



# Holy Rood Catholic Primary School

## Relationships, Sex and Health Education Policy

### Mission Statement

*Live, Love, Learn*

*Holy Rood is proud to be a Catholic school, where Christ is at the heart of our community.*

*Working in close partnership with the home and parish, we share and celebrate our faith, while respecting and accepting those from other traditions and cultures.*

*We acknowledge each person's uniqueness and aim to provide a happy Christian environment where everyone can thrive.*

*We are committed to delivering a broad and balanced education, where each child can become the best they can be. We seek to nurture self-esteem in everyone and develop a sense of responsibility for ourselves and others.*

*We strive for excellence in all we do.*

In this policy the Governors and teachers, in partnership with pupils and their parents, set out their intentions about relationships, sex and health education (RSHE). We set out our rationale for, and approach to relationships and sex education in the school.

At Holy Rood Catholic Primary School, we will provide age-appropriate relationships and health education (RHE) to all pupils as part of the school's statutory curriculum. Our school aims to assure parents and pupils that all aspects of RHE will be delivered in a safe space, allowing time and compassion for questions at a level that every pupil understands. Sensitive topics relating to RHE will be delivered in a sensitive manner as part of a whole-school approach where parents and teachers work in partnership.

RHE is compulsory in all primary schools in England. The key topics applicable for all key stages have been carefully planned in consultation with responses from parents, young people, schools and experts. Parents are given the opportunity to discuss this policy at any time and staff will be provided with accurate training and further resources to deliver lessons to pupils.

We understand that pupils must be provided with an education that prepares them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life. A key part of this relates to relationships education, which must be delivered to every primary-aged pupil. Primary schools also have the option to decide whether pupils are taught sex education.

Relationships education focusses on giving pupils the knowledge they need to make informed decisions about their wellbeing, health and relationships, and ensures can talk to a trusted adult if there is anything worrying them. Health education focusses on equipping pupils with the knowledge they need to make informed decisions about their own health and ensures they receive factual information about the changes they will experience emotionally and physically during puberty.

We understand our responsibility to deliver a high-quality, age-appropriate and evidence-based relationships, sex and health curriculum for all our pupils. This policy sets out the framework for our relationships, sex and health curriculum, providing clarity on how it is informed, organised and delivered.

Our school believes that a strong RSHE education is important to help our pupils develop into well-rounded members of society, who can make a positive contribution to their community.

### **Legal framework**

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Section 80A of the Education Act 2002
- Children and Social Work Act 2017
- The Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education (England) Regulations 2019
- Equality Act 2010
- DfE (2019) 'Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education'
- DfE (2013) 'Science programmes of study: key stages 1 and 2'
- DfE (2021) 'Teaching about relationships, sex and health'
- DfE (2024) 'Keeping children safe in education 2024' (KCSIE)

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- SEND Policy
- Child-on-child Abuse Policy
- Anti-bullying Policy
- Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) Policy
- Online Safety Policy
- School Improvement Plan

### **Roles and responsibilities**

The governing body is responsible for:

- Playing an active role in monitoring, developing and reviewing the policy and its implementation in school.
- Appointing a link governor for RHE who supports the school and monitors any aspects of RHE included within the SIP.
- Ensuring all pupils make progress in achieving the expected educational outcomes.
- Ensuring the curriculum is well led, effectively managed and well planned.
- Evaluating the quality of provision through regular and effective self-evaluation.
- Ensuring teaching is delivered in ways that are accessible to all pupils with SEND and EAL.
- Providing clear information for parents on subject content and their rights to request that their children are withdrawn.
- Making sure the subjects are resourced, staffed and timetabled in a way that ensures the school can fulfil its legal obligations.
- Ensuring the religious ethos of the school is maintained and developed through the subjects.
- Creating and keeping up-to-date a separate written statement of this policy and ensuring the statement is published on the school's website and provided free of charge to anyone who requests it.
- Ensuring that all staff receive ongoing training on issues relating to PSHE and RHE and how to deliver lessons on such issues.
- Ensuring that all staff are up to date with policy changes, and familiar with school policy and guidance relating to RHE.

The headteacher is responsible for:

- Ensuring adequate time on school timetable to deliver RHE as a statutory curriculum subject.

- Providing support to staff members who feel uncomfortable or ill-equipped to deal with the delivery of RHE to pupils; for example, if staff do not feel that their training has been adequate or that aspects of the curriculum conflict with their religious beliefs.
- Ensuring that parents are fully informed of this policy and the RHE resources are available to parents beforehand.
- Reviewing requests from parents to withdraw their children from the subject.
- Discussing requests for withdrawal with parents.
- Organising alternative education for pupils, where necessary, that is appropriate and purposeful.
- Reporting to the governing board on the effectiveness of this policy.
- Reviewing this policy on an **annual** basis.

The RSHE coordinator is responsible for:

- Overseeing the delivery of the subject.
- Ensuring that staff values and attitudes will not prevent them from providing a balanced RHE in school.
- Providing the agreed vocabulary to be used during the lessons to ensure a consistent approach.
- Ensuring the subjects are age-appropriate and high-quality.
- Ensuring teachers are provided with adequate resources to support teaching of the subject.
- Ensuring the school meets its statutory requirements in relation to the relationships, and health curriculum.
- Ensuring the relationships and health curriculum, as well as any optional sex education, is inclusive and accessible for all pupils.
- Working with other subject leaders to ensure the relationships and health curriculum complements, but does not duplicate, the content covered in the national curriculum.
- Liaising and working in partnership with parents and carers to support further conversations at home and to share the resources ahead of teaching upon request.
- Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the subject and providing reports to the headteacher.

The SENCO is responsible for:

- Advising teaching staff how best to identify and support pupils' individual needs.
- Advising staff on the use of TAs in order to meet pupils' individual needs.
- Ensuring that the needs of vulnerable pupils are taken into consideration in designing and teaching these subjects.

Teaching staff are responsible for:

- Delivering a high-quality and age-appropriate relationships and health curriculum in line with statutory requirements.
- Using a variety of teaching methods and resources to provide an engaging curriculum that meets the needs of all pupils.
- Ensuring they do not express personal views or beliefs when delivering the programme.
- Modelling positive attitudes to relationships, sex and health.
- Responding to any safeguarding concerns in line with the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.
- Acting in accordance with planning, monitoring and assessment requirements for the subjects.
- Liaising with the SENCO to identify and respond to individual needs of pupils with SEND.
- Working with the RSHE subject leader to evaluate the quality of provision.

Parents are responsible for:

- Enabling their children to grow and mature and to form healthy relationships.
- Supporting their children through their personal development and the emotional and physical aspects of growing up.

- Ensuring that they are aware of aspects of the curriculum, including when it is going to be delivered and the content.
- Supporting their children’s personal, social and emotional development, by working with the school to create an open home environment where pupils can engage, discuss and continue to learn about matters that have been raised through school PSHE.
- Seeking additional support in this from the school where they feel it is needed.

### **Safeguarding**

Due to the nature of the matters discussed in RSHE, there may be a higher likelihood for safeguarding concerns to arise or be disclosed by pupils. In line with the school’s Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy, all staff will be aware of the indicators and risks of a range of safeguarding issues, including child-on-child abuse, and will follow the appropriate procedures should a safeguarding concern be disclosed.

There is an element of RSHE in pastoral care, so the school will ensure that RSHE and pastoral care teams work together to help pupils feel comfortable indicating that they may be vulnerable and at risk.

RSHE lessons will encourage pupils to discuss the issues raised in the lesson with a member of staff if they wish to do so. Pupils will also be made aware of how to raise concerns or make reports about potential safeguarding issues, and how reports will be handled. This also includes concerns and reports about a friend or peer.

Where beneficial, the DSL or deputy DSL will be involved in the development of safeguarding-related elements of the RSHE curriculum.

### **Defining Relationship and Sex Education**

The DfE guidance states that “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”.

In primary schools, the focus should be on “teaching the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships, with particular reference to friendships, family relationships, and relationships with other children and with adults.” This would include the topics of families and the people of who care for us, caring friendships, respectful relationships, online relationships and being safe.

Every primary school is required to deliver statutory relationships education and health education. The delivery of the relationships education and of health education coincide with one another and will be delivered as part of the school’s **RSHE curriculum**.

For the purpose of this policy:

- “**Relationships education**” is defined as teaching pupils about healthy, respectful relationships, focussing on family and friendships, in all contexts, including online.
- “**Health education**” is defined as teaching pupils about physical health and mental wellbeing, focussing on recognising the link between the two and being able to make healthy lifestyle choices.
- “**Sex education**” is defined as teaching pupils about developing healthy sexuality, and will cover issues, beyond those covered in the science and health curriculum, that will be determined in response to the needs of the relevant cohort.

The relationships and health curriculum takes into account the views of teachers, pupils and parents. The school has organised a curriculum that is appropriate for the age and developmental stages of pupils within each year group. When organising the curriculum, the religious backgrounds of all pupils will be considered, so that the topics that are covered are taught appropriately.

## **Consultation with parents**

Our school understands the important role parents play in enhancing their children's understanding of relationships and health. Similarly, we also understand how important parents' views are in shaping the curriculum. This will include providing parents with frequent opportunities to understand and ask questions about the school's approach to relationships and health education.

The school will consult closely with parents when reviewing the content of the school's relationships and health education curriculum, and will give them regular opportunities to voice their opinions and concerns. The school will use the views of parents to inform decisions made about the curriculum content and delivery; however, parents will not be granted a 'veto' on curriculum content, and all final decisions will be made by the school. The school will permit parents access to all curriculum materials and the school will not enter into contracts with outside providers that seek to prevent parents from seeing materials.

Parents are provided with the following information:

- The content of the relationships and health curriculum
- The delivery of the relationships and health curriculum, including what is taught in each year group
- The legalities surrounding withdrawing their child from the subjects
- The resources that will be used to support the curriculum

The school will work closely with parents in reviewing the sex education curriculum, and will consult with them **annually** with regards to what is covered.

The school aims to build positive relationships with parents by inviting them into school to discuss what will be taught, address any concerns and help parents in managing conversations with their children on the issues covered by the curriculum.

## **Statutory Curriculum Requirements**

We are legally required to teach those aspects of RSHE, which are statutory parts of National Curriculum Science. However, the reasons for our inclusion of RSHE go further.

### **Rationale**

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 unique dignity of the human person made in the image and likeness of God underpins the approach to all education in a Catholic school. Our approach to RSHE 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 life is the Trinity; Father, Son and Spirit in communion, united in loving relationship 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, RSHE will be placed firmly within the context of relationships as it is there that sexuality grows and develops.

Following the guidance of the Bishops of England and Wales and as advocated by the DFE (and the Welsh Assembly Government), RSHE will be firmly embedded in the PSHE framework as it is concerned with nurturing human wholeness and integral to the physical, spiritual, emotional, moral, social and intellectual development of pupils.

All RSHE 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. It will also prepare pupils for life in modern Britain.

## **Relationships education overview**

### **Families and people who care for me**

By the end of primary school, pupils will know:

- That families are important for them growing up because they can give love, security and stability.
- The characteristics of healthy family life, commitment to each other, including in times of difficulty, protection and care for children and other family members, the importance of spending time together and sharing each other's lives.
- That others' families, either in school or in the wider world, sometimes look different from their family, but that they should respect those differences and know that other children's families are also characterised by love and care.
- That stable, caring relationships, which may be of different types, are at the heart of happy families, and are important for children's security as they grow up.
- That marriage represents a formal and legally recognised commitment of two people to each other which is intended to be lifelong.
- How to recognise if family relationships are making them feel unhappy or unsafe, and how to seek help or advice from others if needed.

### **Caring friendships**

By the end of primary school, pupils will know:

- How important friendships are in making us feel happy and secure, and how people choose and make friends.
- The characteristics of friendships, including mutual respect, truthfulness, trustworthiness, loyalty, kindness, generosity, trust, sharing interests and experiences, and support with problems and difficulties.
- That healthy friendships are positive and welcoming towards others, and do not make others feel lonely or excluded.
- That most friendships have ups and downs, but that these can often be worked through so that the friendship is repaired or even strengthened, and that resorting to violence is never right.
- How to recognise who to trust and who not to trust.
- How to judge when a friendship is making them feel unhappy or uncomfortable.
- How to manage conflict.
- How to manage different situations and how to seek help from others if needed.

### **Respectful relationships**

By the end of primary school, pupils will know:

- The importance of respecting others, even when they are very different from them, make different choices, or have different preferences or beliefs.
- Which practical steps they can take in a range of different contexts to improve or support respectful relationships.
- The conventions of courtesy and manners.
- The importance of self-respect and how this links to their own happiness.
- That in school and wider society they can expect to be treated with respect by others, and that in turn they should show due respect to others, including those in positions of authority.
- About the different types of bullying (including cyberbullying), the impact of bullying, responsibilities of bystanders to report bullying to an adult, and how to seek help.
- What a stereotype is, and how they can be unfair, negative or destructive.
- The importance of permission-seeking and giving in relationships with friends, peers and adults.

### **Online relationships**

By the end of primary school, pupils will know:

- That people sometimes behave differently online, including pretending to be someone they are not.
- That the same principles apply to online relationships as to face-to-face relationships, including the importance of respect for others online, even when we are anonymous.
- The rules and principles for keeping safe online.
- How to recognise harmful content and contact online, and how to report these.
- How to critically consider their online friendships and sources of information.
- The risks associated with people they have never met.
- How information and data is shared and used online.

### **Being safe**

By the end of primary school, pupils will know:

- What sorts of boundaries are appropriate in friendships with peers and others – including in a digital context.
- About the concept of privacy and the implications of it for both children and adults.
- That it is not always right to keep secrets if they relate to being safe.
- That each person’s body belongs to them, and the differences between appropriate and inappropriate or unsafe physical, and other, contact.
- How to respond safely and appropriately to adults they may encounter, including online, who they do not know.
- How to recognise and report feelings of being unsafe or feeling bad about any adult.
- How to ask for advice or help for themselves and others, and to keep trying until they are heard.
- How to report concerns or abuse, and the vocabulary and confidence needed to do so.
- Where to seek advice, for example, from their family, their school and other sources.

### **Health education overview**

The focus at primary level is teaching the characteristics of good physical health and mental wellbeing.

### **Mental wellbeing**

By the end of primary school pupils will know:

- That mental wellbeing is a normal part of daily life, in the same way as physical health.
- That there is a normal range of emotions, e.g. happiness, sadness, anger, fear, surprise and nervousness.
- The scale of emotions that humans experience in response to different experiences and situations.
- How to recognise and talk about their emotions, including having a varied vocabulary of words to use when talking about their own and others’ feelings.
- How to judge whether what they are feeling, and how they are behaving, is appropriate and proportionate.
- The benefits of physical exercise, time outdoors, community participation, and voluntary and service-based activity on mental wellbeing and happiness.
- Simple self-care techniques, including the importance of rest, time spent with friends and family, and the benefits of hobbies and interests.
- How isolation and loneliness can affect children, and that it is very important they seek support and discuss their feelings with an adult.
- That bullying, including cyberbullying, has a negative and often lasting impact on mental wellbeing.
- Where and how to seek support, including recognising the triggers for seeking support, extending to who in school they should speak to if they are worried about themselves or others.
- That it is common to experience mental ill health and, for the many people who do, the problems can be resolved if the right support is made available, especially if accessed early enough.

### **Internet safety and harms**

By the end of primary school, pupils will know:

- That for most people, the internet is an integral part of life and has many benefits.
- About the benefits of rationing time spent online.
- The risks of excessive time spent on electronic devices.
- The impact of positive and negative content online on their own and others' mental and physical wellbeing.
- How to consider the effect of their online actions on others.
- How to recognise and display respectful behaviour online.
- The importance of keeping personal information private.
- Why some social media, some computer games and online gaming are age-restricted.
- That the internet can also be a negative place where online abuse, trolling, bullying and harassment can take place, which can have a negative impact on mental health.
- How to be a discerning consumer of information online, including understanding that information, inclusive of that from search engines, is ranked, selected and targeted.
- Where and how to report concerns and get support with issues online.

### **Physical health and fitness**

By the end of primary school, pupils will know:

- The characteristics and mental and physical benefits of an active lifestyle.
- The importance of building regular exercise into daily and weekly routines and how to achieve this, for example by walking or cycling to school, a daily active mile, or other forms of regular, vigorous exercise.
- The risks associated with an inactive lifestyle, including obesity.
- How and when to seek support, including which adults to speak to in school, if they are worried about their health.

### **Healthy eating**

By the end of primary school, pupils will know:

- What constitutes a healthy diet, including an understanding of calories and other nutritional content.
- The principles of planning and preparing a range of healthy meals.
- The characteristics of a poor diet and risks associated with unhealthy eating, including obesity, and other behaviours, e.g. the impact of alcohol on health.

### **Drugs, alcohol and tobacco**

By the end of primary school, pupils will know the facts about legal and illegal harmful substances and associated risks, including smoking, alcohol use and drug-taking.

### **Health and prevention**

By the end of primary school, pupils will know:

- How to recognise early signs of physical illness, such as weight loss or unexplained changes to the body.
- About safe and unsafe exposure to the sun, and how to reduce the risk of sun damage, including skin cancer.
- The importance of sufficient good-quality sleep for good health, and that a lack of sleep can affect weight, mood and ability to learn.
- About dental health and the benefits of good oral hygiene and dental flossing, including regular check-ups at the dentist.
- About personal hygiene and germs, including bacteria and viruses, how they are spread and treated, and the importance of hand washing.
- The facts and science relating to immunisation and vaccination.

### **Basic first aid**

By the end of primary school, pupils will know:

- How to make a clear and efficient call to emergency services if necessary.
- Concepts of basic first-aid, for example dealing with common injuries, including head injuries.

### **Changing adolescent body**

By the end of primary school, pupils will know:

- Key facts about puberty and the changing adolescent body, particularly from age 9 through to age 11, including physical and emotional changes.
- About menstrual wellbeing and key facts relating to the menstrual cycle.

### **Sex Education**

All pupils must be taught the aspects of sex education outlined in the primary science curriculum – this includes teaching about the main external parts of the human body, how it changes as it grows from birth to old age, including puberty, and the reproductive process in some plants and animals.

The school is free to determine whether pupils should be taught sex education beyond what is required of the national curriculum. At our school, we **do** teach pupils sex education beyond what is required of the science curriculum.

Parents are fully consulted in the organisation and delivery of our sex education curriculum, in accordance with this policy. The age and development of pupils is always considered when delivering sex education.

### **Aim and structure of the RSHE curriculum**

The school is free to determine, within the statutory curriculum content, what pupils are taught during each year group.

The school always considers the age and development of pupils when deciding what will be taught in each year group. The school implements a progressive curriculum, in which topics are built upon prior knowledge taught in previous years as pupils progress through school, with a view to providing a smooth transition to secondary school.

The school will use direct teaching via timetabled lessons in alternated half term blocks to teach RSHE. Pupils will be taught RSHE through a range of teaching and learning styles, including active techniques such as discussion and group work. Pupils’ opinions and questions, unless inappropriate, will be responded to respectfully by teachers.

To aid RSHE tailoring, the teacher will use discussions and other activities to ascertain pupils’ current knowledge and understanding of the subject being covered. The teaching programme will then be adjusted to reflect the composition of the class.

Our Mission Statement commits us to the education of the whole child (spiritual, physical, intellectual, moral, social, cultural, emotional) and we believe that RSHE is an integral part of this education. Furthermore, our school aims state that we will endeavour to raise pupils’ self-esteem, help them to grow in knowledge and understanding, recognise the value of all persons and develop caring and sensitive attitudes. It is in this context that we commit ourselves:

We aim to work in partnership with parents, to provide children and young people with a “positive and prudent sexual education” which is compatible with their physical, cognitive, psychological, and spiritual maturity and rooted in a Catholic vision of education and the human person.

We work to develop the following **attitudes and virtues**:

- reverence for the gift of human sexuality and fertility;

- respect for the dignity of every human being – in their own person and in the person of others;
- joy in the goodness of the created world and their own bodily natures;
- responsibility for their own actions and a recognition of the impact of these on others;
- recognising and valuing their own sexual identity and that of others;
- celebrating the gift of life-long, self-giving love;
- recognising the importance of marriage and family life;
- fidelity in relationships.

We work to develop the following **personal and social skills**:

- making sound judgements and good choices which have integrity, and which are respectful of the individual's commitments;
- loving and being loved, and the ability to form friendships and loving, stable relationships free from exploitation, abuse and bullying;
- managing emotions within relationships, and when relationships break down, with confidence, sensitivity and dignity;
- managing conflict positively, recognising the value of difference;
- cultivating humility, mercy and compassion, learning to forgive and be forgiven;
- developing self-esteem and confidence, demonstrating self-respect and empathy for others;
- building resilience and the ability to resist unwanted pressures, recognising the influence and impact of the media, internet and peer groups and so developing the ability to assess pressures and respond appropriately;
- being patient, delaying gratification and learning to recognise the appropriate stages in the development of relationships, and how to love chastely;
- assessing risks and managing behaviours in order to minimise the risk to health and personal integrity.

We aim for children to **know and understand**:

- the Church's teaching on relationships and the nature and meaning of sexual love;
- the Church's teaching on marriage and the importance of marriage and family life;
- the centrality and importance of virtue in guiding human living and loving;
- the physical and psychological changes that accompany puberty;
- the facts about human reproduction, how love is expressed sexually and how sexual love plays an essential and sacred role in procreation;
- how to manage fertility in a way which is compatible with their stage of life, their own values and commitments, including an understanding of the difference between natural family planning and artificial contraception;
- how to keep themselves safe from sexually transmitted infections and how to avoid unintended pregnancy, including where to go for advice.

### **Inclusion and Differentiated Learning**

We will ensure RSHE is sensitive to the different needs of individual pupils in respect to pupils' different abilities, levels of maturity and personal circumstances; for example, their own sexual orientation, faith or culture and is taught in 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 cyber-bullying), use of prejudice-based language and how to respond and ask for help.

### **Equalities Obligations**

RSHE lessons will be tailored to the pupils being taught, with consideration of:

- Pupils' ability.
- Pupils' age.
- Pupils' current knowledge on and readiness to learn about the topic being covered.
- Pupils' cultural backgrounds.

- Pupils with EAL.
- Pupils with SEND or other needs.

The school is committed to making reasonable adjustments wherever possible to promote accessibility and inclusivity of the curriculum. The school will ensure that relationships and health education programme is inclusive, and caters to the needs, of pupils with SEND or other support needs, such as those with SEMH needs. Teachers will understand that they may need to adapt their planning of work and teaching methods in order to appropriately deliver the programme to pupils with SEND or other support needs.

Provisions under the Equality Act 2010 allow our school to take positive action, where it can be evidenced to be proportionate, to respond to particular disadvantages affecting a group because of a protected characteristic. For example, we could consider taking positive action to support girls if there was evidence that they were being disproportionately subjected to sexual violence or sexual harassment.

When deciding whether support is necessary to support pupils with a particular protected characteristic, we will consider our pupils' needs, including the gender and age range of our pupils.

In order to foster healthy and respectful peer-to-peer communication and behaviour between all pupils, the school implements a robust Behaviour Policy, as well as a Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy, which sets out expectations of pupils.

The school understands that relationships, sex, and health education may include topics which are triggers for teaching staff, and could relate to historic, recent, or current trauma. If this is the case, the school encourages staff to approach their line manager or the wellbeing lead to discuss this.

### **Programme and Resources**

At Holy Rood Catholic Primary School, we will follow a programme called 'Life to the Full.' This programme follows a three-stage structure, which is repeated across three different learning stages.

Within each learning stage, there are three modules, which are based on the catholic RSHE programme.

Module 1 units: Religious Understanding, me, my body and my health, emotional well-being and life cycle

Module 2 units: Religious understanding, personal relationships, keeping safe

Module 3 units: Religious understanding, living in the wider world.

The programme adapts a spiral curriculum approach so that as the child goes through the programme year-after-year their learning will develop and grow, with each stage building on the last. As a school, we do not teach the religious understanding units as these are covered through our extensive RE curriculum. We begin each module in unit 2.

### **Module One: Created and Loved by God**

Module One: Created and Loved by God explores the individual. Rooted in the teaching that we are made in the image and likeness of God, it helps children to develop an understanding of the importance of valuing themselves as the basis for personal relationships.

In these sessions, we explore:

**Key Stage One** – that we are uniquely made by a loving God, that we have differences and similarities (including physical differences between boys and girls), key information about staying physically healthy, understanding feelings and emotions, including strong feelings such as anger, and the cycle of life from birth to old age.

**Lower Key Stage Two** – understanding differences, respecting our bodies, puberty and changing bodies (Year 4

only), strategies to support emotional wellbeing including practicing thankfulness, and the development of pupils understanding of life before birth (the moment of conception).

**Upper Key Stage Two** – appreciation of physical and emotional differences, a more complex understanding of physical changes in girl’s and boy’s bodies, body image, strong emotional feelings, the impact of the internet and social media on emotional well-being, a more scientific understanding of life in the womb and menstruation.

### **Module Two: Created to Love Others**

Module Two: Created to Love Others explores the individual’s relationship with others. Building on the understanding that we have been created out of love and for love, this unit explores how we take this calling into our family, friendships and relationships, and teaches strategies for developing healthy relationships and keeping safe.

This religious understanding is then applied to real-world situations relevant to the age and stage of the children:

**Key Stage One** – In the unit ‘Personal Relationships’, children are taught to identify the Special People in their lives who they love and can trust, how to cope with various social situations and dilemmas, and the importance of saying sorry and forgiveness within relationships. In the unit ‘Keeping Safe’, we explore the risks of being online by incorporating the ‘Smartie the Penguin’ resources from Childnet, the difference between good and bad secrets, and teaching on physical boundaries (incorporating the PANTS resource from the NSPCC).

**Lower Key Stage Two** – The sessions here help children to develop a more complex appreciation of different family structures and there are activities and strategies to help them develop healthy relationships with family and friends; here, they are also taught about managing thoughts, feelings and actions.

**Upper Key Stage Two** – The sessions for UKS2 in the ‘Personal Relationships’ module aim to equip children with strategies for more complex experiences of relationships and conflict; this includes sessions that help children to identify and understand how to respond to spoken and unspoken pressure, the concept of consent and some practical demonstrations of this, and further teaching on how our thoughts and feelings have an impact on how we act.

### **Module Three: Created to Live in Community**

Module Three: Created to Live in Community explores the individual’s relationship with the wider world. Here we explore how human beings are relational by nature and are called to love others in the wider community through service, through dialogue and through working for the Common Good.

### **Delivery of the curriculum**

The relationships and health curriculum will be delivered as part of our **RSHE curriculum**.

The school will ensure that keeping children safe and preventative education remain at the heart of RSHE subjects.

Sex education will be delivered through the **science curriculum** and the **RSHE curriculum**.

Through effective organisation and delivery of the subject, we will ensure that:

- Core knowledge is sectioned into units of manageable size.
- The required content is communicated to pupils clearly, in a carefully sequenced way, within a planned scheme of work.
- Teaching includes sufficient and well-chosen opportunities and contexts for pupils to embed new knowledge so that it can be used confidently in real-life situations.

The curriculum is delivered proactively, such that it addresses issues in a timely way in line with current evidence on children's physical, emotional and sexual development. The school will ensure that all teaching and materials are appropriate for the ages of the pupils, their religious backgrounds, their developmental stages and any additional needs, such as SEND. Teachers will provide appropriate challenge for pupils and differentiated for pupils' needs.

Teaching of the curriculum reflects requirements set out in law, particularly the Equality Act 2010, so that pupils understand what the law does and does not allow, and the wider legal implications of the decisions they make. Classes may be taught in smaller groups, dependent upon the nature of the topic being delivered at the time, and the cultural background of pupils where it is appropriate to deal with these issues with heightened sensitivity.

Any resources or materials used to support learning will be formally assessed by the RSHE subject leader before use to ensure they are appropriate for the age and maturity of pupils, and sensitive to their needs. Throughout every year group, appropriate diagrams, videos, books, games, discussion and practical activities will be used to assist learning. Inappropriate images, videos, etc., will not be used, and resources will be selected with sensitivity given to the age, developmental stage and cultural background of pupils. Pupils will be prevented from accessing inappropriate materials on the internet when using such to assist with their learning. The prevention measures taken to ensure this are outlined in the school's Online Safety Policy.

Teachers will establish what is appropriate for one-to-one, small group and whole-class settings, and alter their teaching of the programme accordingly. Teachers will ensure that lessons are centred around reducing stigma, particularly in relation to mental wellbeing, and encouraging openness through discussion activities and group work. Teachers will ensure lessons focus on challenging perceived views of pupils based on some of the protected characteristics, through exploration of, and developing mutual respect for, those different to themselves.

Teachers will ensure that pupils' views are listened to and will encourage them to ask questions and engage in discussion. Teachers will answer questions sensitively, honestly and in a manner appropriate to the pupil's age. Teachers will ensure pupils are aware of the expectation of them to participate sensitively and respectfully in class discussions of sensitive issues.

### **Dealing with difficult questions**

The school will support teaching staff to feel comfortable to answer questions from pupils, by providing regular CPD training in how to deliver sex education, including sessions on confidentiality, setting ground rules, handling controversial issues, responding to 'awkward' questions and an introduction to the rationale of why teaching RSHE is so important. The school will encourage teaching staff to refer questions they feel ill-equipped to answer to the RSHE subject leader for advice or support in handling the question.

Teachers will stop full class discussions where pupils begin to reveal personal, private information related to sensitive issues. If teachers feel concerned about anything shared by a pupil, they will follow the appropriate response as laid out in the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

The programme will be designed to incorporate all pupils, and activities will be planned to ensure all are actively involved.

Teachers will focus heavily on the importance of healthy relationships, though sensitivity will always be given as to not stigmatise pupils based on their home circumstances.

Whilst there are no formal examinations for the relationships and health curriculum, the school will undertake informal assessments to determine pupil progress at the end of each unit.

## **Terminology**

In recognition of the fact that the use of code names for body parts can facilitate the normalisation of child sexual abuse, teaching staff will use and teach pupils the anatomically correct names for body parts.

## **Assessment**

The school will set the same high expectations of the quality of pupils' work in RSHE as for other areas of the curriculum. A strong RSHE curriculum will be developed to build on knowledge pupils have previously acquired, including from other subjects, with regular feedback on their progress.

Lessons will be planned to ensure pupils of differing abilities are suitably challenged. Teaching will be assessed to identify where pupils need extra support or intervention.

Pupils' knowledge and understanding will be assessed through summative assessment methods such as discussions, work completed in books and assessment activities.

One simple assessment activity is assigned to each unit. These will take into account the learning objectives of the sessions and provide evidence that the objectives have been taught and the knowledge that the children have obtained.

Teachers will use the evidence gathered in addition to their professional judgement to assess children in each unit with a final assessment each term being collected by the RSHE leader.

Children will be assessed using the I know and I can statements taken from the progression grid. These form a topic sheet at the start of each unit. Teachers assess children against each statement and identify if that statement has been 'met' or 'not yet' with an overall assessment being given based on the number of statements 'met'. The RSHE leader will regularly gather books to monitor assessment and identify areas of training need for staff.

## **Parents and Carers**

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.

Relationships and health education are statutory at primary and parents do not have the right to withdraw their child from the subjects. As sex education is not statutory at primary level, other than what must be taught as part of the science curriculum, parents have the right to request to withdraw their child from all or part of the sex education curriculum.

Should parents wish to withdraw their children they are asked to notify the school by contacting the head teacher. The headteacher will automatically grant a parent's request to withdraw their child from sex education, other than the content that must be taught as part of the science curriculum; however, the headteacher/RSHE leader will discuss the request with the parent and, if appropriate, their child, to ensure that their wishes are understood and to clarify the nature and purpose of the curriculum. The headteacher/RSHE leader will discuss with the parent, the benefits or receiving this important education and any adverse effects that withdrawal may have on the pupil – this could include, for example, social and emotional effects of being excluded.

The headteacher will keep a record of the discussion between themselves, the pupil and the parent. The parent will be informed in writing of the headteacher's decision. Where a pupil is withdrawn from sex education, the headteacher will ensure that the pupil receives appropriate alternative education.

We believe that the controlled environment of the classroom is the safest place for this curriculum to be followed. Please refer to the DfE guidance Page 17 for further details on the right to be excused from sex education (commonly referred to as the right to withdraw).

### **Responsibility for teaching the programme**

Responsibility for the specific relationships and sex education programme lays with the head teacher.

However, all staff will be involved in developing the attitudes and values aspect of the RSHE programme. They will be role models for pupils of good, healthy, wholesome relationships as between staff, other adults and pupils. They will also be contributing to the development of pupils' personal and social skills.

### **Working with external experts**

The school may invite guest speakers into school to talk on issues related to RSHE, e.g. an expert or experienced health professional who can challenge pupil's perceptions. A teacher will be present throughout these lessons. Visitors will be given a copy of this policy and expected to comply with the guidelines outlined within it. All resources used by guest speakers will be available to parents to view prior to lesson delivery.

Before delivering the session, the school will:

- Ensure the lesson the external expert has planned fits with the school's planned curriculum and this policy.
- Ensure the expert's credentials are checked before they are able to participate in delivery of the curriculum, in line with the Visitor Policy.
- Discuss the details of the expert's lesson plan and ensure that the content is age-appropriate and accessible for the pupils.
- Ask to see the materials the expert intends to use, as well as a copy of the lesson plan, to ensure it meets all pupils' needs, including those with SEND.
- Agree with the expert the procedures for confidentiality, ensuring that the expert understands how safeguarding reports should be dealt with in line with the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

### **Equality and accessibility**

The school understands its responsibilities in relation to the Equality Act 2010; specifically, that it must not unlawfully discriminate against any pupil based on their protected characteristics.

The school is committed to making reasonable adjustments wherever possible to promote accessibility and inclusivity of the curriculum. The school will ensure that RHE programme is inclusive, and caters to the needs, of pupils with SEND or other support needs, such as those with SEMH needs.

Teachers will understand that they may need to adapt their planning of work and teaching methods in order to appropriately deliver the programme to pupils with SEND or other support needs.

Provisions under the Equality Act 2010 allow our school to take positive action, where it can be evidenced to be proportionate, to respond to particular disadvantages affecting a group because of a protected characteristic. For example, we could consider taking positive action to support girls if there was evidence that they were being disproportionately subjected to sexual violence or sexual harassment.

When deciding whether support is necessary to support pupils with a particular protected characteristic, we will consider our pupils' needs, including the gender and age range of our pupils.

In order to foster healthy and respectful peer-to-peer communication and behaviour between all pupils, the school implements a robust Behaviour Policy, as well as a Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy, which sets out expectations of pupils.

The school understands that RSHE may include topics which are triggers for teaching staff, and could relate to historic, recent, or current trauma. If this is the case, the school encourages staff to approach SLT or the mental health lead (RSHE leader) to discuss this.

### **Curriculum links**

The school seeks opportunities to draw links between RHE and other curriculum subjects wherever possible to enhance pupils' learning. RHE will be linked to the following subjects in particular:

- **Science** – pupils learn about the main external parts of the body and changes to the body as it grows from birth to old age, including puberty.
- **Computing**– pupils learn about e-safety, including how to use technology safely, responsibly, respectfully and securely, how to keep personal information private and how to access help and support.
- **PE** – pupils explore various physical activities, are physically active for sustained periods of time, engage in competitive sport and understand how exercise can lead to healthier lifestyles.

### **Behaviour**

The school has a zero-tolerance approach to bullying. We aim to foster a culture based on mutual respect and understanding for one another.

Any bullying incidents caused as a result of the relationships, sex and health education programme will be dealt with as seriously as other bullying incidents within the school. Any occurrence of these incidents will be reported to a member of school staff, who will then discipline the pupil once they are on school premises. These incidents will be dealt with following the processes in our Behaviour Policy and Anti-bullying Policy.

The headteacher will decide whether it is appropriate to notify the police or an anti-social behaviour coordinator in their LA of the action taken against a pupil.

### **Children's Questions**

The governors want to promote a healthy, positive atmosphere in which RSHE can take place. They want to ensure that pupils can ask questions freely, be confident that their questions will be answered, and be sure that they will be free from bullying or harassment from other children and young people.

The governors believe that children are best educated and protected from harm and exploitation by discussing such issues openly within the context of the RSHE programme. The use of ground rules, negotiated between teachers and pupils, will help to create a supportive climate for discussion.

Some questions may raise issues, which it would not be appropriate for teachers to answer during ordinary class time, e.g., where a child or young person's questions hints at abuse, is deliberately tendentious or is of a personal nature. These questions will not be answered as part of a whole class discussion and the school's Safeguarding Policy will be followed in this instance.

### **Staff training**

All staff members at the school will undergo training on a **annual** basis to ensure they are up-to-date with the relationship and health education programme and associated issues. Members of staff responsible for teaching the subjects will undergo further training on a **regular** basis, led by the RSHE subject leader, to ensure they are fully equipped to teach the subjects effectively.

Training of staff will also be scheduled around any updated guidance on the programme and any new developments, which may need to be addressed in relation to the programme.

## **Confidentiality**

The school will aim to provide a safe and supportive school community where pupils feel comfortable seeking help and guidance on anything that may be concerning them about life either at school or at home. Training around confidentiality will be provided to all teachers.

It may be the case that discussion around what is acceptable and not acceptable in relationships may lead to the disclosure of a child protection issue. If this is the case, the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy should be followed.

Pupils will be informed prior to delivery of RSHE lessons that confidentiality will remain unless school staff feel that a child is at risk of harm. This information will need to be passed on to the DSL and the pupils will be informed of the procedure. Staff who breach the right to a child's privacy by disclosing or sharing confidential information with no reason to do so will be dealt with under the school's Disciplinary Policy and Procedure.

## **Monitoring quality**

The RSHE subject leader is responsible for monitoring the quality of teaching and learning for the subjects. They will conduct subject assessments on a **termly** basis, which will include a mixture of the following:

- **Self-evaluations**
- **Lesson observations**
- **Pupil Voice**
- **Learning walks**
- **Work scrutiny**
- **Lesson planning scrutiny**

The RSHE subject leader will create annual subject reports for the headteacher and governing body to report on the quality of the subject. They will also work regularly and consistently with the headteacher and RSHE link governor, through **termly** review meetings, to evaluate the effectiveness of the subjects and implement any changes.

## **Monitoring and Review**

The governing body is responsible for approving this policy. This policy will be reviewed in light of any changes to statutory guidance, feedback from parents, staff or pupils, and issues in the school or local area that may need addressing.

Any changes made to this policy will be communicated to all staff, parents and, where necessary, pupils.

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Headteacher, RSHE Co-ordinator, the Governing Body and Staff.

Approved by Chair of Governors



Approved Date: November 2024

Review Date: November 2025