



RELATIONSHIP, SEX & HEALTH EDUCATION (RHSE)

SUMMARY of STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

INTRODUCTION

Personal, Social, Health & Economic Education (PSHE) in both Primary & Secondary schools has always sought to equip pupils with a sound understanding of risk, and with the knowledge and skills necessary to make safe and informed decisions.

Everyone faces difficult situations in their lives. Teaching children about their well-being, health and relationships can support them develop resilience; to know how and when to ask for help; and to know where to access support. This will help them embrace the challenges of creating a happy and successful adult life.

Preparing children for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life is something that we take extremely seriously at Christ Church CoE Primary School. As is promoting the spiritual, moral, social, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils.

Legislation regarding the teaching of Relationship, Sex & Health Education (RSHE) now means that relationship and health education **MUST** be taught at Primary and Secondary School. Sex Education is also compulsory at Secondary school; Primary schools may choose if they want to teach any age-appropriate aspects of this curriculum ahead of the transition to secondary school.

Schools are free to decide **how** to deliver the new statutory RSHE guidance, within the context of their own broad and balanced curriculum.

At Christ Church CoE Primary School we seek to teach these subjects to ensure that core knowledge is broken down into manageable size and communicated clearly to pupils in a carefully sequenced way within a planned programme of lessons. Our teaching will include sufficient well-chosen opportunities and contexts for pupils to embed new knowledge effectively, and will form part of our broader PSHE curriculum. Aspects are also already covered within the broader National Curriculum in subjects such as science, computing and PE.

RSHE & FAITH

When planning and teaching RSHE, staff will ensure that the religious background of all pupils is taken into account so that the topics that are included are sensitively handled and with the understanding that religion and belief is a protected characteristic under the Equality Act.

All schools may teach about faith perspectives, and as a Church of England school we will be using materials that are recommended by the Diocese of Southwell & Nottingham.

All teaching must reflect the law as it applies to relationships, so that children and young people clearly understand – appropriate to their age – what the law does and does not allow, and the wider legal implications of any decisions that they may make.

EQUALITY

All schools are required to comply with the relevant requirements of the Equality Act 2010. Under this, schools must not unlawfully discriminate against pupils because of their *age, sex, race, disability, religion or belief, gender reassignment, pregnancy or paternity, marriage / civil partnership or sexual orientation*. These are collectively known as the protected characteristics.

Provisions within the Equality Act allow schools to take positive, proportionate action, to deal with particular disadvantages affecting one group because of their protected characteristic. This should be taken into consideration in the RSHE curriculum. For example, a school may take positive action to support girls, if there was evidence that they were being disproportionately subjected to sexual harassment.

Christ Church CoE Primary School is aware of issues such as everyday sexism, misogyny, homophobia and gender stereotypes. We take positive action to build a school culture where these are not tolerated and any occurrences are identified and addressed, as appropriate. We recognise that staff have an important role to play in modelling positive behaviours.

We believe that an understanding for all pupils of healthy relationships, acceptable behaviour and the right to equal treatment and respect, will help ensure that pupils treat each other well and will go on to be respectful and caring adults.

Please refer to our *Behaviour Policy, Anti-Bullying Policy and Peer-on-Peer Abuse Policy* for additional information.

PUPILS WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS

RSHE must be accessible for all pupils. This is particularly important when planning teaching for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). High quality teaching, which is differentiated and personalised if needed, will be the starting point to ensure accessibility.

Christ Church CoE Primary School is aware that some pupils are more vulnerable to exploitation, bullying or other issues due to the nature of their SEND. RSHE can therefore be particularly important for some pupils, for example, those with social / emotional / mental health needs.

Teachers will ensure that their teaching is sensitive, age-appropriate and developmentally appropriate, as well as being delivered with reference to the law.

LGBT+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender)

In teaching RSHE, schools should ensure that the needs of all pupils are appropriately met, and that all pupils understand the importance of equality and respect.

At the point at which schools consider it appropriate to teach their pupils about LGBT+ (e.g. in the context of different family units), they should ensure that this content is fully integrated rather than delivered as a stand-alone unit or lesson. Schools are free to determine how they do this, but the DfE expect ALL pupils to have been taught LGBT+ content at a timely point as part of this curriculum.

WORKING WITH PARENTS & CARERS

The role of the parent in the development of children's understanding about relationships is vital; parents are the first teachers of their children. They have the most significant influence in enabling their children to grow, mature and form healthy relationships.

Schools are expected to work closely with parents when planning and delivering these subjects.

This includes:

- Helping parents understand the purpose and content of RSHE
- Ensuring parents know what will be taught and when
- Providing opportunities for parents to ask questions about the school provision
- Making it clear that parents have a right to withdraw their child from all / some of the sex education aspect of statutory RSHE

We recognise that it is important for parents to understand that discussing the RSHE curriculum will contribute to wider support for children in terms of pupil wellbeing and keeping children safe.

RIGHT TO WITHDRAW from Sex Education

Parents have the right to request that their child be withdrawn from some or all of the sex education delivered as part of RSHE. **There is no right to withdraw from the Relationships or Health Education aspects of the curriculum.**

Before granting any such request, we ask that you arrange a meeting with the headteacher to discuss this to ensure that their wishes are understood and to clarify the nature and purpose of the curriculum. This meeting will be documented and a record kept.

The DfE expect that the headteacher will discuss the benefits of receiving this important education and any detrimental effects that might occur as a result if being withdrawn from a lesson. This could include potential social / emotional effect of being excluded, as well as the likelihood of the child hearing about what was said in class from their peers rather than directly from the teacher.

In Primary schools, the headteacher will automatically grant a request to withdraw a child from any sex education delivered, other than that which is part of the National Curriculum for Science.

WORKING WITH EXTERNAL AGENCIES

Working with external agencies (such as the NSPCC) can enhance the delivery of RSHE, bringing specialist knowledge and different materials to engage with children.

Any visitor or organisation will be thoroughly checked and their teaching will fit into the planned programme and school policy. Any content and material shared will be age-appropriate and accessible; and school policies on confidentiality and safeguarding will be followed.

In all cases, the use of visitors for RSHE will be used to enhance the teaching of the class teacher rather than as a replacement for it.

TEACHING MATERIALS & RESOURCES

Schools must ensure that any teaching resources that are used are appropriate to the age and maturity of pupils and sensitive to their needs.

Schools are encouraged to share their resources with parents as this can enable families to continue conversations started in class at home.

Our RSHE & PSHE curriculum has been developed drawing on the following resources:

- 'Learn4 Life' produced by Wiltshire Healthy Schools
- 'Love & Sex Matters' published by the Salisbury Diocese Board of Education
- 'Goodness & Mercy' (written specifically for teaching RSHE in Church Schools)
<https://goodnessandmercy.co.uk/>