

St Peter's C of E Academy
Relationship, Sex and Health Policy

As a church school, we believe that **'Giving children the keys to unlock their future'** will enable all pupils to flourish within our care and achieve their full potential. This is underpinned by the words of Jesus:

"I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 16:19)
"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." (John 10:10)

Our school's approach to Relationship, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) follows that of the Church of England Education Office in that it seeks to be faith-sensitive and inclusive. It is underpinned by two key Biblical passages:

"God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them" (Genesis 2:7)

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" (John 10:10)

At St Peter's Church of England Academy, everyone will be treated with dignity as all people are made in the image of God and are loved equally by God.

All pupils have a right to an education which enables them to flourish and is set in a learning community where differences of lifestyle and opinion (within that which is permissible under UK law) are treated with dignity and respect; where bullying of all kinds is eliminated; and where they are free to be themselves and fulfil their potential without fear.

Our school seeks to ensure that the RSHE curriculum protects, informs and nurtures all pupils. It clearly differentiates between factual teaching (biology, medicine, the law, marriage, different types of families and the composition of society) and moral teaching about relationships and values, recognising that the distinction can be easily blurred and that there needs to be discernment about the manner in which this is taught. We teach RSHE within a moral (but not moralistic) framework.

RSHE at St Peter's Church of England Academy is about what constitutes wellbeing and loving care for ourselves (physical and mental health education), how we show loving care for others (relationships education) and, when at an appropriate age and stage in life, how we show loving care to those we choose to be intimate with, including within marriage (sex education).

It is also about the spiritual and moral aspects of healthy, loving and nurturing relationships within a context of a Christian vision for the purpose of life.

Pupils will consider how to ensure that they treat themselves and others, at all times and in all contexts, with dignity and respect.

Defining Relationships Education

Relationships Education is learning about how to:

- be appreciative of existing relationships;
- form new healthy friendships; and
- enjoy strong positive, caring, relationships with good boundaries, online and in person.

Date issued: January 2023
Adopted January 2023

Start Review by: November 2023

This will particularly refer to family relationships (including marriage), friendships and relationships with peers and adults.

Defining sex education

Sex education is about reproduction: learning how babies can be made and the emotions that people experience when they are ready for close intimacy.

There are strong links with the science curriculum which include content about human body parts, growth, puberty and gestation. Parents do not have the right to withdraw from this aspect of the curriculum.

At St Peter's C of E Academy, we have decided, due to the age and stage of our pupils, not to include explicit teaching on sexual intercourse. We feel they will be more ready to accept and understand this next chapter in secondary school.

Defining health education

Health education is learning about physical health and mental wellbeing so that pupils can make wise choices to ensure their own flourishing and the flourishing of others.¹

The RSHE Curriculum

At St Peter's Church of England Academy, we teach RSHE curriculum through our PSHE lessons with support from Coram Life Education. This planned programme includes sequences of differentiated lessons and resources on the following topics; Me and My Relationships, Valuing Differences, Keeping Myself Safe, rights and Responsibilities, Being my Best, Growing and Changing.

How will RSHE be taught in our school?

RSHE will be delivered in a way that affords dignity and shows respect to all who make up our diverse community. It will not discriminate against any of the protected characteristics in the Equality Act and will be sensitive to the faith and beliefs of those in the wider school community. RSHE will seek to explain fairly the varying interpretations of religious communities on matters of sex and relationships and teach these viewpoints with respect. It will value the importance of faithfulness as the underpinning and backdrop for relationships. It will encourage pupils to develop the skills needed to disagree without being disagreeable, to appreciate the lived experience of other people and to live well together.

RSHE will seek to build resilience in our pupils to help them form healthy relationships, to keep themselves safe and resist the harmful influence of the excesses of media in all its forms.

RSHE will promote healthy resilient relationships set in the context of character and virtue development that sits within the schools Christian Vision and Values.

Values such as such as caring, sharing, forgiveness, respect, self-control, courage, humility, kindness and a sense of justice

Pupils with SEND will have had the content made accessible to them by following their personal needs and levels of understanding. Our ELSA is available for specific work with individuals and small groups. At St Peter's Church of England Academy, RSHE is taught by confident trained staff and only some elements will be taught by outside agencies (such as First Aid or aspects about puberty). It is important that pupils have confidence in the teacher and that a 'safe space' is created where pupils feel confident and can ask age-appropriate questions.³ All staff teaching this sensitive and important subject will have received training. This training will be regularly reviewed and revisited.

Right to withdraw your child

Parents do not have the right to withdraw their child from the RSHE curriculum. The DfE guidance states that Relationships Education and Health Education is to be compulsory for all pupils receiving a primary education. At St. Peter's, we agree that this curriculum content, covering topics such as caring friendships, respectful relationships and how to stay safe is vitally important.

Parents are entitled to withdraw their child from the non-statutory Sex Education, however as at St Peter's, we have decided not to include explicit teaching on sexual intercourse, this is not applicable. The science curriculum in all maintained schools also includes content on human development, including reproduction, which there is no right to withdraw from.

If you want to know more about what will be taught in class, please see our curriculum plans or speak to your child's teacher. We will invite parents of Y6 pupils to a workshop to share the content of the curriculum before it is taught.

These are the requirements for RSHE from the Department for Education [[click here](#)]

RSHE will be monitored and evaluated

This will follow the same monitoring and evaluation processes used throughout the school for other subjects i.e. pupil conferencing, work reviews, learning walks etc.

Policy Review

This policy has been produced by consultation with the Diocese of Bristol, Diocese of Bristol Academy Trust and the teaching staff at St Peter's C of E Academy.

It has been produced in consultation with parents and will be reviewed in consultation with parents. It must, however, be recognised that the law specifies that what is taught and how it is taught is ultimately a decision for the school.

This policy should be read in conjunction with The Equalities Act 2010

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/equality-act-2010-guidance>

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