



2020

Policy Statement for Relationships & Sex Education



Approved by: Head teacher, staff, governors and

Date:

Review Date: **July 2022**

Vision

The greatest commandment Jesus taught was to love God and to love your neighbour. Within this commandment is the foundation of the Christian view of relationships. At Salesbury Church of England School, our relationship education seeks to live out this command and explore how we can 'love our neighbour' through what we say and do. Our school focuses on the importance of relationships and the qualities and character needed to sustain the best relationships that honour each other whether within a friendship, family relationship or romantic relationship.

Each child is a unique being, a child of God, loved and accepted. As such, our school seeks to enable children to develop through an inclusive programme of teaching that is based on Christian principles, which both respects the human body and seeks to ensure health and well-being.

Aims

The aims of relationship and sex education at Salesbury Church of England School are:

- To ensure Sex and Relationships Education is part of a child's broad, balanced curriculum, integral to the basic curriculum of the school and part of the child's all-round development.
- To enable pupils to understand the qualities of healthy relationships based on Christian principles, including the importance of marriage and lifelong commitments as a basis for sexual relationship.
- To prepare children for healthy relationships in an online world.
- To understand how to stay safe, know the importance of boundaries and how to report abuse or feelings of being unsafe.
- Help pupils develop a positive and secure personal identity, a sense of their own value and feelings of confidence and empathy.
- Create a positive culture around issues of sexuality and relationship.
- To ensure that all understand the importance of respecting others and accepting those who differ, yet challenging those behaviours and attitudes which exploit others and do not reflect Christian values.
- To know how to 'love your neighbour' even when we might disagree.
- To understand and use vocabulary in an appropriate way.

Statutory Requirements

This school complies with the requirements of the Equality Act and the Public Sector Equality Duty in addition to complying with the statutory guidance on Relationships Education, Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education.

Policy Development and Review

This policy has been developed in consultation with staff, pupils, the governing board and parents. The consultation and policy development process involved the following steps:

1. Review- two members of staff gathered all the relevant information including relevant national and diocesan and local guidance.
2. Staff consultation-all school staff were given the opportunity to look at the policy and make recommendations.
3. Parent/stakeholder consultation-parents are invited to respond to a consultation about the policy. Members of The Governing Board conducted a detailed review of the policy which was subsequently presented to the board for ratification.
4. Pupil consultation-we investigated what exactly pupils want from their RSE

This policy will be reviewed every 2 years using the above process, drawing on the views of pupils, staff, parents and the community at the time of the review.

Definitions

Relationships Education is the programme of work that forms part of the basic curriculum. It covers all types of relationships including online, peer to peer, family and carer relationships. It also covers respect for others and staying safe.

Sex Education is a programme of work that covers loving relationships, sexual health, contraception, puberty, human reproduction, pregnancy and periods.

Health Education (see PSHE policy) is a programme of teaching about puberty, physical health and fitness, healthy eating, mental well-being, drugs, alcohol and tobacco.

The Science curriculum covers human reproduction (see appendix 1 "Science National Curriculum Programme of Study")

Right to be excused from sex education

Parents have the right to request that their child be withdrawn from some or all of sex education delivered as part of RSE. Parents will be informed in writing prior to the lessons taking place.

Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing and addressed to the head teacher. A copy of the withdrawal request will be placed in the pupil's educational record. The head teacher may arrange a meeting to discuss the request with parents and, where appropriate the child, and take appropriate action.

Parents cannot withdraw their child from any part of Relationship Education as this now forms part of the basic curriculum and is a requirement of the government's statutory guidance.

Alternative work will be given to pupils who are withdrawn from Sex Education.

Curriculum Delivery of RSE

Appendix 2 outlines the curriculum overview for the school in relation to RSE showing which topics are taught in which years. In addition, the overview indicates where cross curricular work covers RSE content.

All content is adapted to meet the needs of pupils with special educational needs or disabilities and where specific adaptations are needed, they are detailed in the overview.

Difficult questions & sensitive issues in relation to sex education

Our school's Relationship and Sex Education programme will provide opportunities for children to 'talk honestly and openly'. At the same time, we have to respect the pace of children's maturation. We feel that some topics are best postponed until the secondary school years. There are also sensitive or controversial topics (see below) over which some staff, parents and governors may have reasonable concerns.

Our school has decided not to teach about or answer questions on...

Rape, oral sex, exploitative or violent sexual practices, incest, abortion, prostitution, foreplay, pornography and anal sex. Whilst children are encouraged not to discuss these issues within the lessons we cannot guarantee this is always followed. Sexually transmitted diseases will be discussed in an age appropriate and sensitive manner as and when they are encountered. If any child asks a question on any topic listed in the first section of the above list, teachers will explain that this is a matter not dealt with in school, that the children should consult his/her parents or carers for an answer. The school will normally seek to inform parents or carers when such a question is asked whenever possible.

In some cases, a question or request for advice may indicate the pupil to be at risk or in danger, in which case appropriate action will be taken in accordance with the school's written policy and procedure for Child Protection. This also means that if a pupil puts a private question to a teacher or other member of staff and requests secrecy, no promise of secrecy or confidentiality will be given, but with the reassurance that any steps taken will always be in the pupil's best interest.

Roles and responsibilities

The governing board

The governing board will approve the RSE policy and hold the head teacher to account for its implementation.

The head teacher

The head teacher is responsible for ensuring that RSE is taught in a carefully sequenced way within a planned programme, and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from sex education.

Staff

Staff are responsible for:

- Teaching in line with the Church of England foundation of the school.
- Delivering RSE with sensitivity.
- Modelling positive attitudes to RSE.
- Responding to the needs of individual pupils.
- Responding appropriately to pupils whose parents wish them to be withdrawn from sex education.

Staff do not have the right to opt out of teaching RSE. Staff who have concerns about teaching RSE are encouraged to discuss this with the head teacher.

All class teachers are responsible for delivering the Relationship and Sex lessons.

Pupils

Pupils are expected to engage fully in RSE and, when discussing issues related to RSE, treat others with respect and sensitivity

Training

Staff are trained on the delivery of RSE during regular staff meetings. The head teacher may invite visitors, such as school nurses or sexual health professionals, to assist with the delivery of RSE or to train staff. Any visitors will follow the school policy and deliver in line with the Church of England ethos of the school.

Monitoring arrangements

The delivery of RSE is monitored through:

Planning scrutinies, work scrutinies, learning walks, exit slips and pupil conferencing.

Appendix

Appendix1: National Curriculum science programmes of study

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/425618/PRIMARY_national_curriculum_-_Science.pdf

Appendix 2: Relationship and Sex Education lesson plans within the context of our PSHE Scheme of Work www.salesbury.lancs.sch.uk/pshe