

## Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) Policy



*Listen, learn, love and laugh as part of  
God's family.*

**Encourage one another and build each other  
up. (1 Thessalonians 5 v11)**

***You shall love your neighbour as yourself.***

Matt 22v39

**First Approved by:** Full Governing Body

**Date:** November 2020

**Reviewed date:** November 2024 **Next full review** November 2028

Amended key roles September 2025

## **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 Slyne-with-Hest St Luke's 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 focusses 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 Slyne-with-Hest CE Primary 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.

## **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 and parents. The consultation and policy development process involved the following steps:

1. Review – a working group gather all relevant information including relevant national, diocesan and local guidance. (AT last review P Bowden: Headteacher, E Pennington: PSHE subject leader, Rev S Seed incumbent). Draft policy and overview formed.
2. Governors – discuss and agree to sex education being part of the RSE work in school
3. Staff consultation – all school staff were given the opportunity to look at the policy and make recommendations
4. Parent/stakeholder consultation – parents and any interested parties were invited to provide written feedback about the policy. The policy was made available online / via email and parents could respond in writing or electronically.
5. Pupil consultation – we investigated what exactly pupils want from their RSE via School Council reps taking the issue back to class for discussion
6. Ratification – once amendments were made, the policy was shared with governors and ratified

This policy will be reviewed internally after the first year of implementation.

This policy will be reviewed fully every 4 years using the above process, drawing on the views of pupils, parents, staff and the community at the time of 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 romantic relationships and basic sex education in KS2.

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

The Science curriculum covers human reproduction (see Science Policy)

### **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.

Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing and addressed to the headteacher. A copy of the withdrawal request will be placed in the pupil's educational record. The Headteacher will 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**

PSHE is delivered in a variety of ways:

- 6 focused PSHE days are held each year (one per half term) covering all aspects of the RSE and wider PSHE curriculum. Children keep evidence in a journal which goes through school with them. The sessions are based on the SCARF (Coram Education materials)
- An annual visit of the CORAM Life Education centre. Each year group visits and receives input from the trained educators on a progressive RSE curriculum matched to the age and maturity of the children. (Jan / Feb each year)
- An annual visit by CORAM educators to teach the puberty and sex education element of the KS2 programme to Years 4 – 6. (June)
- By being embedded into the life of the school so that questions / issues can be dealt with as they arrive either individually or through class discussions / class

Appendix 1 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 but to answer questions if they arise** on:

rape,

prostitution,

abortion,

contraception,

AIDS/HIV

This is due to the fact that words like 'rape' can very occasionally be used in an inappropriate way by a child and follow up work needs to be able to explain why such vocabulary is not appropriate in the form it is being used. There are also occasions when a term like 'prostitute' occurs and again it may be necessary to explain in an appropriate way about meaning.

Our school has decided **not to teach about or answer questions if they arise** on

oral sex,

exploitative or violent sexual practices,

incest,

masturbation

about forms of sexual intercourse including homosexual practices

or foreplay.

If a child asks a question on any topic listed in the second section of the above list, teachers will explain that this is a matter not dealt with in school, that the child should consult his/her parent for an answer. The school will normally seek to inform parents when such a question is asked.

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 headteacher to account for its implementation.

### **The headteacher**

The headteacher 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 headteacher.

Headteacher: Mr P Bowden (also temporary PSHE lead)

PSHE governor / rep: Mrs W Fawcett

### **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.

There is an annual SCARF training session with the life education trainers and follow ups in school. The subject leader will attend appropriate PSHE / RSE training. All staff have PSHE training within the staff meeting programme.

The headteacher 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.

Staff from life education visit the school on an annual basis and teach as part of the PSHE / RSE provision.

### **Monitoring arrangements**

The delivery of RSE is monitored through planning, work scrutinies and learning walks.

### **Appendix 1-Curriculum Overview**