



The Diocese of Coventry
Multi Academy Trust

**The Curriculum Policy for Sex and
Relationships Education**

St John's C of E Academy

Written: March 2025

Review Date: March 2027

Policy review and changes noted 2023:

-Page 5 – removal of RHE lead supported by SENDCO as SENDCO as RSHE lead

-Page 7 – added in the texts ‘Growing up God’s Way’ for boys and girls

-Page 7 – updated video links

Policy review and changes noted 2025:

-No changes made

The Curriculum Policy for Sex and Relationships Education

VISION STATEMENT

In our school our Christian vision shapes all we do:

VISION

To be an excellent school, embedded in Christian values that develops children into confident, happy citizens and provides a platform to flourish in local, global and Christian communities, both today and in the future

MISSION STATEMENT

We will provide high quality teaching, learning and reflection from the teachings and values of Christianity to serve our community and beyond.

Matthew 5:16

“Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your father in heaven.”

PUPIL VISION

I will shine

Foundations of St John’s Church of England Academy Relationships and Health Education Policy and the Policy for Relationships and Sex Education.

Mark 10:27 “Jesus looked at them and said, ‘With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God.’

As a Church of England primary school, St John’s Church of England Academy upholds the vision for the education of every child and their family in our community. In line with the Church of England's role as the established Church, our vision is for the common good of the whole community.

Educating for wisdom, knowledge and skills: enabling discipline, confidence and delight in seeking wisdom and knowledge, and developing talents in all areas of life.

Educating for hope and aspiration: enabling healing, repair and renewal, coping wisely when things go wrong, opening horizons and guiding people into ways of fulfilling them.

Educating for community and living well together: a core focus on relationships, participation in communities and the qualities of character that enable people to flourish together.

Educating for dignity and respect: the basic principle of respect for the value and preciousness of each person, treating each person as a unique individual of inherent worth.

Relationships and Health Education Vision

All pupils are entitled to a broad and balanced curriculum regardless of race, gender, religion or ability and we are committed to the development of the whole child. At St John's Church of England Academy, our Relationships and Health Education curriculum delivers high quality education which will inspire children, support children and equip children with skills that will stay with them throughout their lives. Our RHE curriculum explores 6 different strands which cover key concepts, skills and knowledge that are grown and built upon throughout their school life. Through the school value of **Identity** children explore their own successes, achievements, health and wellbeing, they will learn and master key skills to overcome fears, show respect and embrace challenges. Self-regulation of their learning will be promoted throughout. Through their growing knowledge and understanding themselves and others around them, children will develop the skills and knowledge to participate effectively in communities and wider society. We will motivate and inspire them through **Teamwork** to find out about their world, recognising the roles they play and the roles of others, so that they can take an active part in protecting this world as they grow up. Furthermore, as we look to the future and communities through our value of **Stewardship**, we will instil in children a sense of both social and environmental responsibility, encouraging them to make a positive change, building from local to national to global.

Through our Relationships and Health Education curriculum at St. John's Church of England Academy, we will also embrace and encourage the children's natural curiosity; questioning learners, striving towards **Excellence** with a strong sense of **Character** knowing that we will nurture and strive to inspire children to be inquisitive. Within this curiosity, our value of **Drive** can be demonstrated as children will be given the opportunity for open discussion, questions and safe places to talk.

Introduction

This policy compiles with The Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education (England) Regulations 2019, made under sections 34 and 35 of the Pupils and Social Work Act 2017. From September 2020 Relationships Education and Health Education became compulsory for all primary pupils. As a school, St John's Church of England Academy supports the DfE's recommendation that all primary schools should have a sex education programme and that it is tailored to the age and maturity of its pupils. As a school we wholeheartedly support the philosophy of RSHE and believe it is best taught as part of our RHE curriculum. Our curriculum seeks to promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of our pupils as well as preparing them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life in a digital age. The aim of RHE and RSE is to help children build healthy friendships and positive relationships in an age appropriate way. The overall objectives of the RSE curriculum are concerned about raising awareness of attitudes and values, developing personal and social skills and promoting knowledge and understanding. RSE covers more than biological facts and information. It endeavours to help children develop self-esteem, self-responsibility as well as the acquisition of understanding and attitudes which prepare children to develop caring, stable and healthy relationships. Appreciation of the value of self-respect, dignity, marriage, civil partnership and parental duty should be encouraged in all pupils together with the sensitivity to the needs of others, loyalty and acceptance of responsibility. RSE will look at aspects of diversity in an inclusive and non-judgemental way. This sits alongside the essential understanding of how to be healthy.

This policy is the responsibility of all teaching staff and is firmly rooted within St John's Church of England Academy's Knowledge, Skills and Vocabulary Routeway for RHE and is clearly evident across the entire curriculum.

St John's Church of England Academy is aware of the need to be mindful and respectful of a wide range of religious and cultural beliefs and the needs of those pupils with SEND. We make every effort to be appropriately sensitive; equally we fervently believe that it is essential for our pupils to have access to learning that enables them to stay safe, healthy and understand their rights as individuals.

Intent

St John's Church of England Academy enables its pupils to develop happily and successfully into adult life, experiencing fulfilling and rewarding relationships with both themselves and others. They build upon knowledge and experiences to make effective decisions about their wellbeing, health and relationships and to develop their resilience, putting this into practice making sound decisions when facing risks, challenges and difficult circumstances. Effective personal development education enables pupils at St John's Church of England Academy school to develop resilience whilst knowing how and when to ask for help and where to independently access support. This policy was formulated in consultation with the whole school community with input from:

- o Staff members; through professional learning, both whole staff and one to one surgeries.
- o Governors; through discussion, including a working party, meetings and during specific training.
- o Parents/carers; parents were encouraged to contribute by taking part in parents questionnaire and meetings.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Head Teacher has overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation and liaising with the Diocese of Coventry Multi Academy Trust, governing body, parents/carers, LA and outside agencies. The Head Teacher also has a responsibility to identify a lead teacher who will work closely with colleagues in related curriculum areas in order to complement and not duplicate content.

The RSE and RHE Lead is responsible for:

- Policy development and review involving pupils, staff, governors, parents/carers and relevant partners.
- Implementation and monitoring of the policy, assessing its effectiveness in practice and using this information to inform policy review.
- Monitoring and quality assurance of content to ensure continuity and progression within the spiral curriculum.
- Coordinating training and support for all staff.

Staff Training

RSE can be a sensitive issue and teachers may welcome support and training. Provision will be made available for teaching staff to clarify legislation, curriculum requirements and to consider appropriate teaching approaches and materials.

Curriculum Design

At St John's Church of England Academy, RHE is organised in a spiral curriculum that runs seamlessly alongside the Science schemes of work, the following elements form the basis of our Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) taught:

• Attitudes and Values

- o Learning the importance of values, individual conscience and moral considerations.
- o Learning the value of respect for each other.

• Personal and Social Skills

- o Learning to manage emotions and relationships confidently and sensitively.
- o Developing self-respect and empathy for others.

• Knowledge and Understanding

- o Learning and understanding the correct vocabulary for parts of the human anatomy.
- o Learning and understanding physical development at appropriate stages.
- o Understanding human sexuality, reproduction, sexual health, emotions and relationships.

It is inevitable that in learning about the above elements, controversial issues may occur ,and St John's Church of England Academy adopts the following approach to support the learning of pupils in these situations.

Managing Difficult Questions

Issues will be addressed with sensitivity and at a level appropriate to the age group and developmental stage and will take into account any additional SEND / LAC needs, in an objective manner, free from personal bias. Consideration will be given to the potential for small group or 1:1 discussion for specific questions to be discussed. Account must be taken of different viewpoints such as different religious beliefs. Discussion is set within the legal framework and pupils should be made aware of the law as it relates to these issues. Pupils are made aware that some information cannot be held as confidential, and understand that if certain disclosures are made, certain actions will ensue. At the same time, pupils will be offered sensitive and appropriate support. Where questions arise beyond St John's agreed curriculum, parents will be informed of their child's questioning.

Parental Right to Withdraw

St John's Church of England Academy are committed to ensuring that both Relationships and Health Education and Relationships and Sex Education are appropriate to the age of pupils and compliant with the requirements of the Equality Act 2010. In line with statutory guidance, we recognise that parents have the right to request for their child to be withdrawn from some or all of the sex education delivered as part of the statutory RSE (other than sex education in the National Curriculum as part of Science), but not from Relationships Education. Parents wishing to exercise this right must do so in writing to the Head Teacher, and we will make reasonable adjustments and provide suitable work for the pupil at this time. At St John's Church of England Academy the RSE aspect of the RHE curriculum, takes place in the Summer term for Year's 5 and 6 in the Our Bodies unit.

Impact

Pupils at St John's Church of England Academy are supported in their personal development through the purposeful, sensitive and effective teaching of essential skills and understanding which enable them to develop qualities and strategies that will equip them in readiness for a happy and rewarding transition into adulthood.

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Governing Body who will monitor the application and outcomes of this policy to ensure it is working effectively.

Resources

Select pages from these books:



Clips from:

Ask Lara – oh no bo! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k882qrJ1J4I>

Ask Lara – Lara's first period <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ukuUG6KOL0k&t=9s>

Ask Lara – Body hair <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AFpJjXw8wsY&t=213s>

Ask Lara – Gabriel's ups and downs <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=93lyt3KVM10&t=281s>

Links to supporting documents and guidance:

Church of England's Vision for Education

https://cofe.foundation.contentfiles.net/media/assets/file/Church_of_England_Vision_for_Education_-_2016_jdYA7EO.pdf

Understanding Relationships and Health Education - a guide for primary school parents

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/907638/RSE_primary_schools_guide_for_parents.pdf

Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education guidance

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/908013/Relationships_Education_Relationships_and_Sex_Education_RSE_and_Health_Education.pdf

Equality Act Advice Final.pdf

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/315587/Equality_Act_Advice_Final.pdf

Science programmes of study: key stages 1 and 2

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/425618/PRIMARY_national_curriculum_-_Science.pdf

PSHE Association

<https://www.pshe-association.org.uk/curriculum-and-resources/curriculum>

Parental Engagement on Relationships Education

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/884450/Parental_engagement_on_relationships_education.pdf

The Church of England

<https://www.churchofengland.org/>