

Relationships and Sex **Education Policy**

Produced February 2020. To be reviewed February 2021

Mission Statement:

In St Anne's the friendship school, we follow in the footsteps of Jesus growing closer to God through prayer, worship, work and play.

We all do our best and show respect, love and care for everyone helping each other live out their faith in today's world.

Rationale and Ethos

Our school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Our Vision and Aims

Our belief in the unique dignity of the human person as made in the image and likeness of God underpins the approach to all education in our school. Our approach to relationship and sex education therefore is rooted in the Catholic Church's teaching of the human person and is presented positively and prudently.

Stemming from this vision of what it means to be human, we seek to educate the whole child: spiritually, intellectually, morally, emotionally, psychologically, and physically towards our understanding of Christian maturity.

Following guidance from our own Bishop and Diocese, the Conference of Bishops of England and Wales and as advocated by the DFE, all relationship and sex education in our school will be firmly embedded in the PSHE framework as it is concerned primarily with nurturing the human wholeness of our pupils.

All relationship and sex education will be in accordance with the Church's moral teaching. It will emphasise the central importance of marriage and the family whilst acknowledging that all pupils have a fundamental right to have their life respected

whatever household they come from and support will be provided to help pupils deal with different sets of values.

The governors at St. Anne's Catholic Primary school have adopted the Journey in Love programme to support the non-statutory relationships and sex education from nursery to Year 6.

The Relationships Education, RSE, and Health Education (England) Regulations 2019 have made Relationships Education compulsory in all primary schools. Sex education is not compulsory in primary schools however, this is not to be confused with curriculum science which is statutory. As part of our commitment to you, we will hold a meeting annually for parents and carers to discuss the programme with you. If you require any further clarification regarding this aspect of the curriculum please contact: Mrs G Murphy, Head teacher.

As part of this vision, we aim to deliver a high-quality Personal, Social, Health & Economic (PSHE) & Citizenship Education Scheme in which we deliver accurate, relevant and age-appropriate information about **Relationships** – one of the core stands of PSHE and Citizenship. This will ensure that our children may achieve their full potential and leave our school prepared for the demands of society in their future.

We aim to **teach children about relationships** in an engaging, meaningful and age-appropriate manner through a carefully considered spiral curriculum which takes into account the emotional, physical and social maturity of our children. We very strongly believe that the education we provide should reflect both the universal needs shared by all pupils as well as the specific needs of individual pupils in our particular school. As such, the **Relationship** strand of our PSHE & Citizenship curriculum has been carefully considered and is constantly being reviewed so that it is inclusive and meets the needs of each and every one of our children, including those with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND).

Teachers make Relationships Education lessons engaging, interesting and fun through a variety of teaching methods and interactive activities. Some of these include: role-play; use of learning partners/ small group work; whole class teaching; enquiry tasks; research activities; independent learning and discussion groups; use of appropriate film clips, books and websites; matching games; problem-solving and challenge activities.

Legislation

What is Relationships Education?

Relationships Education is a **statutory** component of the PSHE and Citizenship curriculum in Primary Schools from September 2020 which involves learning about the many strands of '**relationships**' and '**growing up**' including: family relationships; friendships and relationships with peers and adults; healthy and unhealthy relationships; staying safe; the characteristics of positive relationships; relationships online and the emotional, social and physical aspects of growing up.

At St. Anne's Catholic Primary School we believe that relationships Education equips our children with the understanding, knowledge and skills they will need to succeed and thrive. Teaching about relationships enables our pupils to safely negotiate making new friendships, recognise potential threats to their wellbeing and develop meaningful relationships with others throughout their lives.

The importance of celebrating diversity within Relationships Education

We strive to promote **equality** through all aspects of our Relationships teaching. As such, our curriculum promotes **tolerance and acceptance**.

Just as we encourage St Anne's Catholic Primary School children to celebrate their many different talents, strengths and aspirations, we also aim to promote the celebration of diversity among cultures, traditions and religions. As an extension of this, pupils are taught about diversity among family structures and relationships, in line with British Values (see 'The Equality Act – 2010'; 'The Marriage Act-2013').

This ensures that every one of our pupils has the chance to develop the self-esteem and confidence they deserve in order to grow into understanding, accepting and respectful adults. Ofsted also fully support the notion that children should be taught about different families and relationships that typify growing up in modern Britain. We use a variety of teaching materials and resources to try to fulfil this and which Parents and Carers are welcome to request to view.

Who delivers the Relationships Education Curriculum?

All Relationship lessons are taught by Teaching staff who are trained in delivering the specific content of the lessons. Clear parameters will be established in class and special consideration will always be given when teaching particularly sensitive material. Staff will be fully aware of the children in their class and how they might

Curriculum Design

Relationship Education –Subject Content

‘Relationships’ Education became a statutory component of the PSHE and Citizenship curriculum in Primary Schools from September 2020.

Through St. Anne’s Catholic Primary School’s Relationships Education Provision we aim to ensure all pupils leave our school with:

- the knowledge and understanding of a variety of relationships;
- the ability to identify any concerns they have about a relationship;
- coping strategies and an awareness of how and where to seek support;
- an understanding of their rights and responsibilities within a range of relationships;
- an awareness of the process of growing up and the changes they and others will experience;
- an understanding of the characteristics of positive relationships.

In order to achieve these aims the topics covered in Key stage 1 include: special and important people in their lives; similarities and differences; different families; friendship and fairness; cooperation and teamwork; feelings and emotions; communicating effectively with others; consent and bullying behaviours.

In key stage 2, children extend their learning on the themes covered in key stage 1 and build on their knowledge about: different types of family and loving relationships; who their support network consists of; unhealthy and healthy relationships; dares, risk and peer pressure; personal boundaries and secrets; techniques for resolving disputes; collaboration, compromise and sharing responsibilities and the consequences of our actions.

As part of the children’s **statutory Science Curriculum** in Year 2, children learn that animals, including humans, have offspring that grow into adults. They are also introduced to the concepts of reproduction and growth (but not how reproduction occurs). The Relationship strand of our PSHE Curriculum supports this learning. We are committed to ensuring that the children receive factually accurate biological information about their bodies. With this in mind, we begin to teach children some of the correct anatomical terminology for the parts of a human body in Key Stage 1.

In Year 5, as part of the **statutory Science Curriculum**, children are taught about the life cycles of humans and animals, including reproduction. They also learn about the changes that happen in humans from birth to old age. This includes learning what happens in puberty. Recent government guidance strongly suggests that ‘All children, including those who develop earlier than the average, need to know about puberty before they experience the onset of physical changes.’ We support this statement and believe that children are ready to receive honest, open and factual education about relationships and growing up in this year group. As part

of the Relationships Curriculum, during Year 5 children will learn accurate information about puberty, their changing bodies and how to look after them. This is always done in a safe and secure environment with their class teacher.

Stakeholders

Relationship Education – Parent & Carer Partnerships

At St. Anne's Catholic Primary School we believe clarity is essential and welcome any discussion with Parents and Carers which will inform conversations at home about 'Relationships'.

We endeavour to have a strong partnership with parents and carers and will always aim to be transparent and communicate what is being taught when. We believe that together we can address misconceptions they may have gained about these topics from the media or from their peers. Children are naturally curious about their bodies and other people. By answering questions and teaching them the correct scientific vocabulary, we can help them understand their bodies, their feelings and other people. Our collective aim must be to ensure that our children recognise potential threats to their wellbeing and develop meaningful relationships with others throughout their lives.

With this in mind we will also provide reading and support for parents and carers who wish to view or purchase their own texts to support the children's development and understanding. The 'Relationships Education – 'Growing Up' Recommended Reading List' can be found online on our school website via About Us - Curriculum then PSHE link.

By doing this we hope that we will empower both adults and children to feel confident and comfortable asking questions or initiating dialogue about the many important aspects of Relationships Education that will affect our children's lives so fundamentally - both now and in the future.

If any parent or carer has any queries or concerns about the subject content or delivery of any aspect of Relationships Education, then they should ask to speak to the PSHE Lead or a senior member of staff who will be able to provide more specific information on curriculum and resources that are used to teach this strand of the PSHE Curriculum.

Relationship & Sex Education – Right to Withdraw

From September 2020, Relationships Education will be statutory for all children, in all primary schools. This means that parents and carers cannot withdraw their child from these lessons. However, they will be able to request that their child is withdrawn from lessons about Sex Education taught as part of Relationships Education, which are not statutory objectives covered in the science national curriculum.

Safe and Effective Practice

Confidentiality & Safeguarding – Keeping Children Safe

At St. Anne's Primary School, we aim to foster and maintain a safe environment within which all pupils feel able to ask questions and discuss issues openly (although no pupil or teacher will have to answer personal questions or forced to take part in discussions.) For any child wishing to discuss something confidential relating to content of the lesson, an opportunity will be given.

All classes make available a class 'question box' which gives children the option of writing down their questions and receiving an answer that is not provided in front of the whole class. Distancing techniques are employed so children are able to discuss fictional characters and scenarios, rather than discuss their own lives and experiences.

In line with the school's Policy for Safeguarding and Child Protection, St. Anne's Catholic Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare (both physical and emotional) of every pupil both inside and outside of the school premises. We implement a whole-school preventative approach to managing safeguarding concerns, ensuring that the wellbeing of pupils is at the forefront of all action taken.

In addition, St. Anne's Catholic Primary School staff have received training on the new statutory guidance; 'Keeping Children Safe in Education,' which comes into force in September 2019 and which details fresh guidance for 'Teaching online Safety in school'.

All Staff will exercise their professional judgement in order to keep their pupils safe. Ground rules are agreed within Relationships Education for each class. This ensures a safe environment for group discussion and exploring delicate topics. Information given, and the views expressed by the pupils, will be treated in confidence where possible. However, pupils will be informed that 100% confidentiality cannot be assured. If any child makes a disclosure of a safeguarding issue - as with all such instances - the teacher will inform the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) in accordance with St. Anne's Catholic Primary School's policy on Safeguarding and Child Protection.

Assessment, Monitoring & Reporting

Self- assessment is a vital part of learning in Relationships Education.

To support their independence, children are given many opportunities to reflect on and evaluate their learning through self-assessment. This valuable life skill is reinforced and embedded across the curriculum.

Pupil voice is also a key feature of our learning at St. Anne's Catholic Primary, we encourage our children to express opinions on how and where they would like their learning to go and we take these into account when planning and teaching units

from the curriculum. Their comments help us to assess and monitor their progress. Listening and responding to the views of our pupils ensures that our policy and curriculum is responsive and meet the needs of all our learners from year to year.

Staff who deliver the Relationships Curriculum will critically reflect on their teaching and best practice can be shared at PSHE reviews, training sessions or staff meetings.

The PSHE Lead will have regular informal meetings each term to monitor planning and children's work to help her provide further relevant training opportunities.

Comments on children's learning and progress in Relationships Education as part of their learning in PSHE should be reported to parents and carers informally at parent consultations. Reporting takes place more formally at progress meetings and on their end of year school report in July.

Relationship Education – Where to find information

Our inclusive 'Relationships Education' curriculum supports the objectives set out by the PSHE Association which meet the statutory requirements for Key Stage 1 and 2 from September 2020. It forms a core part of our comprehensive 'Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) & Citizenship Education curriculum. How Relationships Education fits into the wider PSHE & citizenship Scheme of Work – You, Me, PSHE - can be viewed online on our school website.