

RSE Policy



“Our school is a place where we all come together as one community to learn, have fun and make lasting friendships all under God’s love and care”

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1. Policy aims

The DFE Guidance defines RSE as “lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of marriage and family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality and sexual health.” (Sex and Relationship Education Guidance, DfEE, 2000). It is about the development of the pupil's knowledge and understanding of his or her as a sexual being and how it affects them. The DFE identifies three main elements: “attitudes and values, personal and social skills, and knowledge and understanding.”

Effective RSE programmes help learners to develop the skills and knowledge appropriate to their age, understanding and development to enable them to make responsible decisions about their relationships, sexual health and well-being.

2. Legislation and guidance

We are legally required to teach those aspects of RSE which are statutory parts of National Curriculum Science. However, the reasons for our inclusion of RSE go further. Rationale “I have come that you might have life and have it to the full.” (Jn 10:10) We are involved in relationships and sex education precisely because of our Christian beliefs about God and about the human person. The belief in the uniqueness of the human person who is made in the image and likeness of God underpins the approach to all education in a Catholic school. Our approach to RSE therefore is rooted in the Catholic Church's teaching of the human person and presented in a positive framework of Christian ideals. At the heart of the Christian faith is the Trinity, Father, Son and Spirit in communion, united in loving relationships and embracing all people and all creation. As a consequence of the Christian belief that we are made in the image and likeness of God, gender and sexuality are seen as God's gift,

reflect God's beauty, and share in the divine creativity. RSE therefore, will be placed firmly within the context of relationships as it is there that sexuality grows and develops. Following the guidance of Bishops of England and Wales and as advocated by the DFE RSE will be firmly embedded in the PSHCE framework as it is concerned with nurturing human wholeness and integral to the physical, spiritual, emotional, moral, social and intellectual development of pupils. It is centred on Christ's vision of being human as something that will be positive and show care and consideration for the future. This will show the potential for development, while enabling the dangers and risks involved to be understood and appreciated. All RSE will be in accordance with the Church's moral teaching. It will emphasise the central importance of marriage and 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. Our programme encapsulates Catholic values relating to the importance of stable relationships, marriage and family life. It also promotes those virtues which are essential in responding to God's call to love others with a proper respect for their dignity and the dignity of the human body. RSE will be taught in accordance with the principles set down in other relevant school policies such as Equal Opportunities and Inclusion. The school will use the Ten Ten Resource 'Life to the Full' to deliver RSE curriculum content within the context of a Christian understanding of human sexuality rooted in the wisdom and teaching of the Catholic Church.

3. Roles and responsibilities

Governors

In accordance with the Education Act, 1993 the governing body will keep up-to-date with the school's policy for RSE, in consultation with parents and will make copies available to them. They will make known to parents their right to withdraw their children from all or part of RSE provided at school except for those parts included in the statutory Science National Curriculum.

Teachers

All teachers have a responsibility of care; as well as fostering academic progress; they should actively contribute to the guidance of the physical, moral and spiritual well-being of their pupils. Teachers will be expected to teach RSE in accordance with the Catholic ethos of the school.

Parents

The school recognises that parents are the prime educators of their children and will seek to support them in their task. It will ensure that parents are kept informed of what is happening in RSE in terms of content, delivery and timing.

Working with Parents

We recognise that parents (and other carers who stand in their place) are the primary educators of their children. As a Catholic school, we provide the principal means by which the Church assists parents and carers in educating their children. Therefore the school will support parents and carers by providing material to be shared with their children at home and workshops to help parents/carers to find out more. Parents/carers will be informed when the more sensitive aspects of RSE will be covered in order that they can be prepared to talk and answer questions about their children's learning. Parents were consulted before this policy was ratified by the governors. They were able to view the resources used by the school in the RSE programme, questions were responded to and clarification given as required. Our aim is that, every parent and carer will have full confidence in the school's RSE programme to meet their child's needs. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from RSE except in those elements which are required by the National Curriculum science orders. Should parents wish to withdraw their children they are asked to notify the school by contacting the headteacher. The school will provide support by providing material for parents to help the children with their learning. We believe that the controlled environment of the classroom is the safest place for this curriculum to be followed.

4. Organisation and planning

Three aspects of RSE - attitudes and values, knowledge and understanding, and personal and social skills will be provided in three inter-related ways: the whole school / ethos dimension; a cross curricular dimension and a specific relationships and sex curriculum. Life to the Full is a fully resourced Scheme of Work in Relationships Education for Catholic primary schools which embraces and fulfils the new statutory curriculum.

Taught with a spiral approach to learning, in which pupils will revisit the same topics at an age appropriate stage through their school life, the programme includes teaching about personal health, physical and emotional wellbeing, strong emotions, private parts of the body, personal relationships, family structures, trusted adults, growing bodies, puberty, periods, life cycles, the dangers of social media, where babies come from, an understanding of the Common Good and living in the wider world. The entire teaching is underpinned with a religious understanding that our deepest identity is as a child of

God- created chosen and loved by God. The programme is fully inclusive of all pupils and their families.

Our 'Life to the Full' programme will cover:

Module 1: Created and Loved by God

- Religious Understanding
- Me, my body, my health
- Emotional well-being
- Life cycles

Module 2: Created to Love Others

- Religious Understanding
- Personal Relationships
- Keeping Safe

Module 3: Created to Live in Community

- Religious Understanding
- Living in the Wider World

5. Inclusion

We will ensure RSE is sensitive to the different needs of individual pupils in respect to pupils' different abilities, levels of maturity and personal circumstances and is taught in such a way that does not subject pupils to discrimination. Lessons will also help children to realise the nature and consequences of discrimination, teasing, bullying and aggressive behaviours (including cyberbullying), use of prejudice-based language and how to respond and ask for help.

Equalities Obligations The governing body have wider responsibilities under the Equalities Act 2010 and will ensure that our school strives to do the best for all pupils, irrespective of disability, educational needs, race, nationality, ethnic or national origin,

sex, gender identity, religion or sexual orientation or whether they are looked after children. (As referred to in the school Equality policy/obligations)

6. Monitoring arrangements

The RE subject leader, the PSHE subject leader and the Science subject leader will monitor provision of RSE in the school.

7. Links with other policies

This policy is to be read alongside the PSHE policy.

This policy links to Science and PE.