



# RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION (RSE) POLICY

St Bartholomew's Primary School

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| Date agreed by Governing Board         | November 2021     |
| Signature of Chair of Governors        | <i>Ros Sutton</i> |
| Date to be reviewed by Governing Board | July 2023         |

*This version supersedes all previous versions of this policy.*

## RSE POLICY

### I. INTRODUCTION

- I.1 The purpose of this policy is, in part, to help parents understand what we are doing so that we can work in cooperation. It is designed to cover KS1 and KS2 of the National Curriculum guidelines and lead into the Relationships and Sex education (RSE) children will receive at their secondary school, where they will encounter further questions and decisions appropriate to adult life.
- I.2 Relationships and sex education is a lifelong process whereby children and young people acquire knowledge, understanding and skills, and develop beliefs, attitudes and values about their sexuality and relationships within a moral and ethical framework. Relationships and sex education is not a means of promoting any form of sexual orientation.
- I.3 RSE at St. Bartholomew's School is taught using a range of resources. This approach makes sure that teachers are well-prepared and teaching is at an age-appropriate level. Parents and carers are welcome to view the Scheme and an overview of the content can be viewed in the next section. Sex and relationship lessons are also complimented by sessions focusing on the increasing pressures facing young people in relation to body image, relationships and self-esteem.
- I.4 Some aspects of RSE are taught as an integral part of the school's PSHE provision throughout the primary school from Reception to Year 6. It will be appropriate to the pupil's age and experience and will be presented within a Christian, moral and family orientated framework.

### 2. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES STATEMENT

- 2.1 The school is committed to the provision of RSE to all of its pupils and the differing needs of boys and girls. Our programme aims to respond to the diversity of children's cultures, faiths and family backgrounds. All staff are expected to give every pupil the chance to experience, participate and achieve the understanding of RSE.
- 2.2 RSE in St Bartholomew's School should meet the needs of all pupils regardless of their developing sexuality and be able to deal honestly and sensitively with sexual orientation, answer appropriate questions and offer support.
- 2.3 Teachers are expected to tackle any form of prejudice proactively and talk about different families in school in a way that eradicates discrimination, advances equality and fosters good relations.
- 2.4 Teachers will closely monitor all areas of the curriculum and resources to ensure that they do not contain gender stereotypes or transphobic material.
- 2.5 The school will ensure that the curriculum and in particular PSHE is used to challenge gender stereotypes, support the development of a positive sense of gender identity for all children.

### 3. DELIVERY OF RSE

- 3.1 The legal requirements of sex education provision are covered in the National Curriculum (see Appendix 1).
- 3.2 RSE is taught within the personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education curriculum. Biological aspects of RSE are taught within the science curriculum. RSE is usually delivered by the class teacher, supported by other members of

staff as appropriate.

### 3.3 RSE is delivered:

- In mixed gender groups other than when it is deemed more appropriate for topics to be covered in single sex groups.
- By external agencies helping us to deliver RSE in our school – these include for example, the School Nurse and other agencies we work with.

### 3.4 RSE Relationships education focuses on teaching the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships including:

- Families and people who care for me
- Caring friendships
- Respectful relationships
- Online relationships
- Being safe

3.5 These areas of learning are taught within the context of family life. The school takes care to ensure that there is no stigmatisation of children based on their home circumstances. This will include single parent families, LGBT parents, families headed by grandparents, adoptive parents, foster parents/carers amongst other structures, along with reflecting sensitively that some children may have a different structure of support around them (for example, looked after children or young carers). Any teacher's response to a pupil's question about RSE will be factual and age appropriate.

3.6 All PSHE/RSE education is age appropriate and based on information that is realistic, relevant, and that identifies and reinforces positive social norms. Information presented in lessons should clearly distinguish between fact and opinion. Differing perspectives can be presented to stimulate discussion but the overall material should be balanced.

PSHE education should equip young people with the skills to critically evaluate information they encounter: checking a range of sources; identifying 'fake news'; and understanding how social media sites filter and tailor information to match individuals' pre-existing beliefs and attitudes (the 'filter bubble').

## 4. **CONFIDENTIALITY AND CHILD PROTECTION**

4.1 If a child asks questions or shares information that may be a cause for concern, this should be noted down and reported to the Headteacher or Child Protection Designated Person immediately. For further guidance, see the **Child Protection Policy**.

## 5. **PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS**

5.1 The school views parents as partners in the delivery of RSE.

5.2 Parents will be informed about the relationships and sex education programme at the start of the term, as part of information provided on what their children will be learning.

5.3 The school will liaise with parents through:

- Newsletters
- School website
- Letter (Appendix 2)

5.4 Parents wishing for further support with talking to their child about RSE issues can contact the school.

## 6. **CHILD WITHDRAWAL PROCEDURE**

6.1 Parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of RSE that does not form part of the Statutory National Curriculum. Parents wishing to

exercise that right are asked to make an appointment with the headteacher to discuss the issues but are under no obligation to do so.

## **7. ANSWERING DIFFICULT QUESTIONS/ DEALING WITH SENSITIVE ISSUES**

7.1 Both formal and informal RSE questions arising from pupils are answered according to the age and maturity of the pupil(s) concerned.

## **8. MONITORING AND REVIEW**

8.1 This policy will be reviewed every 2 years.