me - Summer 2

Much of the RSHE content is covered in the final half-term.

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.

Delivery of RSHE

RSHE is taught at St Peters CofE Primary Academy as part of the broader PSHE curriculum. As a school, we follow the Jigsaw Programme of Study, adapting and tailoring this to fit our own school context.

Biological aspects of RSHE are taught within the Primary Science Curriculum (see additions later in this paragraph) and some elements of RSHE may be taught within the RE curriculum, particular with relation to a range of views on relationships from religions and worldviews.

Teaching is predominantly delivered by our class teachers with some elements of RSHE education are also delivered by a trained health professionals, sourced by the school e.g. Compass Go!

We help our children to reflect sensitively to understand that others may have a different structure of support around them. We provide opportunities to build their character. High quality resources support our RSHE provision and delivery. These are reviewed regularly and enable the RSHE curriculum to be embedded across all areas of the curriculum as an integral part of daily school life.

In a primary academy, such as ours, relationships, sex and health education focuses on teaching the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships.

The following statements outline what is covered within our primary RSHE curriculum in addition to those in the statutory science curriculum:

- Preparing boys and girls for the changes that adolescence brings (beyond the factual and anatomical teaching of puberty and the human body covered in the science curriculum)
- How a baby is conceived and born.

Assessment of RSHE

Pupil progress and attainment in RSHE will be monitored on a termly basis in accordance with the Jigsaw Programme of Study. This is done, predominantly, through discussion with pupils and observing both their oral and written responses within lessons. These are then mapped against key objectives for their year group.

Classes keep scrap books of this learning journey, noting individual anonymised child responses including other outcomes from lessons .

A RSHE Policy that is Inclusive for all

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).

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 of School. 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.

For more information about the delivery of RSHE, please contact the RSHE curriculum leader, Mr Dolphin (Head of School).

This policy will be monitored and reviewed by the Head of School.

After consultation, it was approved by the combined governing bodies of both schools in April 2024