St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Pontefract
A Voluntary Academy

Relationships, Health (& Sex) Education
RH(S)E Policy 2025-2027

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A MODEL POLICY FOR RELATIONSHIPS, [SEX] AND HEALTH EDUCATION

Our Mission

Inspired by Catholic teaching, we learn how to
serve and love each other as disciples of our world
with the same faithful joy which we see
in Jesus, our saviour and our Lord.

TO LOVE AND SERVE WITH JOY

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

Consultation that took place e.g.

- Questionnaires to parents / carers, and meetings with parents/carers
- review of R[S]HE curriculum content with staff and pupils
- consultation with school governors

Implementation and Review of Policy

Implementation and Review of Policy

The policy has been implemented, following consultation with the Governors in the autumn term 2020. This policy is reviewed annually by the Headteacher, RSHE Co-ordinator, Academy Council and staff. The policy was reviewed in autumn 2023. The next review date is autumn 2024.

Dissemination

The policy will be given to all members of the Governing Body, and all teaching and non-teaching members of staff. Copies of the document will be available to all parents through the school's website and a copy can be printed in the school office should they wish. Details of the content of the R[S]HE curriculum is published on the school's website along with a link to the parent portal.

DEFINING RELATIONSHIPS AND HEALTH EDUCATION

The DfE guidance defines relationships education in primary school as "the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships, with particular reference to friendships, family relationships, and relationships with other children and with adults. Drawing attention to these in a range of contexts should enable pupils to form a strong early understanding of the features of relationships that are likely to lead to happiness and security. This will also help them to recognise any less positive relationships when they encounter them. The principles of positive relationships also apply online especially as, by the end of primary school, many children will already be using the internet. When teaching relationships content, teachers should address online safety and appropriate behaviour in a way that is relevant to pupils' lives."[1]

The DfE guidance defines health education as the "teaching … about physical health and mental wellbeing … to give [pupils] the information that they need to make good decisions about their own health and wellbeing. It should enable them to recognise what is normal and what is an issue in themselves and others and, when issues arise, know how to seek support as early as possible from appropriate sources."[2]

STATUTORY CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS

The Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education (England) Regulations 2019, made under sections 34 and 35 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017, make Relationships Education compulsory for all pupils receiving primary education. They also make Health Education compulsory in all schools including academies, non-maintained special schools

[1] Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education Statutory guidance for governing bodies, proprietors, head teachers, principals, and senior leadership teams, teachers, DfE, para. 54, 55, and 58

[2] Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education Statutory guidance for governing bodies, proprietors, head teachers, principals, senior leadership teams, teachers, DfE, para. 83

and alternative provision.

All schools must have an up-to-date policy, which is made available to parents and others. Schools must provide a copy of the policy free of charge to anyone who asks for one and should publish the policy on the school website

However, the reasons for our inclusion of R[S]EH go further.

RATIONALE

'I HAVE COME THAT YOU MIGHT HAVE LIFE AND HAVE IT TO THE FULL' (John 10.10)

We teach relationships, [sex] and health education because of our Christian beliefs about God and about the human person. 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. This communion of divine love reveals that the desire for human relationships is God-given. Human beings are created to be relational, created to love and to be loved just as God is love and essentially relational. Catholic schools engage in relationships education not only because it is in the context of relationships that the human person grows and develops, but because God, who is love, desires that the world becomes a community of love.[3]

Our belief in the unique dignity of the human person made in the image and likeness of God underpins education in a Catholic school. As a consequence, every human person, gender and sexuality are seen as gifts from God, reflect God's beauty, and participate in the divine creativity.

Following the guidance of the Bishops of England and Wales and as advocated by the DfE R[S]HE 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. It is centred on Christ's vision of being human as good news and will be positive and prudent, showing the potential for development, while enabling the dangers and risks involved to be understood and appreciated.

All RSHE will be in accordance with the Church's moral teaching and be at the service of human flourishing through the explicit teaching of the virtues. It will emphasise the central importance of the family and marriage 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.

VALUES AND VIRTUES

Our programme enshrines Catholic values relating to the importance of stable relationships, marriage and family life. It 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. The following virtues will be explicitly explored and promoted: love, patience, courage, honesty, respect, forgiveness, courtesy and justice.

AIM OF R[S]HE AND THE MISSION STATEMENT

Our Mission Statement commits us to the education of the whole child (spiritual, physical, intellectual, moral, social, cultural, emotional) and we believe that R[S]HE is an integral part of this

[3] Dogmatic Constitution on the Church: *Lumen gentium*, article 1, Second Vatican Council.

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.

Place CONTENT OF PROGRAMME AND OUTCOMES here

(See 'Life to the Full' content on the school RHE website page)

The school will use the '**Life to the Full'** resource from Ten Ten Resources. This resource has been adopted across all our BKCAT family of schools Ten Ten's programme for Catholic primary schools, will teach Relationships Education and Health Education within the context of a Christian understanding of human sexuality rooted in the wisdom and teaching of the Catholic Church. This resource gives the pupils knowledge "that will enable them to make informed decisions about their wellbeing, health and relationships" (DFE Statutory Guidance). The framework of the programme is taken from the Model Catholic RSE Programme by the Catholic Education Service, which has been highlighted by the Department of Education as a work of good practice.

Life to the Full *is a fully resourced Scheme of Work in Relationships and Health Education (RHE) 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.*

RESOURCES

(See 'Life to the Full' content on the school RHE website page)

INCLUSION AND DIFFERENTIATED LEARNING

We will ensure RHE 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. (In looking at these questions, it is important to draw links to the school's inclusion policy).

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 of the pupils, irrespective of disability, educational needs, race, nationality, ethnic or national origin, pregnancy, maternity, sex, gender identity, religion or sexual orientation or whether they are looked-after children.

BROAD CONTENT OF RSE

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.

Teaching strategies will include:

- establishing ground rules
- distancing techniques
- discussion
- project learning
- reflection
- experiential
- active
- brainstorming
- film & video
- group work
- role-play
- trigger drawings
- values clarification

Children's learning and understanding will be assessed through the completion of tasks set from the above resources and verbally. This is primarily based on teacher assessment.

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. Parents/carers will be informed by letter when the more sensitive aspects of R[S]HE will be covered in order that they can be prepared to talk and answer questions about their children's learning.

Parents must be consulted before this policy is ratified by the governors. They will be consulted at every stage of the development of the R[S]HE programme, as well as during the process of monitoring, review and evaluation. They will be able to view the resources used by the school in the R[S]HE programme. Our aim is that, at the end of the consultation process, every parent and carer will have full confidence in the school's R[S]HE programme to meet their child's needs.

There is no right to withdraw from statutory Relationships and Health Education nor from the sex education that is taught as part of national curriculum science. However, parents continue to have ***the right to withdraw*** their children from the school's provision for sex education that is in addition to national curriculum science. Should parents wish to withdraw their children they are asked to notify the school by contacting the class teacher. The school will provide support by providing material for parents to help the children with their learning. The school will always inform parents prior to any lesson of a sensitive or non-statutory nature.

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).

BALANCED CURRICULUM

Whilst promoting Catholic values and virtues and teaching in accordance with Church teaching, we will ensure that pupils are offered a balanced programme by providing an R[S]HE programme that

offers a range of viewpoints on issues. Pupils will also receive clear scientific information as well as covering the aspects of the law pertaining to R[S]HE. Knowing about facts and enabling young people to explore differing viewpoints is not the same as promoting behaviour and is not incompatible with our school's promotion of Catholic teaching. We will ensure that pupils have access to the learning they need to stay safe, healthy and understand their rights as individuals.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR TEACHING THE PROGRAMME

Responsibility for the specific relationships and health education programme lays with…..(the relevant curriculum staff; this will normally include science, religious education, physical education, R[S]E and PSHE).

However, all staff will be involved in developing the attitudes and values aspect of the R[S]HE 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.

External Visitors

Our school will often call upon help and guidance from outside agencies and health specialists to deliver aspects of R[S]HE. Such visits will always complement the current programme and never substitute or replace teacher led sessions. It is important that any external visitor is clear about their role and responsibility whilst they are in school delivering a session. Any visitor must adhere to our code of practice developed in line with CES guidance 'Checklist for External Speakers to Schools'. Health professionals should follow the school's policies, minimising the potential for disclosures or inappropriate comments using negotiated ground rules and distancing techniques as other teachers would. They will ensure that all teaching is rooted in Catholic principles and practice.

OTHER ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES REGARDING R[S]HE

Governors

- draw up the R[S]HE policy, in consultation with parents and teachers;
- ensure that the policy is available to parents;
- ensure that the policy is in accordance with other whole school policies, e.g., SEN, the ethos of the school and our Christian beliefs;
- ensure that parents know of their right to withdraw their children;
- establish a link governor to share in the monitoring and evaluation of the programme, including resources used;
- ensure that the policy provides proper and adequate coverage of relevant National Curriculum science topics and the setting of R[S]HE within PSHE.

Headteacher

The Head teacher takes overall delegated responsibility for the implementation of this policy and for liaison with the Governing Body, parents, the Diocesan Vicariate for Education and the Local Education Authority, also appropriate agencies.

PSHE/R[S]HE Co-Ordinator

The co-ordinator with the head teacher has a general responsibility for supporting other members of staff in the implementation of this policy and will provide a lead in the dissemination of the information relating to R[S]HE and the provision of in-service training. *(They may be supported by the curriculum deputy and the member of staff with responsibility for child protection).*

All Staff

R[S]HE is a whole school issue. All teachers have a responsibility of care; as well as fostering academic progress they should actively contribute to the guardianship and 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. Appropriate training will be made available for all staff teaching R[S]HE. All staff have been included in the development of this policy and all staff should be aware of the policy and how it relates to them.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER POLICIES AND CURRICULUM SUBJECTS

This R[S]HE policy is to be delivered as part of the PSHE framework. It includes guidelines about pupil safety and is compatible with the school's other policy documents (for example, Bullying policy, Safeguarding Policy etc.)

Pupils with particular difficulties whether of a physical or intellectual nature will receive appropriately differentiated support in order to enable them to achieve mature knowledge, understanding and skills. Teaching methods will be adapted to meet the varying needs of this group of pupils.

Learning about R[S]HE in PSHE classes will link to/complement learning in those areas identified in the RSE audit.

CHILDREN'S QUESTIONS

The governors want to promote a healthy, positive atmosphere in which R[S]HE 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.

Controversial or Sensitive issues

There will always be sensitive or controversial issues in the field of R[S]HE. These may be matter of maturity, of personal involvement or experience of children, of disagreement with the official teaching of the Church, of illegal activity or other doubtful, dubious or harmful activity. The governors believe that children are best educated, protected from harm and exploitation by discussing such issues openly within the context of the R[S]HE programme. The use of ground rules, negotiated between teachers and pupils, will help to create a supportive climate for discussion. (See also Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education, Managing difficult questions, Page 23 for more detail.)

Some pupils 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.

SUPPORTING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE AT RISK

Children will also need to feel safe and secure in the environment in which R[S]HE takes place. Effective R[S]HE will provide opportunities for discussion of what is and is not appropriate in relationships. Such discussion may well lead to disclosure of a safeguarding issue. Teachers will need to be aware of the needs of their pupils and not let any fears and worries go unnoticed.

Where a teacher suspects that a child or young person is a victim of or is at risk of abuse, they are required to follow the school's safeguarding policy and immediately inform the designated senior member of staff responsible

CONFIDENTIALITY AND ADVICE

All governors, all teachers, all support staff, all parents and all pupils must be made aware of this policy, particularly as it relates to issues of advice and confidentiality.

All lessons, especially those in the R[S]HE programme, will have the best interests of pupils at heart, enabling them to grow in knowledge and understanding of relationships, developing appropriate personal and social skills and becoming appreciative of the virtues and attitudes which underpin the Christian understanding of what it means to be fully human.

Pupils will be encouraged to talk to their parents/carers about the issues which are discussed in the programme. Teachers will always help pupils facing personal difficulties, in line with the school's pastoral care policy. Teachers should explain to pupils that they cannot offer unconditional confidentiality, in matters which are illegal or abusive for instance. Teachers will explain that in such circumstances they would have to inform others, e.g., parents, head teacher, but that the pupils would always be informed first that such action was going to be taken

Child on Child Abuse – sharing nudes & semi nudes/bullying/racism/sexual assaults/physical assault/hazing or initiating

Child on child abuse, will always be taken seriously and swiftly acted upon, under the appropriate policy e.g. safeguarding, behaviour, bullying and a risk assessment completed as required. Students will be encouraged to report any concerns freely.

It will not dismissed as 'banter' or 'part of growing up'. These issues will be part of RSE lessons and discussions. Victims will be supported through the school's pastoral system.

Sexual Violence and Harassment

Sexual violence and sexual harassment can occur between two children of any age and sex, from primary through to secondary stage and into colleges. It can occur through a group of children sexually assaulting or sexually harassing a single child or group of children. Sexual violence and sexual harassment exist on a continuum and may overlap; they can occur online and face to face (both physically and verbally) and are never acceptable.

Our staff will recognise that 'it could happen here' and be vigilant to signs and indicators that a student could be suffering.

Addressing inappropriate behaviour (even if it appears to be relatively innocuous) is an important intervention that helps prevent problematic, abusive and/or violent behaviour in the future. Girls are especially vulnerable to this type of abuse.

Sexual Violence includes rape, assault by penetration and sexual assault.

Sexual Harassment is unwanted conduct of a sexual nature and can include lewd comments/sexual jokes, physical behaviour e.g. showing sexual pictures, deliberately touching/brushing up against someone, online sexual harassment, upskirting.

we will;

- adopt the 'it could happen here' mindset and never tolerate or normalise this behaviour and are very clear is not an inevitable part of growing up;
- not tolerate or dismiss sexual violence or sexual harassment as "banter", "part of growing up", "just having a laugh" or "boys being boys";
- challenge behaviour (potentially criminal in nature), such as grabbing bottoms, breasts and genitalia and flicking bras/pulling down trousers and lifting up skirts.
- understand that all of the above can be driven by wider societal factors beyond the school and college, such as everyday sexist stereotypes and everyday sexist language.

- ensure this is addressed through our RSE program.
- ensure all incidents are recorded and acted upon swiftly.

Consent is about having the freedom and capacity to choose. Consent can be withdrawn at any time.

We recognise children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) are three times more likely to be abused than their peers. Additional barriers can sometimes exist when recognising abuse in SEND children. These can include:

- assumptions that indicators of possible abuse such as behaviour, mood and injury relate to the child's disability without further exploration;
- the potential for children with SEND being disproportionately impacted by behaviours such as bullying and harassment, without outwardly showing any signs; and
- communication barriers and difficulties overcoming these barriers.

Therefore, any reports of abuse involving children with SEND will involve liaison with the Designated Safeguarding Lead (or deputy) and the SENCO

Children who are lesbian, gay, bi, or trans (LGBT) can be targeted by their peers. In some cases, a child who is perceived by their peers to be LGBT (whether they are or not) can be just as vulnerable as children who identify as LGBT.

We will follow outlined guidance on any cases of sexual violence and harassment between students.

Victim's will never be blamed or made to feel ashamed for coming forward. We will ensure support for the alleged perpetrator as well as the alleged victim throughout the process. Support can run alongside any sanctions for perpetrator as we realise perpetrators may be victims themselves.
We will seek advice from other agencies such as police or social care if the case is above early help or internal management.
Students are encouraged to report any concerns using the "Time to Talk" boxes, digital pupil referral form, by speaking to a trusted adult in school or, by contacting the NSPCC's Report Abuse in Education Helpline 0800 136 663. We will record on CPOMS.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The R[S]HE Co-ordinator will monitor the provision of the various dimensions of the programme by examining plans, schemes of work and samples of pupils work at regular intervals. The programme will be evaluated biannually by means of questionnaires / response sheets / needs assessment given to pupils, and / or by discussion with pupils, staff and parents. The results of the evaluation should be reported to these groups of interested parties and their suggestions sought for improvements. Governors will consider all such evaluations and suggestions before amending the policy. Governors remain ultimately responsible for the policy.

Policy written in consultation with the guidance from the Diocese of Leeds and Ten Ten Resources.