St Paul's CE Primary School

Relationships, Sex and Education Policy

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RSE Coordinator - Mrs Hick

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Shared with staff and governors: November 2024

To be Reviewed: November 2026

St Paul's CE Primary School

RSE Overview:

'Relationships and Sex Education is a lifelong learning process of acquiring information, developing skills and forming positive beliefs and attitudes about sex, sexuality, relationships and feelings'. (Sex Education Forum 1999).

At Saint Paul's CE Primary School we will aspire to help every child develop as a whole person; we believe that effective RSE can make a significant contribution to their ability to establish and maintain stable and loving relationships. It also enables young people to respect others, make responsible and informed decisions about their health and wellbeing and also promotes the British values of tolerance.

1. Framework

Children from Year One through to Year Six will learn about moral values through all aspects of school life and in all curriculum areas, not just in Relationships and Sex Education. The RSE programme at St Paul's CE Primary School will reflect our school ethos and demonstrate and encourage the following values:- Respect for self; Respect for others; Responsibility for their own actions; Responsibility for their family, friends, schools and the wider community. We will strive to encourage our pupils to consider Philosophical questions and to discuss and reflect on their thoughts and considerations of others.

RSE Statutory Guidance - https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/908013/Relationships_Education__Relationships_and_Sex_Education__RSE__and_Health_Education.pdf

In our Early Years we focus on developing and supporting children's Personal, Social and Emotional Development. To do this we follow our EYFS Curriculum.

2. Aims of Relationships and Sex Education

Taking account of the age, maturity and needs of the pupils, Relationships and Sex Education aims to:

- Help children to develop feelings of self-respect, self-esteem, self-confidence, sympathy and empathy
- Prepare pupils for puberty.
- Give children an understanding of reproduction and sexual development.
- Give children an understanding of the importance of health and hygiene.
- Develop and use communication skills and assertiveness skills to cope with the influences of their peers and the media.
- Answer pupils' questions honestly and sensitively – referring the child to parents where appropriate.
- Enable children to recognise unsafe situations and be able to protect themselves and be confident to ask for help and support.
- Help children to understand the consequences of their actions and behave responsibly within relationships inside and outside of school.

3. Teaching and Learning

Many relationship aspects are covered through our values curriculum and PSHE which helps to equip children with knowledge, understanding and practical skills, appropriate to their age and maturity, in order to live healthy, safe, fulfilled and responsible lives.

Relationships and Sex Education may be taught discretely in Year Six by the class teacher or school community nurse. Some biological aspects are covered in Science lessons, whilst PSHE also enables children and young people to reflect on, and clarify their own values and attitudes, and explore the complex and sometimes conflicting range of values and attitudes they encounter now and in the future. Linked with R.E., children reflect on family relationships, different family groups and friendships. They learn about rituals and traditions associated with birth, marriage and death and talk about the emotions involved**.**

4. Equal Opportunities Statement

Our school is committed to the provision of RSE to all of its pupils. We aim to respond to the diversity of children's cultures, faiths and family backgrounds. Equal time and provision will be allocated for all groups but there may be occasions where children with Special Educational Needs are given extra support.

5. Withdrawal

Parents/Carers have the right to withdraw their children from some sex education delivered as part of the statutory RSE. Parents will be informed prior to sex education being delivered (in upper KS2). Those parents/carers wishing to exercise this right will be invited to speak with the class teacher/Headteacher, who will explore any concerns and discuss any impact that withdrawal may have on the child.

Once a child has been withdrawn they cannot take part in the sex education programme until the request for withdrawal has been removed. Materials are available to parents/carers who wish to supplement the school's sex education programme or who wish to deliver it to their children at home. Parents/carers do not have the right to withdraw their child from statutory Relationships or Health Education or from aspects covered in the science curriculum.

6. Organisation

RSE is normally delivered by the class teacher in mixed/single gender groups depending on the focus of the lesson, for Year 6 we also have the community nurse who attends to deliver specific sessions. All input to RSE lessons is part of a planned programme and negotiated and agreed with staff in advance.

The range of material used is available to parents/carers at any time and an opportunity to discuss resource content is made available each year.

7. Evaluation and monitoring

The RSE curriculum and its delivery is monitored by the PSHE and the RSE lead in partnership who will ensure that each year group is adhering to the RSE policy and that there is full coverage of all prescribed topics and links to P4C - Philosophy for Children, are made. Pupil voice will form part of the monitoring process. Elements of the sex education in the Science curriculum are assessed formally. Other elements of the RSE programme are assessed and evaluated using a variety of AFL (Assessment for Learning) activities.

8. Confidentiality and Child Protection Issues

As a general rule a child's confidentiality is maintained by the teacher or member of staff concerned. If this person believes that the child is at risk or in danger, she/he talks to the Designated Safeguarding Leader (DSL) who takes action as laid down in the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy. All staff are familiar with the policy and know the identity of the DSL. The child concerned will be informed that confidentiality is being breached and reasons why. The child will be supported by the teacher throughout the process.

9. Answering Difficult Questions

Staff are aware that views around RSE related issues are varied. However, while personal views are respected, all RSE issues are taught without bias. Topics are presented using a variety of views and beliefs so that pupils are able to form their own, informed opinions but also respect others that may have a different opinion. Both formal and informal RSE arising from pupils' questions will be answered according to the age and maturity of the pupil(s) concerned. Questions do not have to be answered directly, and can be addressed individually later.

The school believes that individual teachers must use their skill and discretion in this area and refer to the DSL if they are concerned. In the event that a child asks a question which the class teacher feels they cannot answer in the school environment, they will direct the child to ask their parent/carer. At Saint Paul's CE Primary School we believe that RSE should meet the needs of all pupils, in a sensitive and appropriate manner, regardless of their developing sexuality and be able to deal honestly and respectfully with sexual orientation, answer appropriate questions and to offer our support.

10. Dissemination

The RSE policy is shared with all teaching staff and governors. Copies of the RSE policy are available from the school office on request from parents and the RSE policy is also available on the school website. The school welcomes feedback from parents and carers.

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