

Relationships, Sex and Health Education Policy



Policy Owner: Ulceby St Nicholas Church of England Primary School

Policy Date: February 2023

Policy Review Date: February 2024

Our School Vision and Values

As a Christian school we aim to offer a nurturing, inclusive family environment, committed to respecting all as children of God whilst striving for the highest possible academic standards. We aspire to develop individuals who are kind courageous and successful, who recognise the power of forgiveness and are ambassadors for positive change in today's world and tomorrow's.

"And the children grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was with him"

Luke 2:40

Policy Guidance

This policy refers to:

- the 'Statutory guidance on relationships education, relationships and sex education (RSE) and health education – 13th September 2021'
- the 2010 Equality Act – the characteristics that are protected:
 - age
 - disability
 - gender reassignment
 - marriage or civil partnership (in employment only)
 - pregnancy and maternity
 - race
 - religion or belief
 - sex
 - sexual orientation

Today's children and young people are growing up in an increasingly complex world and living their lives seamlessly on and offline. This presents many positive and exciting opportunities, but also challenges and risks. In this environment, children and young people need to know how to be safe and healthy, and how to manage their academic, personal and social lives in a positive way. This is why we have made Relationships Education compulsory in all primary schools in England and Relationships and Sex Education compulsory in all secondary schools, as well as making Health Education compulsory in all state-funded schools. The key decisions on these subjects have been informed by a thorough engagement process, including a public call for evidence that received over 23,000 responses from parents, young people, schools and experts and a public consultation where over 40,000 people contacted the Department for Education – (message from secretary of state)

The regulations also set out the rights of parents/carers to withdraw pupils from Sex Education but not from Relationships or Health Education.

The DfE statutory guidance on Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education can be found at: [Relationships and sex education \(RSE\) and health education - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/612222/Relationships_and_sex_education_(RSE)_and_health_education_-_GOV.UK.pdf)

This policy has been developed in consultation with all stakeholders, including governors, staff, pupils and parents/carers.

A Definition of Relationships, Sex and Health Education for Church Schools

All Church of England and Methodist schools within the Diocese of Lincoln are statutorily required to teach Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education. Within the context of Christian beliefs about human dignity (e.g., Genesis 1:26-27) and the need to love your neighbour as you love yourself (e.g., Mark 12:30-31), RSHE enables pupils to flourish and gain every opportunity to live fulfilled lives. RSHE is about the emotional, social and physical aspects of growing up, healthy relationships, sex, human sexuality and sexual health. It is also about the spiritual and moral aspects of relationships within a context of a Christian vision for the purpose of life. Through RSHE in church schools, pupils will have the chance to learn about how to ensure that they treat themselves and others, at all times and in all contexts, with dignity and respect.

Relationships Education is learning about how to:

- be appreciative of existing relationships.
- form new healthy relationships.
- enjoy strong positive, non-exploitative, caring relationships online and in person.

This will particularly reference family relationships including marriage, friendships and relationships with peers and adults.

At Ulceby St Nicholas C of E Primary School, any content that might be regarded as Sex Education: learning about human body parts, growth, puberty and reproduction will be taught through the Science Curriculum. Parents do not have the right the excuse their children from this aspect of the curriculum.

Sex Education in primary schools is not mandatory; however, the National Curriculum for Science in primary schools includes content about human body parts, growth, puberty and reproduction. Parents/guardians do not have the right to withdraw from this aspect of the curriculum.

Statutory Requirements

As a primary church academy, we must provide Relationships Education to all pupils as per section 34 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017. We do not have to follow the National Curriculum, but we are required to offer all pupils a curriculum that is similar in breadth and depth to the National Curriculum, including requirements to teach science, which would include the elements of sex education contained within the Primary Science curriculum. In teaching RSHE, we have regard to the guidance issued by the secretary of state as outlined in in section 403 of the Education Act 1996.

At Ulceby St Nicholas CofE Primary Academy we teach RSHE as set out in this policy.

RSHE Curriculum

RSHE at Ulceby St Nicholas C of E Primary school is taught as part of the wider PSHE curriculum. It incorporates concepts such as:

- Families and people who care for me.
- Caring friendships and respectful relationships
- Internet safety, safe online relationships and the risks of online relationships
- Mental wellbeing
- Basic first aid, physical health and fitness, healthy eating, and risks to health such as drugs, alcohol and tobacco
- Jigsaw topics such as being in my world, celebrating difference, dreams and goals, healthy me, relationships and changing me.

This RSHE curriculum reflects core Christian teachings about human beings and healthy relationships, including the belief that all are made in the image of God, are loved by God and are therefore to be treated with dignity and respect. This enables our pupils to understand that they should value the gift of themselves and recognise and respect this gift of uniqueness in others by seeking out healthy relationships.

Delivery of RSHE

Our school works with Big Talk Education <https://www.bigtalkeducation.co.uk/>

Big Talk is an award-winning team of specialist RSE facilitators led by Lynnette Smith, who is the Chair of the Sex Education Forum's Advisory Group (the SEF is part of the National Children's Bureau). Big Talk Education's Growing Up Safe: Whole School Approach (GUS programme) has been recognised by the Family Planning Association and Children and Young People Now Awards as a Finalist in their Safeguarding Award. The Big Talk team then deliver to each class within school. Our teaching staff observe the Big Talk Education RE and RSE lessons as part of their CPD programme to ensure they can reinforce the lesson content and answer any follow up questions throughout the academic year. In addition to this RE & RSE topics will be included in assemblies, circle time, PSHE lessons, science lessons Where it is deemed necessary, Big Talk Education can also deliver 1:1 or small group RSHE sessions to specific children.

Prior to the annual visit from Big Talk Education, parent sessions are offered either in person or online to give parents the opportunity to find out what the pupils will be learning about and to give them the opportunity to ask any questions or advice.

In addition to Big Talk Education workshops, RSHE is taught at Ulceby St Nicholas CofE Primary Academy as part of the broader PSHE curriculum and as a school we follow the Jigsaw programme.

Biological aspects of RSHE are taught within the Primary Science Curriculum and some elements of RSE may be taught within the RE curriculum, particular with relation to a range of views on relationships from religions and worldviews.

All RSHE is delivered with an understanding that pupils and staff may be personally engaged in different structures of support and familial relationships, including single parent families, LGBTQ families, families headed by grandparents, adoptive parents, foster parents/carers, young carers, etc. The RSHE curriculum has been carefully considered to ensure that no person feels stigmatised; this is set within the context of the biblical teaching that all human beings are created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-7) and that Christians are called to respect and honour everyone. For more information about the delivery of RSHE, please contact the RSHE curriculum leader, Mrs Holly Atkinson.

Assessment

Staff will assess the understanding shown by the pupils through discussion and work produced as a result of the teaching. Further questions will be followed up where appropriate in a sensitive manner.

Parental Right to Withdraw from Sex Education

Parents/guardians do not have the right to withdraw their children from Relationships Education. Elements of Sex Education are included in the Primary Science Curriculum and parents/guardians do not have the right to withdraw their children from the Science Curriculum. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the non-science elements of Sex Education within RSHE. Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing to the head teacher. We will invite you to talk through your concerns, review the materials we use and explain our rationale. Withdrawing your child from Sex Education remains a statutory right as a parent or legal guardian.

This policy will be monitored and reviewed by Mrs Holly Atkinson It was approved by the full academy committee on:

Date of review: September 2024