

ST MARY'S BENTWORTH CE PRIMARY SCHOOL RELATIONSHIPS & SEX EDUCATION POLICY

Date of implementation: May 2025

Date of Review: **May 2026**



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<i>Ownership:</i> Head teacher	<i>Linked to:</i> Child Protection, Anti-bullying, PSHE, SMSC, Equal Opportunities and Race Equality Policies
<i>Review Committee:</i> Education Committee, Head teacher, RSE Co-Ordinator	
<i>Communicated to:</i> Staff, Parents and FGB	
<i>Evaluation:</i> (inc links to evidence)	

We show **LOVE** for our family and friends
We learn to **RESPECT** our own and other people's bodies
We know that **BELONGING** to a loving family underpins the success of our society

Rationale

At St Mary's we aim to create learning and working environment where all stakeholders in our school community treat themselves and each other with mutual respect within the Christian framework of our school. The greatest commandment Jesus taught was to love God and to love your neighbour. As love is one of our school values, our relationship education seeks to live out this commandment. Our school focusses on the importance of relationships and the qualities and character needed to sustain the best relationships which honour each other. We strive to work together with parents but believe that parents are primarily responsible for their child's relationships and sex education.

Relationships and sex education is lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of loving and caring relationships. It is about the teaching of sex, sexuality and sexual health. We seek to support children to develop through an inclusive programme of teaching which is based on Christian principles.

Aims and Objectives for Relationships and Sex Education

The aim of RSE is to provide children with age-appropriate information, explore attitudes and values and develop skills in order to empower them to make positive decisions about their relationships, friendships and health related behaviour.

This should take place with consideration of the family unit.



The objectives of Relationships and Sex Education are:

- To enable pupils to understand the qualities of healthy relationships based on Christian principles, including the importance of marriage and life-long commitments.
- To raise pupils' self-esteem and confidence, especially in their relationships with others.
- To provide the knowledge and information to which all pupils are entitled.
- To ensure that family models are equally represented and that children have the understanding of the diversity of family models.
- To respect and care for their bodies.
- To be prepared for puberty and adulthood.
- To clarify/reinforce existing knowledge.
- To help pupils understand their sexual feelings and behaviour, so they can lead fulfilling and enjoyable lives.
- To help pupils to develop skills (language, decision making, assertiveness) to enable them to make informed choices.
- To provide the confidence to be participating members of society and to value themselves and others.
- To develop skills for a healthier, safer lifestyle.
- To develop and use communication skills and assertiveness skills to cope with the influences of their peers and the media.
- To help gain access to information and support.

The teaching programme for Relationships and Sex Education

Every child is entitled to receive RSE regardless of ethnicity, gender, religion, age, culture, disability, sexuality, language, special needs, disadvantaged and looked after children.

It is our intention all children have the opportunity to experience a programme of RSE at a level which is appropriate for their age and physical development with differentiated provision if required.

Relationships and sex education will always be delivered by the class teacher and will be taught in class groups.

Foundation Stage

In on-going PSHE work, children develop skills to form friendships and think about relationships with others.



From Year 1 through to Year 6 we will be using a long-term plan developed by the PSHE Association and adapted for our children. We will be using resources by 1decision to support this learning.

Key Stage 1

Through work in Science children learn about life-cycles of some animals, understand the idea of growing from young to old and learn that all living things reproduce. They learn about the importance of personal hygiene to maintain good health. In RSE children reflect on family relationships, different family groups and friendship. They begin to co-operate with others in work and play and begin to recognise the range of human emotions and ways to deal with them. There are also units on money, safety and risk, identify and rights and responsibilities.

Key Stage 2

In Science children build on their knowledge of life cycles and learn about the basic biology of human reproduction including birth of a baby in Year Six. Children are taught about the physical, emotional and social changes at puberty, which include personal hygiene. In RSE they continue to develop an understanding of relationships within a family, between friends and the community and that there are different patterns of friendship. They will develop skills needed to form relationships and to respect other people's emotions and feelings. They will consider how to make simple choices and exercise some basic techniques for resisting pressures. There are also units on money, human rights and diversity.

Relationships and sex education should focus on the development of self-respect and respect for others as well as the development of skills and attitudes not just the acquisition of knowledge.

Specific Issues

Parental consultation

St Mary's CE Primary School includes information on relationships and sex education in the school prospectus and full details are available on request. Aspects of the sex and relationship teaching programme are outlined in the curriculum overviews at the beginning of each term. Each year, parents are given the opportunity to view the material from 1decision. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from those aspects of sex education, not included in the National Curriculum Science Orders; alternative work will be set for those pupils. This request must be made in writing to the Chair of Governors.

Child Protection / Confidentiality

The school is aware that effective relationships and sex education, which brings an understanding of what is and is not acceptable in a relationship, may lead to disclosure of a child protection issue.

The staff member will inform the Head Teacher /Designated Safeguarding Lead in line with the Local Authority (LA) procedures for child protection.



Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring is the responsibility of the Head Teacher and Governing Body. The Governor responsible for RSE is Debbie Spencer-Jones.

This policy will be reviewed by the RSE Co-ordinator; the Education Committee and will be adopted by the Governing Body.

The policy will be reviewed annually and will be available for all parents to view.