



Chestnut Street Church of England Primary Academy

Care, Believe, Grow

Relationships, Sex and Health Education Policy

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

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

All Church of England and Methodist schools within the Diocese of Lincoln are statutorily required to teach Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education. Within the context of Christian beliefs about human dignity (e.g. Genesis 1:26-27) and the need to love your neighbour as you love yourself (e.g. Mark 12:30-31), RSHE enables pupils to flourish and gain every opportunity to live fulfilled lives.

RSHE is about the emotional, social and physical aspects of growing up, healthy relationships, sex, human sexuality and sexual health. It is also about the spiritual and moral aspects of relationships within a context of a Christian vision for the purpose of life. Through RSHE in church schools, pupils will have the chance to learn about how to ensure that they treat themselves and others, at all times and in all contexts, with dignity and respect.

Relationships Education is learning about how to:

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

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

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

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

At Chestnut Street Church of England Primary Academy we have decided that it is important to include an age-appropriate Sex Education Curriculum to protect and prepare the children in our community. Parents/carers do have the right to excuse their children from this aspect of Sex Education (see below for more information).

The national curriculum for science also includes subject content in related areas, such as the main external body parts, the human body as it grows from birth to old age (including puberty) and reproduction in some plants and animals.

We believe it is important that the transition phase before moving to secondary school supports pupils' ongoing emotional and physical development effectively. Children in Years 5 and 6 will take part in an age appropriate sex education programme that is tailored to the age and the physical and emotional maturity of the pupils. This will ensure that both boys and girls are prepared for the changes that adolescence brings and - drawing on knowledge of the human life cycle set out in the national curriculum for science - how a baby is conceived and born.

2. Statutory Requirements

As a Primary Academy, we must provide Relationships Education to all pupils as per section 34 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017. We do not have to follow the National Curriculum, but we are required to offer all pupils a curriculum that is similar in breadth and depth to the National Curriculum, including requirements to teach science, which would include the elements of sex education contained within the Primary Science curriculum.

In teaching RSHE, we have regard to the guidance issued by the secretary of state as outlined in [section 403 of the Education Act 1996](#).

At Chestnut Street Church of England Primary Academy, we teach RSHE as set out in this policy.

3. RSHE Curriculum

Our RSHE curriculum has been developed in consultation with various stakeholders, including governors, staff, pupils and parents/carers and takes into account the context of the school and its pupils.

We will cover the following areas in an age appropriate developmental curriculum:

- Families and people who care for me
- Caring friendships and respectful relationships
- Internet safety, safe online relationships and the risks of online relationships
- Mental wellbeing
- Basic first aid, physical health and fitness, health and fitness, healthy eating, risks to health, e.g. drugs, alcohol, tobacco]

This RSHE curriculum has been planned in the context of our broader curriculum intent, and the delivery of this part of the curriculum is one of the ways in which we seek to realise our overarching distinctively Christian vision. It reflects core Christian teachings about human beings

and healthy relationships, including the belief that all are made in the image of God, are loved by God and are therefore to be treated with dignity and respect. This enables our pupils to understand that they should value the gift of themselves and recognise and respect this gift of uniqueness in others by seeking out healthy relationships. It will also help them understand a range of Christian views on the importance of long-term relationships as building blocks for family stability.

4. Delivery of RSHE

RSHE is taught as part of the broader PSHE curriculum. Biological aspects of RSHE are taught within the Primary Science Curriculum and some elements of RSE may be taught within the RE curriculum, particular with relation to a range of views on relationships from religions and worldviews. Teaching is delivered by class teachers; some elements of RSHE education are delivered by a trained health professional. The school uses a range of resources to deliver effective RSHE and all staff involved in delivering RSHE receive appropriate training and support. Pupil progress and attainment in RSHE will be monitored annually.

All RSHE is delivered with an understanding that pupils and staff may be personally engaged in different structures of support and familial relationships, including single parent families, LGBTQ families, families headed by grandparents, adoptive parents, foster parents/carers, young carers, etc. The RSHE curriculum has been carefully designed to ensure that no person feels stigmatised; this is set within the context of the biblical teaching that all human beings are created in the image of God (*Genesis 1:26-7*) and that Christians are called to respect and honour everyone (e.g. *1 Peter 2:17*).

For more information about the delivery of RSHE, please contact the Executive Headteacher or RSHE leader

5. Parental Right to Withdraw from Sex Education

Parents/guardians do not have the right to withdraw their children from Relationships Education. Elements of Sex Education are included in the Primary Science Curriculum and parents/guardians do not have the right to withdraw their children from the Science Curriculum.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the non-science elements of Sex Education within RSHE. Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing to the head teacher. We will invite you to talk through your concerns, review the materials we use and explain our rationale. Withdrawing your child from Sex Education remains a statutory right as a parent or legal guardian.

This policy will be monitored and reviewed by the Local Council

It was approved by the Local Council in January 2021

Date of review: January 2023