

St. Mary and St. John CE Primary School
Our Policy for Relationships and Sex and Health Education (RSHE)

'Let all that you do be done in love' 1 Corinthians 16:14

Within our tradition as a Church of England (VA) Primary School, we are committed to making St Mary and St John an inclusive environment, fostering curiosity, spirituality, creativity and respect. At our school we want everyone to be valued, to explore the joy of learning, and to achieve their full potential.

THE POLICY STATEMENT

RSHE is embedded in the PSHE curriculum and aims to help children to develop:

- self-esteem and self-awareness.
- the skills needed for successful relationships;
- a positive attitude towards difference and diversity;
- an understanding of their own and others' rights;
- emotional literacy;
- the ability and confidence to make informed choices;
- the knowledge, skills, understanding and attitude to optimise their health;
- the ability and knowledge to keep themselves and other people safe by minimising risk from harm;
- an understanding of their own and others' values and beliefs;
- an individual moral framework that will help them to make well considered decisions;
- a discerning eye for the messages they receive from the media;
- a positive attitude towards their body and sexuality;
- the ability to access help and support.

Legal requirements

The law in relation to RSHE states:

As a maintained primary school, we **must** provide relationships education to all pupils as per section 34 of The Children and Social Work Act 2017. However, we are not required to provide sex education, but we do need to teach the elements of sex education contained in the science curriculum. In teaching RSHE we must have regard to statutory guidance issued by the Secretary of State as outlined in Section 403 of The Education Act 1996 and Section 80A of the Education Act 2002.

At St Mary and St John, we teach RSHE as set out in this policy.

RSHE gives pupils accurate information about relationships and sex and allows them the opportunities to develop life skills and an individual moral framework that aims to enable them to make positive use of that information.

In a world where children receive information about relationships and sex from a variety of sources, many of which are inaccurate or unhealthy, primary school RSHE aims to counterbalance these messages by providing accurate information as part of a supportive programme.

RSHE is about helping children to develop and maintain successful relationships. It is about providing them with information that will support them with the process of puberty and help them to understand issues relating to sex and reproduction.

CONTENT AND DELIVERY

Our Relationships, Sex and Health Education programme focuses on teaching the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships including;

- families and people who care for us;
- caring friendships;
- respectful relationships;
- online relationships;
- being safe.

We use a scheme called *Jigsaw* to cover our Personal Social and Health Education (separate policy) and our Relationships, Sex and Health Education. There are lots of overlap between the two. The link below gives more information.

<http://www.jigsawpshe.com/jigsaw-3-11-rshe-mapping-grid/>

Biological aspects of RSHE are taught within the science curriculum and are mandatory.

The legal Requirements of Sex Education Provision are National Curriculum, September 2014, Science at Key Stages 1 and 2. **These areas are statutory.**

They cover at KS1:

- ***humans have offspring which grow into adults*** (Year 2)

and at Key Stage 2:

- ***describe the changes that humans develop to old age*** (Year 5)

Pupils in Years 5 and 6 receive stand alone sex education sessions delivered by a trained health professional or their class teacher. This is only one or two lessons. The right to withdraw is outlined below.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Our primary school is committed to the provision of RSHE to all its pupils. Equal time and provision will be allocated to all pupils except for pupils with special educational needs, who will be given extra support if required.

Our RSHE programme is inclusive and acknowledges and accommodates the diversity within any group of people in terms of gender, religion, language, race, social background, culture, appearance, sexual orientation, family set-up, special needs, ability or disability.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

The RSHE programme is monitored and evaluated by the governors' curriculum committee and the PSHE coordinators.

Informing parents/carers of the RSHE programme

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from receiving sex education from a RSHE perspective at school, but **not** to withdraw them from the teaching of the biology component of the science National Curriculum introduced September 2014. Before Year 5 and Year 6 embarks upon

its RSHE programme, parents/carers are informed of their right to withdraw their child from RSHE lessons. They are given an overview of the topics the child will be covering. Parents/carers are also reminded that they can have a copy of the school's RSHE policy on request.

Safeguarding children and RSHE

All staff are familiar with the procedures for reporting their concerns. In these cases, the school's Child Protection policy and procedures need to be referred to.

Confidentiality and RSHE

As a rule, a child's confidentiality is maintained by the teacher or member of staff concerned. However, if this person believes that the child is at risk or in danger, they talk to the Designated Safeguarding Lead who will take appropriate action.

Acceptable and appropriate language for use in RSHE lessons

All staff will:

- use the correct terms for all body parts;
- avoid the use of any slang.

Single and mixed-sex groups

All pupils will learn about both sexes. However, where possible, opportunities will be made for older pupils to discuss matters in single-sex groups or individually.

Date adopted: May 2015 reviewed and reworked in line with new guidance – October 2020

Review date: May 2023