



Newnham St Peter's Church of England Primary School Relationship and Sex Education Policy (RSE)

To be read in conjunction with:
Child Protection and Safeguarding Policies
The Equality Act 2010
Behaviour Policy
Anti-Bullying and Hate Policy
PSHE Policy
E Safety Policy
Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019
Valuing All God's Children 2019

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Newnham St Peter's RSE policy has been written in consultation with the staff and governing body. Parents and teachers were also consulted before the policy was agreed and ratified. The children's and families' needs, in the context of local and national issues, were considered and the content of the policy and curriculum have been brought into line with the new DfE requirements for Primary Relationships Education, which will become statutory from September 2020.
- 1.2 As a Church of England School we identify Christian values that underpin the whole of our community. These values inform our school's vision, aims and ethos, the design of our curriculum, all policies, planning and the school's management and governance. The values that relate particularly to this policy are respect friendship, forgiveness, thankfulness and hope.
- 1.3 As a Church of England School we undertake to follow the principles in the Church of England *Charter for faith sensitive and inclusive relationships education, relationships and sex education (RSE) and health education (RSHE)*.

2.0 Aims and Objectives

- 2.1 Newnham St Peter's curriculum intent document states: Through our curriculum we are providing the early building blocks that will enable our children to become successful adults in terms of being able to gain employment, live healthy lifestyles, be spiritually aware, be moral citizens and have the confidence to take opportunities to extend their horizons.
- 2.2 Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) is learning about the emotional, social and physical aspects of growing up, relationships and health.
- 2.3 RSE aims to equip children and young people with the information, skills and values which they will need to lead safe, fulfilling, enjoyable relationships and which will help them go on, beyond primary school, to take responsibility for their sexual health and wellbeing.

- 2.4 In line with the DfE 2019 Guidance, the focus of RSE at Newnham St Peter's C of E School is on teaching the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive, healthy, respectful relationships, with particular reference to friendships, family relationships, and relationships with other children and with adults in all contexts, including online. This sits alongside the essential understanding of how to be healthy and how totally interlinked physical and mental health are.
- 2.5 The key elements of Relationship Education have been divided into five sections:
- 2.5.1 Families and people who care for me
 - 2.5.2 Caring friendships
 - 2.5.3 Respectful relationships
 - 2.5.4 Online relationships
 - 2.5.5 Being safe

3.0 Why RSE is taught

- 3.1 Research has shown that a comprehensive RSE curriculum can help young people to feel more positive about themselves and to understand what a healthy relationship looks like, as well as to delay the age at which they become sexually active. Young people who feel good about themselves are more knowledgeable and confident about relationships, more likely to be more discerning in their relationships and sexual behaviours and also more likely to have healthy, safe and fulfilling relationships.
- 3.2 Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2019 sets out that all schools and colleges should ensure children are taught about safeguarding, including how to stay safe online, as part of providing a broad and balanced curriculum, and our RSE curriculum at Newnham St Peter's School is key to this provision.

4.0 Statutory Requirements

- 4.1 The Relationships Education, RSE, and Health Education (England) Regulations 2019 have made Relationships Education compulsory in all primary schools from September 2020.
- 4.2 Sex Education is not compulsory in primary schools however puberty is covered in the Relationships and Health Education content and the Department for Education (DfE) continues to recommend that all primary schools should have a sex education programme tailored to the age and physical and emotional maturity of the pupils. In addition, the National Curriculum for science 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.
- 4.3 At Newnham St Peter's, we link this work in science to our PSHE curriculum around health and relationships and respond to our children's questions in an age appropriate way.
- 4.4 if a parent wishes to withdraw their child from sex education beyond the national curriculum for science, we will uphold that right and would welcome a discussion around any concerns.

5.0 Equal Opportunities

- 5.1 The law states that all pupils should have access to Relationships Education and Health Education that is relevant to their particular needs. To achieve this, Newnham St Peter's approach to RSE takes account of:

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5.1.1 Ethnic and cultural diversity

Different ethnic and cultural groups may have different attitudes to RSE. The school will consult pupils and parents/carers about their needs, take account of their views and promote respect for, and understanding of, the views of different ethnic and cultural groups.

5.1.2 Varying home backgrounds

We recognise that our pupils may come from a variety of family situations and home backgrounds. We shall always endeavour to prevent stigmatisation of children based on their home circumstances.

5.1.3 Sexuality

Some of our pupils will go on to define themselves as lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgender or questioning (LGBTQ). Pupils may also have LGBTQ parents/carers, brothers or sisters, other family members and/or friends. Eventually all our pupils will meet and work with LGBTQ people. Our approach to RSE will include sensitive, honest and balanced consideration of sexuality and we shall actively tackle homophobic or sexist bullying. We are working towards creating a gender-neutral environment, where each child is seen as an individual.

5.1.4 Special educational needs

We shall take account of the fact that some pupils may have learning, emotional or difficulties or physical disabilities that result in particular RSE

6.0 Responsibilities

6.1 Teaching staff are all involved in the school's RSE provision; as well as delivering the curriculum, they all play an important pastoral role by offering support to pupils. Teachers are consulted about the school's approach to RSE and aided in their work by provision of resources, background information, and access to appropriate training, support and advice from experienced members of staff.

6.2 Non-teaching staff may be involved in a supportive role in some RSE lessons and also play an important (formal or informal) pastoral support role with pupils. They have access to information about the RSE programme and are supported in their pastoral role.

6.3 Governors have responsibilities for school policies. They are consulted about the RSE provision and policy.

6.4 Parents/carers have a legal right to have information about the school's RSE provision. They may have access at any point to the programme of work and are invited to come into school to discuss the content of the lessons and to view the resources used. The class teacher or PSHE subject leaders would be willing to work with them at any point, However, under the new statutory guidance, parents cannot withdraw their children

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from Relationships Education. As stated in section 3 above, they may only withdraw their child from sex education beyond the national curriculum for science. The school will, however, seek and take account of parent/carer views and endeavour to adopt a partnership approach with parents/carers; we will take time to address concerns and allay any fears.

6.5 **Outside agencies and speakers** may be involved in contributing to RSE lessons. The school will only work with agencies and speakers who are appropriate to the pupils' needs.

6.6 **Pupils** have an entitlement to RSE and pastoral support appropriate to their age and circumstance. They will be consulted about their RSE needs and their views will be central to developing the provision.

7.0 The Taught RSE Programme

7.1 We follow the GHLL (Gloucestershire Healthy Living and Learning) Primary RSE scheme of work, which is a graduated, age-appropriate programme. There are four key lessons in each year group, from Reception to Year 5, with five lessons in Year 6. Some further elements of RSE are taught through other areas of the PSHE programme and some through science. The four key lessons in each year group are delivered as a discrete unit within our wider PSHE curriculum. Some further elements of RSE are taught through other areas of the PSHE programme and some through science.

7.2 By the end of KS1 pupils will

7.2.1 know the basic rules for keeping themselves safe and healthy

7.2.2 understand about safe places to be and safe people to be with

7.2.3 know why families and carers are special for caring and sharing

7.2.4 be able to recognise and compare the main external parts of human bodies

7.2.5 know the names of the main external parts of the body including agreed names for reproductive organs

7.2.6 know and understand the ways they are similar and different to others

7.2.7 know and understand that they have control over their actions and bodies

7.2.8 recognise the pressure of unwanted physical contact and know ways of resisting it

7.3 By the end of Key Stage 2 pupils will:

7.3.1 be able to recognise and compare the main external parts of male and female human bodies including agreed names for reproductive organs

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- 7.3.2 know the names of the main internal parts of the body including agreed names for reproductive organs
- 7.3.3 know about the physical changes that take place at puberty, why they happen and how to manage them
- 7.3.4 understand why it is important to know how to keep themselves clean
- 7.3.5 understand that safe routines can stop the spread of viruses
- 7.3.6 understand genetic inheritance
- 7.3.7 understand there are different types of families to theirs
- 7.3.8 be able to challenge gender stereotyping
- 7.3.9 able to identify the adults they can trust and ask for help
- 7.3.10 be self-confident in a wide range of situations
- 7.3.11 recognise their own worth
- 7.3.12 be able to discuss moral questions
- 7.3.13 recognise the pressure of unwanted physical contact and know ways of resisting it
- 7.3.14 know how to keep themselves safe when involved in risky situations, including online
- 7.4 **The main RSE programme** will be taught within PSHE lessons. With four key lessons per year group, from Reception to Year 6, it is delivered as a discrete unit within our wider PSHE curriculum. In addition, certain biological aspects will be taught through science lessons and further elements of RSE will arise in other areas of the curriculum.
Should a teacher be absent, it would not be undertaken by a short-term supply teacher.
- 7.5 **Ground rules** Teachers are careful to ensure that their personal beliefs and attitudes do not influence the teaching of RSE. To this end, ground rules are always agreed upon to provide a common values framework within which to teach. There are clear parameters as to what will be taught in whole class setting and what will be dealt with on an individual basis.
Ground rules will ensure that:
 - 7.5.1 No one will be forced to take part in a discussion.
 - 7.5.2 The school's confidentiality/safeguarding policies are adhered to.

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7.6 Answering difficult questions When delivering the RSE objectives (6.1) teachers will always consider how children of the same age may be developmentally at different stages, leading to differing types of questions or behaviours. Teaching methods should take account of those developmental differences (including when these are due to specific special educational needs or disabilities) and recognise the potential for discussion on a one-to-one basis or in small groups. Schools should consider what is appropriate and inappropriate in a whole-class setting, as teachers may require support and training in answering questions that are better not dealt with in front of a whole class. On occasion, an individual child will ask an explicit or difficult question in the classroom. Questions do not always have to be answered immediately; it may be more appropriate to address them later. At Newnham St Peter's C of E Primary School we believe that individual teachers must use their skill and discretion in these situations and could refer to the PSHE subject leader.

7.7 Dealing with questions

7.7.1 Teachers should establish clear parameters about what is appropriate and inappropriate in a whole-class setting.

7.7.2 Teachers should set the tone by speaking in a matter-of-fact way and ensure that pupils discuss issues in a way which does not encourage giggling and silliness.

7.7.3 Pupils should be encouraged to write down questions anonymously and post them in a 'problem/worry box'. The teacher will then have time to prepare age-appropriate answers to all questions before the next session and will choose not to respond to any questions which are inappropriate.

7.7.4 Teachers should respond to questions where they can, always bearing in mind that pupils who do not have their questions answered may go online to find answers.

7.7.5 Teachers should not be drawn into providing more information than is appropriate to the age of the child.

7.7.6 If a verbal question is too personal, the teacher should remind the pupils of the ground rules.

7.7.7 If a question is too explicit, feels too old for a pupil, is inappropriate for the whole class or raises safeguarding concerns, the teacher should acknowledge the question and promise to attend to it later, on an individual basis.

7.7.8 Pupils must not be given the impression that teenagers inevitably have sex. The view that sex should be between two people who are mature enough to make informed decisions should be emphasised.

7.7.9 If a teacher is concerned that a pupil is at risk of sexual abuse the head teacher should be informed and the usual safeguarding/child protection procedures followed.

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8.0 Monitoring and Evaluation

- 8.1 The RSE programme and policy are regularly evaluated and reviewed by the PSHE subject leaders. The views of pupils, parents, staff and governors are used to make changes and improvements to the programme on an ongoing basis.

This policy will be reviewed by the Governors annually.

Adopted and Signed (Chair) (Head Teacher)

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