



St Bede's Catholic Infant School
Relationship and Sex Education Policy (RSE)
(Adapted from Liverpool Archdiocese draft model policy)

Approved by Staff: Autumn 2019
Approved by Governors: Autumn 2019
Review Date: Autumn 2020
Signed Chair of Governors M. Rowlands Date 20.11.19

Mission Statement

At St. Bede's Catholic Infant School it is the mission of the whole school community to nurture a loving, safe, caring, supportive, quality environment in which the individual has the opportunity to develop intellectually, spiritually, morally, socially and emotionally in an atmosphere of trust and mutual respect.

Definition SRE (RSE) in Catholic Schools

“It is lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of marriage for family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality and sexual health. It is not about the promotion of sexual orientation or sexual activity – this would be inappropriate teaching.”

(DfES Sex and Relationship Education Guidance 2000)

Rationale

‘I have come that you might have life and have it to the full’ John 10:10

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).

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 this presented positively and appropriately.

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 advocated by the DfE, all relationship and sex education in our school will be firmly embedded in the PSHE 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 the family whilst acknowledging that all pupils have a fundamental right to have their life respected whatever household they come from. Support will be provided to help pupils deal with different sets of values where necessary.

Aims of Relationship and Sex Education (RSE)

- To encourage pupils' growth in self-respect, acknowledging we are all created in the image and likeness of God
- To help pupils develop an understanding that love is the central basis of relationships
- To help pupils to understand the nature of relationships and to encourage them to reflect on their own relationships and respect differences between people
- To develop and help pupils' confidence in talking, listening and thinking about feelings and relationships
- To help pupils acquire the skills necessary to develop and sustain relationships
- To offer age appropriate sex education in the wider context of relationships
- To ensure pupils protect themselves and ask for help and support when needed
- To help pupils to develop a healthier, safer lifestyle
- To prepare pupils to play an active role as British and global citizens and to understand the Catholic vision of what it means to be children of the Kingdom of God

Delivery of RSE

RSE is taught through our life style in school and through the 'Journey in Love' Programme, Religious Education – Come and See, Science and by way of a cross-curricular, integrated approach.

All elements of PSHCE, whilst non-statutory at Key Stage 1 and 2, are covered. Significant aspects of relationship and sex education remain part of the National Curriculum for science. These will be taught to all pupils. (Parents are unable to withdraw pupils from such lessons).

Key Stage 1 (5-7)

- That humans move, feed, grow, use their senses and reproduce
- To name the main external parts of the body
- That humans grow from babies into children then into adults, and that adults can produce babies
- To recognise similarities and differences between themselves and other pupils

Key Stage 2 (7-11) (elements will be used to enhance the KS1 curriculum as appropriate)

- That the life processes common to humans and all animals include nutrition, growth and reproduction
- The main stages of the human life cycle

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.

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 pupils in their care.

Equal Opportunities

Relationship and Sex Education is for all children in St Bede's Infant School. All young people have a right to Sex and Relationship Education, which supports the fulfillment of their responsibility to make well-informed decisions about sexuality and relationships. Care is taken to ensure that all material used in the delivery of Relationship and Sex Education addresses issues of sex, gender and race.

We also pay due regard to the Equality Act 2010 and recognise that our families can be different and diverse.

SEN

The whole approach to the teaching of RSE is inclusive. The programme is taught in a sensitive way taking into consideration the needs of the individual.

Resources

We acknowledge that parents and carers are the key persons for children learning about sex and relationships; the foremost educators. Our role and our programme simply compliment their role in nurturing their children's wholeness. However, the role of parents and our day to day interactions in school are currently supported by the following curriculum resources:

Appropriate and relevant resources include for example:

'Journey in Love'

Science resources e.g. puzzles, books, ICT programs, labelling of body parts

PSHCE resources for e.g. Rights Respecting School, Fairtrade activities, CAFOD and Anti-bullying activities, which highlight the importance of building positive relationships and respect of others.

RE activities and topics through the 'Come and See' programme also support the children's understanding of family, positive relationships and respect of others.

Assessment, Recording and Reporting

A record is kept in teacher's planning of the delivery of RSE. The programme is assessed, monitored and evaluated by the Coordinator in accordance with the school's monitoring and evaluating policy. Pupils are given the opportunity for self-evaluation at an appropriate level for each year group. Where topics relating to RSE are taught in other subject areas teachers will assess the children's learning appropriately and will be recorded in the relevant class assessment book e.g. RE, Science and foundation subjects book. RSE is commented upon in the end of year reports in the context of the class teacher's general comment and/or in the PSHCE section.

Outside Agencies

The expertise of other agencies will be used appropriately to support the school's delivery, for example, the Health Improvement Team, School Health, NSPCC, PSHE Association, Life Education etc.

Safeguarding Procedures

The school has policies and procedures to deal with any sensitive issues or children thought to be vulnerable. Staff will pass on any concerns of this nature to the Designated Safeguarding Lead, Miss Scragg or Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead, Mrs Towell.

The Governing Body

The Governing Body and Foundation Governors in particular recognise their responsibility to ensure the RSE programme follows Diocesan principles and reflects the Church's teaching.

The Role of Parents

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.

The governing body fully subscribes to the views expressed by the Bishops' Conference and will always ensure that:

- Parents are supported in their task
- Parents are consulted and kept informed of the RSE Programme; its contents, evaluation and review and any subsequent developments

Right of Withdrawal

It is our hope that parents would wish their children to be involved in the school's age appropriate, positive and sensitive programme of sex and relationship 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.

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be monitored and reviewed annually by the RSE coordinator and Governing Body. Parents will be consulted before any proposed changes.

This policy should be read in conjunction with all other relevant policies including Safeguarding, Child Protection, RE, PSHCE, Science.