

St Nicholas Church of England Primary School

RSE - Relationships and Sex Education Policy

Approved by: The Governing Board

Date: Jan. 2021

Next review: Jan. 2022

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) POLICY:

St Nicholas Church of England Primary School will, without excuse or compromise, provide the best start to life for all of the pupils in its care.

The staff and governors envisage this being carried out through:

- Having the child at the centre of everything we do.
- Valuing the development and individuality of the whole child.
- Outstanding learning delivered through outstanding teaching.
- Keeping at the forefront of, as well as leading, educational development and practice.
- Constantly challenging all aspects of school life to ensure best practice is always prevalent.
- Engaging parents and valuing the contribution made to their child's education.
- A commitment to the safeguarding and well-being of all children and stakeholders.

Our school's values permeate all we do at St Nicholas. They are:

Friendship and Trust – Autumn A

Perseverance and Courage – Autumn B

Responsibility and Respect – Spring A

Peace and Compassion – Spring B

Creativity and Thankfulness – Summer A

Generosity and Hope – Summer B

St Nicholas promotes equal opportunities and our RSE will be delivered in line with this. All pupils will have the same opportunity to realise their potential, regardless of their gender, ability, ethnicity,

religion, language, class and physical ability. Key points to consider are:

- Equality of opportunity is a cross-curricular issues; opportunities are identified and utilised in each curriculum area or topic.
- The use of assessment contributes to a positive understanding of race, gender, disability, equality, ethnic and cultural diversity.
- Children should work in a variety of different groupings depending on a particular activity. They work individually, in pairs or in groups (eg same ability, mixed ability, single sex, friendship, role model etc.)
- We offer activities of a non-stereotypical nature.
- Children have opportunities to share cultural and other experiences in the classroom.

St Nicholas is a **Rights Respecting School** and therefore this policy is based upon the commitments within the RR Articles – the main ones being: (1) To learn (2) To be safe (3) To show mutual respect.

St Nicholas is a school that holds values central to all of its work and therefore this RSE Policy must be applied in line with the school's values. This philosophy is essential to this RSE Policy and all adults working within our school are expected to promote this.

AIMS:

The aims of RSE at St Nicholas are to:

1. Provide a framework in which sensitive discussions can take place.
2. Prepare pupils for puberty and give them an understanding of sexual development and the importance of health and hygiene.

3. Help pupils develop feelings of self-respect, confidence and empathy.
4. Create a positive culture around issues of sexuality and relationships.
5. Teach pupils the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies.

Statutory Requirements:

Historically, The Education Act sets out the statutory duties which all schools are required to meet: *Every stated-funded school must offer a curriculum which is balanced and broadly-based and which:*

- *Promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils...*
- *Prepares pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.*

Under the Children Act 2004, schools have a duty to promote the well-being of their pupils. Good quality RSE contributes to this duty.

The Law now requires that **RSE** is to be taught in all primary schools. Primary schools are also required to teach the **elements of sex education** contained in the science curriculum and **Health Education** will also be mandatory in all Government-funded schools; this includes content on puberty.

At St Nicholas, we teach RSE as set out in this policy.

This policy has been developed in consultation with staff, pupils and parents. The consultation and policy development process involved the following steps:

1. Review – a member of staff pulled together all relevant information including relevant national and local guidance.
2. Staff consultation – all school staff were given the opportunity to look at the policy and make recommendations.
3. Parent/stakeholder consultation – parents and any interested parties are able to access the policy on the school website and can feedback as they feel appropriate.
4. Pupil consultation – we considered what exactly pupils want from their RSE during the lessons.
5. Ratification – once amendments were made, the policy was shared with governors and ratified.

RSE (formerly SRE) is about the emotional, social and cultural development of pupils; it involves learning about relationships, sexual health, sexuality, healthy lifestyles, diversity and personal identity.
It involves a combination of sharing information and exploring issues and values.
RSE is NOT about promoting sexual activity.

RSE is taught within the personal, social, health and education curriculum. Biological aspects of RSE are taught within the Science curriculum and other aspects are included in RE – religious education.

Pupils will also receive stand-alone sex education sessions delivered by a trained health professional.

Across all KEY STAGES, pupils will be supported with developing the following skills:

- Communication, including HOW TO manage changing relationships and emotions.
- Recognising and assessing potential risks.
- Assertiveness.
- Seeking help and support when required.
- Informed decision-making.
- Self-respect and empathy for others.
- Recognising and maximising a healthy lifestyle.
- Managing conflict.
- Discussion and group work.

These skills are taught within the context of family life.

At St Nicholas, we follow the CONNECT programme. This will commence formally in September 2020. All Connect lessons have a clear structure and are age appropriate. They are designed to demonstrate a wide range of teaching methodologies to equip teachers with the skills to deliver excellent RSE. Teachers will follow the tasks set out in the planning documents.

The Governing Board

The Governing Board has delegated the approval of this policy to the Headteacher and SENDCo.

The Headteacher

The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring that RSE is taught consistently across St Nicholas, and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from non-statutory components of RSE.

Staff

Staff members are responsible for:

- Delivering RSE in a sensitive way.
- Modelling positive attitudes to RSE.
- Monitoring progress.
- Responding to the needs of individual pupils.
- Responding appropriately to pupils whose parents wish them to be withdrawn from the non-statutory components of RSE.

Staff do not have the right to opt out of teaching RSE. Staff who have concerns about teaching RSE are encouraged to discuss this with the Headteacher.

Pupils

Pupils are expected to engage fully in RSE and, when discussing issues related to RSE, treat others with respect and sensitivity.

Parents' right to withdraw from lessons

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the non-statutory components of RSE. Before doing so, parents are encouraged to talk to the class teacher and/or view the teaching resources in order to inform any decisions regarding withdrawing their child. Requests for withdrawals should be put in writing and addressed to the Headteacher. A copy of withdrawal requests will be placed in the pupil's educational file in the office. The Headteacher will discuss the request with parents and take appropriate action. Alternative work will be given to pupils who are withdrawn from RSE. The RSE curriculum will be shared with parents to ensure coverage if pupils are withdrawn. The RSE policy will be shared with any parents who wish to withdraw their child.

Training

Staff are trained on the delivery of RSE as part of their induction and it is included in our continued professional development calendar.

The Headteacher will also invite visitors from outside the school, such as the school nurse or sexual health professionals, to provide support and training to staff teaching RSE.

Monitoring

The delivery of RSE is monitored by the Headteacher and SENDCo.

Monitoring arrangements consist of planning and evidence in pupil books. Classroom visits and pupil interviews will also be integral within St Nicholas' monitoring of RSE.

Pupils' development in RSE is monitored by class teachers as part of our internal assessment systems.

This policy will be reviewed by the Headteacher and SENDCo annually. At every review, the policy will then be approved by the Headteacher.

Planning for each year group at St Nicholas:

<u>Reception – Our Lives</u>	Our Day	Keeping Ourselves Clean	Families
<u>Year 1 – Growing and Caring for Ourselves</u>	Keeping Clean	Growing and Changing	Families and Care

Year 2 - <u>Differences</u>	Differences: Boys and Girls	Differences: Male and Female	Naming the Body Parts
Year 3 – <u>Valuing Difference and Keeping Safe</u>	Differences – Male and Female	Personal Space	Family Differences
Year 4 – <u>Growing Up</u>	Growing and Changing	What is Puberty?	Puberty Changes and Reproduction
Year 5 - <u>Puberty</u>	Talking about Puberty	Male and Female Changes	Puberty and Hygiene
Year 6 – <u>Puberty, Relationships and Reproduction</u>	Puberty and Reproduction	Understanding Relationships	Conception and Pregnancy Communication in Relationships