




St. Matthew's
Church of England Primary School

Adopted: July 2021
Reviewed by: September 2022

RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION POLICY

Vision, Mission & Values

 St. Matthew's CE Primary School	
Vision	Core Values The way we do things around here
Outstanding in everything we do	We aim high - We are aspirational for our children, our school and ourselves
Mission The St. Matthew's Way	We encourage - We build people up, we recognise the value of the whole school family
High educational expectations within a caring Christian Community so our children have successful futures.	We have faith - We have the courage to take risks and try new things knowing that this is a safe place and we have faith that God has great plans for our school and the individuals in it We do all this in a culture of respect

Context

We teach children about relationships within the context of being a Christian school. It is important that as children grow up, they come to an understanding of their own bodies, and feelings. We teach and model caring relationships.

Rationale

Relationship and Sex education (RSE) is lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of loving and caring relationships. It is about the teaching of sex, sexuality and sexual health. It should empower pupils to make positive decisions about their health and related behaviour

Research demonstrates that good, comprehensive RSE does not make young people more likely to become sexually active at a younger age. Relationship and Sex Education Guidance (DfE 0116/2000)

Relationship and Sex education will reflect the values of the PSHE (the Personal, Social, Health and Economic) and Citizenship programme. RSE will be taught in the context of relationships.

In addition RSE will promote self-esteem and emotional health and well-being and help pupils form and maintain worthwhile and satisfying relationships, based on respect for themselves and for others, at home, school, work and in the community.

Our school's approach to R.S.E is sensitive to the age and capacity of the children.

The aims of Relationship and Sex Education are:

- present facts of human reproduction and the human life cycle in an objective and informative manner
- to raise pupils' self-esteem and confidence, especially in their relationships with others
- to develop skills for a healthy and safe lifestyle
- to respect and care for their bodies
- to be prepared for puberty and adulthood
- learn to manage emotions and relationships confidently and sensitively

The Programme of RSE

All schools must teach Science as part of the National Curriculum, parents do not have the right to withdraw their child/children from this.

In the Early Years Foundation Stage, as part of Understanding the World, we teach the children about the life cycles of various animals. This includes looking at how they have changed since they were born. In PSHE, they develop skills to form friendships and think about relationships with others.

In Key Stage 1, we teach children, in science, about how animals and humans move, feed, grow and reproduce and we also teach them about the main parts of the body. Children learn about the importance of personal hygiene to maintain good health. In RE and Citizenship children reflect on family relationships, different family groups and friendship. They begin to recognise the range of human emotions and ways to deal with them. They also learn about personal safety in PSHE.

In Key Stage Two, in science, we teach about life processes and the main stages of the human life cycle in greater depth, including the birth of a baby (in years 5 & 6). Children are taught about the physical, emotional and social changes at puberty, which include personal hygiene. In RE and Citizenship, they continue to develop an understanding of relationships within a family, between friends and the community and that there are different patterns of friendship. They will develop skills needed to form relationships and to respect other people's emotions and feelings.

In P.S.H.E. we teach children about appropriate relationships and we encourage the children to discuss issues. We teach about the parts of the body, and how these work and we explain to the children what happens to their bodies during puberty (Years 5 & 6)

As part of our safeguarding provision, every P.S.H.E lesson in Nursery-Year 6 starts with the PANTS rule, which teaches children that their body belongs to them and they should tell an adult if they are upset or worried:

Privates are private

Always remember your body belongs to you

No means no

Talk about secrets that upset you

Speak up, someone can help

Inclusivity

Every child is entitled to receive R.S.E regardless of ethnicity, gender, religion, age, culture, disability, sexuality, language special needs, disadvantaged and looked after children. It is our intention all children have the opportunity to experience a programme of R.S.E at a level which is appropriate for their age and physical development with differentiated provision if required.

Equal Opportunities

R.S.E will be delivered in line with the school's equal opportunities policy within an atmosphere of mutual respect. Resources selected to support the programme will be free from cultural bias wherever possible and will avoid gender stereotyping. R.S.E will be available to all pupils regardless of gender, culture or disability.

The Organisation of Relationship and Sex Education

This content has been agreed in consultation with governors, parents and teaching staff.

The Senior Leadership Team and P.S.H.E leader has responsibility for coordinating Sex and Relationship Education. Relationship and Sex Education is taught by class teachers with the support of teaching assistants.

Parental consultation

We are committed to working in partnership with parents. Parents with any concerns are always welcome to discuss them with the head teacher or with the child's class teacher. The school informs parents when aspects of the Relationship and Sex programme are taught and provides opportunities for parents to view the videos and resources being used.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from those aspects of Relationship and Sex education, not included in the National Curriculum Science Orders. If so, alternative work would be set. This rarely happens because it is our aim to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents of children at our school through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation.

Dealing with difficult questions

Questions will be answered in the context of the school and classroom rules.

Teachers will endeavour to answer questions as honestly as possible but if faced with a question they do not feel comfortable answering within the classroom, provision would be made to meet the individual child's needs.

Child Protection / Confidentiality

Staff are aware that relationships education, which brings an

understanding of what is and is not acceptable in a relationship, may lead to disclosure of a child protection issue. The staff member will inform the Head Teacher /Designated Child Protection person in line with the school procedures for child protection.

Policy development

Our school's policy on Relationships and Sex Education is based on the Department for Education and Employment document 'Sex and Relationship Education Guidance' (DFES 0116/2000), London Diocesan Board for School's Policy on 'Relationships and Sex Education' (June 2009), 'Valuing All God's Children' (The Church of England Education Office, Autumn 2017).

Role of the Multi-Academy Trust & Governors

The MAT & Governors are responsible for monitoring standards and progress across the school in all subjects.