

*St George's Primary
School*



*Relationships and Sex
Education Policy*

September 2020

This Policy will be reviewed every 3 years.

RELATIONSHIPS & SEX EDUCATION POLICY

BDMAT Vision and Values

The Birmingham Diocesan Multi-Academy Trust (BDMAT) recognises that the future for schools lies in formal collaborations; schools working together, in partnership, to offer life in all its fullness for the young people who attend them. Church schools have a very distinctive purpose: Education is taught in an environment where there is a set of values and ways of behaving that stem from and express the Christian foundation of the school. Our schools are about providing an education within a Christian framework for children of the local community of any faith or none; Our Trust seeks to provide a place where church schools and non-church schools who support our philosophy can continue to provide high quality education, knowing that their distinctive ethos will be protected into the future.

Our mission is:

To provide high quality education within a Christian framework that allows all pupils to reach their full potential through experiencing a broad and balanced curriculum whilst ensuring staff have a good life / work balance and are fulfilled in their roles.

Our values

We have adopted the values of the Church of England, as articulated in the document 'Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good' which sets out the vision for education that the Church of England believes should be seen in all schools, and not just those of a Christian foundation. As a result, the values apply equally to our church schools and our non-church school.

Our key values are:

- Wisdom
- Hope
- Aspiration
- Koinonia (community)
- Dignity
- Respect

School Vision and Rationale

Everyone who belongs to St. George's school has decided upon our 'High Five' core Christian values that underpin our school ethos and distinctiveness as a Church of England School serving a multi-faith and diverse community. Jesus' teaching of respect for God, ourselves and each other underpins everything that we do. St George's C of E Primary School serves families from other faiths. We therefore raise pupil awareness with a loving and caring attitude to the fundamentals of some of the major world religions. In doing so we have an opportunity to contribute positively to the development of a society where faith helps individuals to understand one another.

The main focus for developing and teaching RSE at St George's is on teaching the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships, with particular reference to friendships, family relationships, and relationships with other children and with adults. We ensure that our teaching and materials are appropriate to the age and religious backgrounds of their pupils. We also want to recognise the significance of other factors, such as any special educational needs or disabilities of their pupils and introduce differentiation as we would for any other subject.

This policy should be read in conjunction with:

Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education; Department for Education statutory guidance for governing bodies, proprietors, head teachers, principals, senior leadership teams and teachers.

To embrace the challenges of creating a happy and successful adult life, pupils need knowledge that will enable them to make informed decisions about their wellbeing, health and relationships and to build their self-efficacy. Our pupils can put this knowledge into practice as they develop the capacity to make sound decisions when facing risks, challenges and complex contexts. Everyone faces difficult situations in their lives. These subjects can support our pupils to develop resilience, to know how and when to ask for help, and to know where to access support.

High quality, evidence-based and age appropriate teaching of these subjects can help prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life. This can also help schools to promote the spiritual, moral, social, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils both at school and in society.

Relationships and Health Education (RHE) is a fundamental part of our Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE) curriculum for pupils in our school. It is embedded in our PSHE curriculum and our aim is to equip children with the skills and understanding to become healthy, secure, independent and responsible members of society. Our school uses the Jigsaw programme.

Through all aspects of the RSE curriculum we promote spiritual, moral, social and cultural education, whilst considering the mental and physical development of pupils at school.

We prepare our pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences in later life and encourage them to use developing social skills and knowledge to identify risk to make safe decisions for them.

RHE has an integral part to play in building pupils' mental wellbeing and their understanding of themselves as part of a family, community and wider society. As our pupils grow, they will understand their rights as global citizens and the responsibility that this brings.

From September 2020 it is a legal requirement to teach Relationships and Health Education at primary school and parents do not have a legal right to withdraw their child(ren) from teaching on these subjects.

SCHOOL CONTEXT

Our school community comes from a wide and diverse society. A proportion of pupils are eligible for the pupil premium funding and this is used to provide additional support for those pupils for their wellbeing and academic achievements.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND CONSULTATION

The policy has been developed through consultation with BDMAT Executive Team, our school's stakeholders, which include parents, governors, staff and pupils and has paid due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty and issues relating to National Health Targets, and safeguarding of pupils including Child Sexual Exploitation, Female Genital Mutilation and Homophobia.

Relationships and Health Education

At St George's CE Primary School, understanding the way in which relationships develop and grow over time from childhood through to adult relationships is part of lifelong learning. Part of this is about the understanding the importance of relationships and the values, qualities and responsibilities in friendships, families, and loving relationships and how to develop an understanding of safety in the online environment. It promotes self-respect, confidence, respect & responsibility toward others, emphasising the importance of marriage, loving relationships, safety, love and care.

Health Education includes the teaching of puberty and the changes that occur as pupils move into adolescence. The lessons will be based on teaching children facts in an age appropriate way to support children to flourish and grow.

Relationships and Health Education does not include teaching about sex (and the school's policy on that subject is explained further below).

Aims and Objectives of this policy and the relationships education curriculum:

- To provide clear guidance for parents, staff and governors in relation to programme progression and delivery
- For pupils to develop the understanding of relationships and that they need to be built and maintained gradually
- Relationship Education provides a foundation for further work at secondary school
- To help young people to respect themselves and others
- To support pupils through their physical, emotional and moral development
- To develop skills and understanding to enable pupils to make healthy, responsible choices about their health and well-being including personal hygiene
- To help pupils understand the significance of marriage and stable relationships and its importance for family life.
- To help pupils move more confidently and responsibly into and through adolescence
- To help pupils to understand a range of views and beliefs about relationships
- To help pupils to understand issues of media influence and mixed messages that may contradict and conflict with own beliefs
- (Any other aims and objectives)

SEX EDUCATION

The school believes that in order to further the aims and objectives outlined above it is necessary to provide children with sex education lessons in addition to the lessons that are mandatory under the national curriculum for science. Parents will be notified in writing before these lessons take place so that they can notify the school that they would like to withdraw their child from these specific lessons. There will also be the opportunity for parents of children in this/these year group(s) to view the teaching materials that will be used.

ORGANISATION AND METHODS OF TEACHING

Planning and delivery of Jigsaw

- The programme will be taught by class teachers with supporting staff to ensure that both pupils and staff are protected
- The discrete puberty programme taught in Years 6 in selected single sex groups by trained, confident staff
- Pupils will be taught about the changes related to their own and the opposite sex, how to manage the changes and where to get help at home and school
- Girls will be made aware of who can provide support, where menstruation provision is kept and where the appropriate disposal bins are situated
- Resources we use are appropriate for each year group and enhance the learning

Overview of Mandatory requirements						
(Where are the themes taught?)						
Relationships Education				Health Education		
Year Group	Relationships	Safety on and Offline	Families	Mental Well being	Health Prevention	Changing Bodies
R	Autumn 2 Summer 1	Summer 1	Autumn 2	Spring 2 Summer 1	Spring 2	Summer 2
1	Autumn 2 Summer 1	Spring 2	Autumn 2 Summer 1	Spring 1	Spring 2 Summer 2	Summer 2
2	Autumn 2 Summer 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Spring 1	Autumn 2 Spring 2	Summer 2
3	Summer 1	Spring 2	Autumn 2	Autumn 1	Spring 2	Summer 2
4	Summer 1	Spring 2	Autumn 2	Autumn 1	Spring 2	Summer 2
5	Summer 1	Spring 2	Autumn 2	Autumn 1	Spring 2	Summer 2
6	Summer 1	Spring 2	Autumn 2	Autumn 1	Spring 2	Summer 2

Overview of Framework Objectives

Families and people who care for me

Pupils should know:

- that families are important for children growing up because they can give love, security and stability
- the characteristics of healthy family life, commitment to each other, including in times of difficulty, protection and care for children and other family members, the importance of spending time together and sharing each other's lives
- that others' families, either in school or in the wider world, sometimes look different from their family, but that they should respect those differences and know that other children's families are also characterised by love and care
- that stable, caring relationships, which may be of different types, are at the heart of happy families, and are important for children's security as they grow up
- that marriage represents a formal and legally recognised commitment of two people to each other which is intended to be lifelong
- how to recognise if family relationships are making them feel unhappy or unsafe, and how to seek help or advice from others if needed

Caring Friendships

Pupils should know:

- how important friendships are in making us feel happy and secure, and how people choose and make friends
- the characteristics of friendships, including mutual respect, truthfulness, trustworthiness, loyalty, kindness, generosity, trust, sharing interests and experiences and support with problems and difficulties
- that healthy friendships are positive and welcoming towards others, and do not make others feel lonely or excluded
- that most friendships have ups and downs, and that these can often be worked through so that the friendship is repaired or even strengthened, and that resorting to violence is never right
- how to recognise who to trust and who not to trust, how to judge when a friendship is making them feel unhappy or uncomfortable, managing conflict, how to manage these situations and how to seek help or advice from others, if needed

Respectful relationships:

Pupils should know:

- the importance of respecting others, even when they are very different from them (for example, physically, in character, personality or backgrounds), or make different choices or have different preferences or beliefs
- practical steps they can take in a range of different contexts to improve or support respectful relationships
- the conventions of courtesy and manners
- the importance of self-respect and how this links to their own happiness
- that in school and in wider society they can expect to be treated with respect by others, and that in turn they should show due respect to others, including those in positions of authority
- about different types of bullying (including cyberbullying), the impact of bullying, responsibilities of bystanders (primarily reporting bullying to an adult) and how to get help
- what a stereotype is, and how stereotypes can be unfair, negative or destructive
- the importance of permission-seeking and giving in relationships with friends, peers and adults

Online Relationships

Pupils should know:

- that people sometimes behave differently online, including by pretending to be someone they are not
- that the same principles apply to online relationships as to face-to-face relationships, including the importance of respect for others online including when we are anonymous
- the rules and principles for keeping safe online, how to recognise risks, harmful content and contact, and how to report them
- how to critically consider their online friendships and sources of information including awareness of the risks associated with people they have never met
- how information and data is shared and used online

Being Safe

Pupils should know:

- what sorts of boundaries are appropriate in friendships with peers and others (including in a digital context)
- about the concept of privacy and the implications of it for both children and adults; including that it is not always right to keep secrets if they relate to being safe
- that each person's body belongs to them, and the differences between appropriate and inappropriate or unsafe physical, and other, contact
- how to respond safely and appropriately to adults they may encounter (in all contexts, including online) whom they do not know
- how to recognise and report feelings of being unsafe or feeling bad about any adult
- how to ask for advice or help for themselves or others, and to keep trying until they are heard,
- how to report concerns or abuse, and the vocabulary and confidence needed to do so
- where to get advice, for example family, school or other sources

Bespoke Curriculum

As with all Curriculum areas at St George's, our RSE Curriculum has been designed specifically for the needs of our pupils. Therefore, there is content that includes Radicalisation, Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), Young Carers, Forced Marriage and Gender Equality. This is delivered in an age-appropriate way to help our pupils to build resilience against issues they may face.

AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY:

Head Teacher and Governors

- Ensure the framework is followed and monitored
- Ensure that this policy is made available to parents

Teaching Staff

Implement this policy with the guidance of senior leaders in the school

Ensure that the policy is followed in applied practice

Liaise with the governors on the teaching of RHE and (Sex Education) in school as required

Ensure that the SENDCO and PSHE lead are adequately trained to support delivery in all aspects of the RSE 2020 guidance.

Liaise with parents and feedback any concerns, following the school's usual procedures

Respond to the needs of pupils, following the school's usual procedures

SPECIFIC ISSUES

Confidentiality

Pupils will be informed that as with any other safeguarding issue, confidentiality cannot always be assured and the school will follow the usual procedures for keeping children safe and protected from harm (please refer to school's safeguarding procedures).

Changing Facilities for Physical Education; Upper Key Stage 2

In our school we ensure that pupils are offered privacy when changing for physical education. Separate facilities will be offered to maintain privacy and self-esteem.

Use of External Providers

External providers should be made aware of the school's policies and procedures prior to planned delivery. They will be expected to follow the school's programme and all delivery with pupils will be evaluated.

Answering Difficult Questions

If a pupil asks a difficult question during a whole class session, staff will be expected to answer honestly and factually

- Where possible, pupils will be encouraged to use the question box approach which can be used as a distancing technique to prevent over exposure of concepts outside of the learning objectives. The class teacher is responsible for dealing with all content within 24 hours of lesson delivery
- Pupils' questions will be answered according to their level of maturity and understanding, with support from parents
- The programme will be designed to focus on boys as much as girls and activities will be planned to ensure both are actively involved, matching their different learning styles
- Teachers will focus heavily on the importance of healthy relationships
- Responses to questions answered need to follow the school's policy. Any concerns raised should be discussed with a senior leader or DSL, depending on the concern

WORKING WITH PARENTS

The school has established a strong working partnership with parents through consultation and support. The school recognises that parents are key educators and maintain a vital role in providing education about relationships and growing up, and therefore aims to support parents in this role.

On an annual basis parents will be specifically informed about the discrete lessons on sex education and provided with the opportunity to view resources and discuss the teaching content before any delivery takes place.

Parents will be consulted when this Relationship and Health Education Policy is reviewed.

Details of the specific lessons and teaching materials can be made available on request.

Parents can raise questions on this policy in writing, by phone or by making an appointment with the Headteacher.

Parent Withdrawal

Parents have a right to withdraw their child from sex education lesson(s) but not from Relationships and Health Education lessons.

Where a pupil is withdrawn from sex education, the class teacher will ensure that the pupil receives alternative appropriate education, which may include the child working on an alternative project. In some cases, parents may be asked to come into school and supervise their child on an alternative project but this would be discussed on an individual basis.

Any complaints will be addressed through the school's complaints procedure.

PROVISION FOR MENSTRUATION

Sanitary disposal units are situated in the Year 6 changing facilities.

Other related documents & policies

- Education Act 2002
- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018
- Equality Act 2010
- Science Curriculum KS1 & KS2
- Children and Social Work Act 2017
- Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education (England) Regulations 2019
- OFSTED School Inspection Handbook 2019
- Relationship & Health Education Statutory Guidance 2019 (DfE)
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES/INCLUSIVITY

The school's Relationships, Sex and Health Education Policy and programme will reflect the ethos of the school, by providing a secure, non-judgemental environment in which to learn, in accordance with any protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

This policy will be managed by the PSHE Co-ordinator and an appointed governor will be responsible to ensure that the programme is evaluated and impact reported to the governing board.

The policy will be reviewed every 3 years.

DISSEMINATION OF THE POLICY

A summary of this policy will appear in the school prospectus and on the website. Parents will be supplied with a fully copy on request.

The policy will be communicated to all staff and governors.