

# A St. Michael's CE (VA) Junior School Policy



## Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE) including Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)

By God's love we all flourish together.

Reviewed by Pastoral Care Manager:	Spring 2021
Ratified by Governors	
To be reviewed:	Spring 2023

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### **Personal, Social and Health Education Policy (PSHE) including Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) Policy including**

#### **1. Overview**

Our Personal, Social and Health Education Policy (PSHE) including Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) teaching is underpinned by the Christian values upon which our school community is based, love, faith, respect and courage. We recognise the importance of building children's independence and self-esteem, developing respect and responsibility for oneself and others. It is about the emotional, social and cultural development of pupils and involves learning about relationships, healthy lifestyles, diversity and personal identity. Our school's approach follows that of the Church of England Education Office in that it seeks to be faith sensitive and inclusive. Everyone will be treated with dignity as all people are made in the image of God and are loved equally by God.

These subjects need to be taught sensitively with emphasis on moral considerations and the value of family life. Where possible, teaching should be complimentary to and supportive of the role of parents.

#### **2. Policy Development**

This policy was written in accordance with the statutory guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) issued under section 80A of the Education Act 2002 and section 403 of the Education Act 1996 and the Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education DfE guidance published in July 2020. We must provide relationships education as per section 34 of the Children and Social work act 2017. Staff, parents and governors of St Michaels' CE Junior School have been consulted. We have investigated exactly what pupils want from RSE. It provides information on how we plan, deliver, monitor and review our Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) and Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE). This is in addition to the statutory National Science Curriculum topics.

Parents will be informed of this policy through the school prospectus and it will be available to parents on the school website. They will receive a letter each year advising them of the dates of the Sex Education sessions and the content of the lessons. Parents will be proactively encouraged to view our scheme of work and the resources we will use in Sex Education. It is the right of parents to withdraw their children from part, or all of Sex Education curriculum. From September 2021 we will use resource produced by Medway Council which is endorsed by the PSHE Association.

### 3.AIMS

PSHE/RSE at St Michael's Church of England School is about what constitutes wellbeing and loving care for ourselves (physical and mental health education) and how we show loving care for others (relationships education).

#### We aim to:

- provide a framework in which sensitive discussions can take place.
- help pupils develop feelings of confidence, self-respect and empathy.
- develop an understanding of the nature of relationships with friends and family.
- encourage awareness of safety.
- promote good health.
- be appreciative of existing relationships
- form new healthy relationships
- enjoy strong, positive, caring relationships with good boundaries, online and in person.
- prepare pupils for puberty (both physically and emotionally), and give them an understanding of sexual development and the importance of health and hygiene.
- give pupils an age-appropriate understanding of human reproduction.
- make children aware of what the Bible teaches regarding marriage and the family.
- enhance awareness of all the people who contribute to the well-being of the community.
- prepare pupils to play an active role as citizens.
- provide opportunities for pupils to develop their knowledge, skills, attitudes and understanding about substance abuse including drugs and alcohol.

### 4.CURRICULUM

Our curriculum was developed using the PSHE association planning tool to ensure the programme is specific for our school and pupils needs.

There are three core themes; Health and Wellbeing, Relationships and Living in the Wider World with specific topics taught in each area.

Theme:Health and Wellbeing	Theme:Relationships	Theme:Living in the Wider World
Topics: Healthy Lifestyles Keeping Safe Growing and Changing	Topics: Healthy Relationships Feelings and Emotions Valuing Difference	Topics: Rights and Responsibilities Taking Care of the Environment

Please see appendix A for more detailed information. (Please note that the learning objectives are linked to children's rights articles). From September 2021 school will use the Harper Collins scheme of work.

## **SEX EDUCATION**

### **Why teach Sex Education?**

We believe it is important to address this area of the curriculum as every child and young person has an entitlement to access learning that will promote their spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development. We believe pupils should be prepared for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life. They need to be enabled to live safe, fulfilled and healthy lives. We want to lay the foundation for Sex Education in secondary school.

All Sex Education needs to be taught sensitively with emphasis on age-appropriate knowledge and should be complimentary to and supportive of the role of parents.

### **Objectives**

In **Year 3** we aim to

- Teach pupils about their bodies and the differences between the sexes.
- Encourage awareness of appropriate physical contact from their peers and adults.

In **Year 4** we aim to

- Give pupils a basic understanding of human reproduction and pregnancy.

In **Year 5** we aim to

- Prepare pupils to cope with the physical and emotional challenges of puberty.

In **Year 6** we aim to

- Develop pupils understanding of the nature of relationships between partners.
- Give pupils an age-appropriate understanding of human reproduction including sexual intercourse.

### **5.Delivery of RSE and PSHE**

PSHE and RSE lessons will be taught by Class Teachers and/or Higher-Level Teaching Assistants. Some topics will be taught discretely, however the nature of the subject means that the development of many skills e.g. collaborative skills will take place across the curriculum.

It needs to be remembered that children come from a variety of backgrounds and issues relating to religious, cultural or moral viewpoints will need to be dealt with sensitively. All lessons are taught within the context of family life taking care to ensure that there is no stigmatisation of children based on their home circumstances (families can include single parent families, LGBT parents, families headed by grandparents, adoptive parents, foster parents/carers amongst other structures) along with reflecting sensitively that some children may have a different structure of support around them (for example: looked after children and young carers).

Parents will be proactively encouraged to view our scheme of work and particularly the resources we will use in Sex Education lessons. It is the right of parents to withdraw their children from part, or all the Sex Education.

It is our belief that questions on Sex Education arising from the lessons will fall into one of three categories:

1. General questions which can be answered for everyone.
2. Questions where the child will be asked to come back on their own.
3. Questions where the child is referred to his/her parents.

In answering all questions, it is important that only fact is given and opinions are not expressed.

## 6. Roles and Responsibilities

### Governing Body

The governing body will approve the PSHE/RSE policy and hold the headteacher to account for its implementation.

### The headteacher

The headteacher is responsible for the evaluation and monitoring of the teaching and learning and will do this via staff, parents and pupils' feedback. Modifications will be made accordingly and discussed with staff and parents before implementation.

### Staff

Staff will deliver the curriculum in a sensitive way. They will model positive attitudes to RSE/PSHE. Staff will monitor progress and respond to the needs of individual pupils. They will respond appropriately to parents who wish to withdraw their children from the non-statutory components of the curriculum.

### Pupils

Pupils are expected to engage fully in PSHE/RSE and when discussing issues, treat others with respect and sensitivity.

## 7. Parents right to withdraw

Parents **do not** have the right to withdraw their children from relationships education. Parents **have the right** to withdraw their children from the [non-statutory/non-science] components of sex education within RSE.

Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing using the form found in Appendix B of this policy and addressed to the headteacher.

Alternative work will be given to pupils who are withdrawn from sex education.

## 8. Monitoring Arrangements

The monitoring of PSHE/RSE is carried out by the headteacher.

The policy will be reviewed every two years by the Pastoral Care Manager and approved by the governing body and head teacher.

Appendix B: Parent Form – withdrawal from sex education within RSE

<b>To be completed by parents</b>	
Name of child	Class
Name of parent	Date
Reason for withdrawing from sex education within relationships and sex education	
Any other information you would like the school to consider	
<b>Parent signature</b>	

<b>To be completed by school</b>	
Agreed actions from discussion with parent/s	
<b>Staff signature</b>	

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