

Northleaze Church of England Primary School

'Let your light shine.' (Matthew 5:16)



RELATIONSHIPS, HEALTH AND SEX EDUCATION POLICY

This policy should be taken as part of the overall strategy of the school and implemented within the context of our vision, aims and values as a Church of England School.

Rationale:

School should be a place where we can 'encourage each other to be all that we can be'. We believe that all pupils have a right to an education which enables them to flourish and is set in a learning community where differences of lifestyle and opinion are treated with dignity and respect; where bullying of all kinds is eliminated; and where they are free to be themselves and fulfil their potential without fear.

Our school's approach to Relationship, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) follows that of the Church of England Education Office in that it seeks to be faith-sensitive and inclusive. It is underpinned by two key Biblical passages:

"So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them." (Genesis 2:7)

"I have come in order that you might have life - life in all its fullness." (John 10:10)

Aims:

- To provide a curriculum that is balanced and meets the needs of all pupils
- To promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils
- To prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life
- To build resilience in our pupils to help them form healthy relationships, to keep themselves safe and resist the harmful influence of the media
- To teach children about what constitutes wellbeing and loving care for ourselves
- To teach children how we show loving care for others (relationships education)
- To teach children how we show loving care to those with whom we choose to be intimate (at an appropriate age and stage in life) including within marriage (sex education)

Statutory Requirements of Relationships and Health Education

We must provide relationships education to all pupils as per section 34 of the Children and Social work act 2017. We have chosen to follow the National Curriculum which includes the elements of sex education contained in the science curriculum. In teaching RSHE, we are required to follow the guidance issued by the secretary of state as outlined in section 403 of the Education Act 1996. At Northleaze C of E Primary School, we teach RSHE as set out in this policy.

How will RSHE be taught in our school?

RSHE will be delivered professionally and as an identifiable part of PSHE. At Northleaze, we use both the Jigsaw Programme (which we use for our PSHE weekly lessons all year round) and the Goodness and Mercy RSHE Scheme (which has been created by the Diocese of Bristol especially for Church of England Primary Schools).

The Jigsaw Programme offers us a comprehensive, carefully thought-through scheme of work which brings consistency and progression to our children's learning in this vital curriculum area. The teaching of RSHE

will be led, resourced and reported to parents in the same way as any other subject. RSHE will be delivered in a way that affords dignity and shows respect to all who make up our diverse community. It will not discriminate against any of the protected characteristics in the Equality Act and will be sensitive to the faith and beliefs of those in the wider school community. RSHE will seek to explain fairly the tenets and varying interpretations of religious communities on matters of sex and relationships and teach these viewpoints with respect.

All staff teaching this sensitive and important subject will have received training. This training will be regularly reviewed and revisited.

Defining sex education

Sex education is about human reproduction (learning how babies can be made and the emotions that people experience when they are ready for close intimacy), conception and birth.

Delivery of PSHE and RSHE

Jigsaw covers all areas of PSHE for the primary phase including statutory Relationships and Health Education. The table below gives the learning theme of each of the six Puzzles (units) and these are taught across the school; the learning deepens and broadens every year.

Term	Puzzle (Unit)	Content
Term 1	Being Me in My World	Includes understanding my own identity and how I fit well in the class, school and global community. Jigsaw Charter
Term 2	Celebrating Difference	Includes anti-bullying (cyber and homophobic bullying included) and understanding
Term 3	Dreams and Goals	Includes goal-setting, aspirations, who do I want to become and what would I like to do for work and to contribute to society
Term 4	Healthy Me	Includes drugs and alcohol education, self-esteem and confidences well as healthy lifestyle choices, sleep, nutrition, rest and exercise
Term 5	Relationships	Includes understanding friendship, family and other relationships, conflict resolution and communication skills, bereavement and loss.
Term 6	Changing Me	Includes Relationships and Sex Education in the context of coping positively with change

These areas of learning are taught within the context of family life taking care to ensure that there is no stigmatisation of children based on their home circumstances (families can include single parent families, LGBT parents, families headed by grandparents, adoptive parents, foster parents/carers amongst other structures) along with reflecting sensitively that some children may have a different structure of support around them (for example: looked after children or young carers).

Communicating with parents

The RSHE coordinator will be responsible for ensuring appropriate and timely communication with parents on what will be taught in Term 6 for our 'Changing me' unit across the school. Parents will receive an outline summary of the content and have an opportunity to ask questions.

The right to withdraw from sex education

Parents do have the right to withdraw their children from the Sex Education aspect of RSHE and can do so by making concerns known and applying in writing to the Headteacher. We will invite any enquiring parents or guardians to talk through concerns. An explanation of the rationale for RSHE will be given; an opportunity will be offered to review the intended materials and to consider the impact of not receiving sex education with peers. Parents do not have the right to withdraw from relationships education or health education. Parents are not able to withdraw their children from the Relationships and Health Education or the part of sex education that are in the science curriculum.

Roles and Responsibilities

The governing body approves this RSE policy, and hold the headteacher to account for its implementation. The headteacher is responsible for ensuring that RSHE is taught consistently across the school and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from non-statutory components of RSE.

Staff are responsible for:

- Delivering RSHE in a sensitive way
- Modelling positive attitudes to RSHE
- Monitoring progress
- Responding to the needs of individual pupil
- Responding appropriately to pupils whose parents wish them to be withdrawn from the non-statutory components of RSHE Staff do not have the right to opt out of teaching RSHE.

Staff who have concerns about teaching RSHE are encouraged to discuss this with the headteacher.

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

Children with SEND may need additional provision and support in RSHE lessons. Teachers (alongside discussions with the SENDo) will consider each child individually and think about their needs and their ability to access the RSHE lessons. Parents will be consulted and necessary adjustments made.

Monitoring and Review

A member of the Governing Body's Ethos Committee monitors implementation of this policy, and reports findings to the Governing Body. The RSHE Co-ordinator and Headteacher review this policy, in discussion with the monitoring governor, and submit it to the Governing Body for approval. School maintains a record of all comments made by parents about the PSHE (RSHE) programme, which are considered seriously by the monitoring governor, and in this policy's review.

Links to other policies:

- Anti Bullying Policy
- Relationships and Behaviour Policy
- Mental Health and Wellbeing Policy
- Peer on Peer Abuse Procedure
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Policy
- Equality information and objectives

Policy reviewed and amended May 2021.

Approved by the Local Governing Body: 25 May 2021.

Reviewed: July 2023.

Next review date: July 2025.