

Relationships and Sex Education Policy (RSE) - October 2023

St. Adrian's Catholic Primary School



**‘To Learn, To Love, To Live as a Community of
God with Christ as our Teacher’**

www.stadrians.herts.sch.uk

Approved by:	The Full Governing Body (After consultation)	Date: October 2023
Last reviewed on:	September 2021	
Next review due by:	September 2025	



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School Mission Statement

In this policy the Governors and teachers, in partnership with pupils and their parents, set out their intentions about relationships and sex education (RSE). We set out our rationale for and approach to relationships and sex education in the school.

We have consulted with parents and staff as well as school governors in relation to this policy.

Implementation and Review of Policy

Implementation of the policy will take place after consultation with the Governors in the Autumn term 2023.

This policy will be reviewed 2 years by the Head teacher, RSE Co-ordinator, the Governing Body and Staff. The next review date is September 2025

Dissemination

The draft policy will be given to all members of the Governing Body, and all teaching and non-teaching members of staff. Copies of the document will be available to all parents through the school's information pack and a copy is available in the school office. Details of the content of the RSE curriculum will also be published on the school's web site.

Defining Relationship and Sex Education

The DFE guidance defines RSE as "lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of marriage and family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality and sexual health"^[1]. It is about the development of the pupil's knowledge and understanding of her or him as a sexual being, about what it means to be fully human, called to live in right relationships with self and others and being enabled to make moral decisions in conscience. The DFE identifies three main elements: "attitudes and values, personal and social skills, and knowledge and understanding"^[2].

Statutory Curriculum Requirements

We are legally required to teach those aspects of RSE which are statutory parts of National Curriculum Science.



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However, the reasons for our inclusion of RSE go further.

Rationale

'I have come that you might have life and have it to the full'

(Jn.10.10)

We are involved in relationships and sex education precisely because of our Christian beliefs about God and about the human person. The belief in the unique dignity of the human person made in the image and likeness of God underpins the approach to all education in a Catholic school. Our approach to RSE therefore is rooted in the Catholic Church's teaching of the human person and presented in a positive framework of Christian ideals.

At the heart of the Christian life is the Trinity, Father, Son and Spirit in communion, united in loving relationship and embracing all people and all creation. As a consequence of the Christian belief that we are made in the image and likeness of God, gender and sexuality are seen as God's gift, reflect God's beauty, and share in the divine creativity. RSE, therefore, will be placed firmly within the context of relationship as it is there that sexuality grows and develops.

Following the guidance of the Bishops of England and Wales and as advocated by the DFE (and the Welsh Assembly Government) RSE will be firmly embedded in the PSHE framework as it is concerned with nurturing human wholeness and integral to the physical, spiritual, emotional, moral, social and intellectual development of pupils. It is centred on Christ's vision of being human as good news and will be positive and prudent, showing the potential for development, while enabling the dangers and risks involved to be understood and appreciated.

All RSE 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.

Values and Virtues

Our programme enshrines Catholic values relating to the importance of stable relationships, marriage and family life. It also promotes those virtues which are essential in responding to God's call to love others with a proper respect for their dignity and the dignity of the human body. The following virtues will be explicitly explored and promoted: faithfulness, fruitfulness, chastity, integrity, prudence, mercy and compassion.



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Aim of RSE and the Mission Statement

Our Mission Statement commits us to the education of the whole child (spiritual, physical, intellectual, moral, social, cultural, emotional) and we believe that RSE is an integral part of this education. Furthermore, our school aims state that we will endeavour to raise pupils' self-esteem, help them to grow in knowledge and understanding, recognise the value of all persons and develop caring and sensitive attitudes. It is in this context that we commit ourselves:

In partnership with parents, to provide children and young people with a "positive and prudent sexual education"^[3] which is compatible with their physical, cognitive, psychological, and spiritual maturity, and rooted in a Catholic vision of education and the human person.

Objectives

To develop the following attitudes and virtues:

- reverence for the gift of human sexuality and fertility;
- respect for the dignity of every human being – in their own person and in the person of others;
- joy in the goodness of the created world and their own bodily natures;
- responsibility for their own actions and a recognition of the impact of these on others;
- recognising and valuing their own sexual identity and that of others;
- celebrating the gift of life-long, self-giving love;
- recognising the importance of marriage and family life;
- fidelity in relationships.

To develop the following personal and social skills:

- making sound judgements and good choices which have integrity and which are respectful of the individual's commitments;
- loving and being loved, and the ability to form friendships and loving, stable relationships free from exploitation, abuse and bullying;
- managing emotions within relationships, and when relationships break down, with confidence, sensitivity and dignity;
- managing conflict positively, recognising the value of difference;
- cultivating humility, mercy and compassion, learning to forgive and be forgiven;
- developing self-esteem and confidence, demonstrating self-respect and empathy for others;
- building resilience and the ability to resist unwanted pressures, recognising the influence and impact of the media, internet and peer groups and so developing the ability to assess pressures and respond appropriately;



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- being patient, delaying gratification and learning to recognise the appropriate stages in the development of relationships, and how to love chastely;
- assessing risks and managing behaviours in order to minimise the risk to health and personal integrity.

To know and understand:

- the Church's teaching on relationships and the nature and meaning of sexual love;
- the Church's teaching on marriage and the importance of marriage and family life;
- the centrality and importance of virtue in guiding human living and loving;
- the physical and psychological changes that accompany puberty;
- the facts about human reproduction, how love is expressed sexually and how sexual love plays an essential and sacred role in procreation;

Outcomes

Inclusion and Differentiated learning

We will ensure RSE is sensitive to the different needs of individual pupils in respect to pupils' different abilities, levels of maturity and personal circumstances; for example their own sexual orientation, faith or culture and is taught in a way that does not subject pupils to discrimination. Lessons will also help children to realise the nature and consequences of discrimination, teasing, bullying and aggressive behaviours (including cyber-bullying), use of prejudice-based language and how to respond and ask for help. (In looking at these questions, it is important to draw links to the school's inclusion policy).

Equalities Obligations

The governing body have wider responsibilities under the Equalities Act 2010 and will ensure that our school strives to do the best for all of the pupils, irrespective of disability, educational needs, race, nationality, ethnic or national origin, pregnancy, maternity, sex, gender identity, religion or sexual orientation or whether they are looked after children.

Broad Content of RSE

Three aspects of RSE – attitudes and values, knowledge and understanding, and personal and social skills will be provided in three inter-related ways: the whole school / ethos dimension; a cross-curricular dimension and a specific relationships and sex curriculum.

Relationships and Health Programme Content



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At St Adrian's Catholic Primary School, we follow the Diocese-recommended RHE programme, *Life to the Full*, produced by the Catholic educational organisation - Ten Ten Resources. The *Life to the Full* programme is based on the structure of 'A Model Catholic RSE Curriculum' by the Catholic Education Service. This model curriculum was highlighted as a work of good practice by the Department of Education. We have confidence that the programme will support the growth and development of all children whilst nurturing Catholic beliefs. The RHE programme, *Life to the Full*, is a means to further develop, support and enrich the partnership between home, school and the church so that all children are fully supported. *Life to the Full* incorporates an online parent platform so that parents and carers can find out more about the programme, view resources, engage with the teaching and deepen the experience for their children.

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The *Life to the Full* programme covers Relationships, Health and some aspects of Science Education. It is taught through three key modules in each year group, which are taught during the summer term. Each module explores the central themes at an appropriate level for each primary phase.

Created and Loved by God explores the individual. Rooted in the teaching that we are made in the image and likeness of God, it helps children to develop an understanding of the importance of valuing themselves as the basis for personal relationships.			
EYFS	Key Stage 1	Lower Key Stage 2	Upper Key Stage 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Our uniqueness in real terms• Celebrating differences, talents and abilities• Looking after and using our bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We are uniquely made by a loving God• We have differences and similarities• Key information about staying physically healthy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understanding differences• Respecting our bodies• Puberty and changing bodies• Strategies to support emotional wellbeing Including	<p>Appreciation of physical and emotional differences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A more complex understanding of physical changes in girls' and boys' bodies• Body image



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The necessity of when and how to say sorry • Jesus' forgiveness and growing up as God's plan for us 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding feelings and emotions, including strong feelings such as anger • The cycle of life from birth to old age 	practicing thankfulness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The development of pupils' understanding of life before birth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong emotional feelings • The impact of the internet and social media on emotional well-being • A more nuanced and scientific understanding of life in the womb and how babies are made • Menstruation
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Created to Love Others explores the individual's relationships with others. Building on the understanding that we have been created out of love and for love, this unit explores how we take this calling into our family, friendships and relationships, and teaches strategies for developing healthy relationships.

EYFS	Key Stage 1	Lower Key Stage 2	Upper Key Stage 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Different family/friend relationships • Features of positive/negative behaviour in relationships • The importance of saying sorry and forgiveness within relationships • Practical ways to stay safe inside and out • Staying safe around medicines • People who help us in emergencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Special people' in their lives who they love and can trust • Coping with various social situations and dilemmas • The importance of saying sorry and forgiveness within relationship • The risks of being online • The difference between good and bad secrets • Teaching on physical boundaries • The effects of harmful substances • Some basic First Aid 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Different family structures • Activities and strategies for developing healthy relationships with family and friends • Techniques for managing thoughts, feelings and actions • Online safety • Teaching on bullying and abuse • The effects of drugs, alcohol and tobacco • The crucial role of First Aid in emergency situations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategies for more complex experiences of relationships and conflict • How to identify and respond to spoken and unspoken pressure • The concept of consent • Further teaching on how our thoughts and feelings impact on how we act • Risks of sharing and chatting online • A more complex understanding of different forms of abuse • How drugs, alcohol and tobacco can negatively affect people's lifestyles



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- Essential First Aid such as DR ABC and the recovery position

Created to Live in Community explores the individual's relationship with the wider world. Here we explore how human beings are relational by nature and are called to love others in the wider community through service, through dialogue and through working for the Common Good.

EYFS	Key Stage 1	Lower Key Stage 2	Upper Key Stage 2
Children will learn that God is three in one: Father, Son and Holy Spirit <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Know that they are loved and called to love others• Learn about the different communities they are part of and the responsibilities they have to them	Children understand that God is love: Father, Son and Holy Spirit <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Learn that being made in His image means being called to be loved and to love others• Learn about the various communities they belong to: home, school, parish, the wider community, the nation and the global community• Know that God calls us to live in community with one another	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children will develop a deeper understanding that God is love as shown by the Trinity• Understand that the human family reflects the Holy Trinity in mutual charity and generosity• Know that the Church family comprises of home, school and parish• Catholic Social Teaching on what it means to work for the Common Good	Children will know that God is Trinity – a communion of persons <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Learn that the Church is the body of Christ• Develop a deeper and richer understanding of Catholic social teaching• Learn how certain charities reach out to the wider community with love

Key curriculum decisions about the sequence and progression of learning:

- 1) Naming and discussing external body parts (genitalia) (Key Stage 1, Module 1, Unit 2, Session 2 optional section). The optional section will be omitted from teaching in Key Stage 1. The correct names for genitalia will be taught instead in the Summer Term of Year 4 as part of the initial teaching on puberty. However, any younger children who already use the correct names for body parts should be reassured that these are the correct names for those body parts.
- 2) Teaching about Puberty and Changing Bodies (Lower Key Stage 2 Module 1). This will not be taught until the Summer Term of Year 4. However, it is important that this initial



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teaching is not delayed further as some children in Year 4 will experience the onset of puberty.

- 3) Teaching about how children may be affected by what they see online, including pornography (Upper Key Stage 2 Module 1, Unit 3, Session 4) This is a lesson on internet safety and therefore could be said to fall under the statutory Health Education Primary curriculum. However, aspects of this session may be considered to fall under the non-statutory Sex Education curriculum. This session will therefore normally be omitted from the Year 6 curriculum. However, if related issues have arisen within a particular Year 6 cohort, this session may be taught after discussion and consultation with the Head teacher, Religious Education faculty, Governors and parents.
- 4) Discussion and teaching about sexual intercourse (Upper Key Stage 2 Module 1 Unit 4 Session 2). This optional session contains teaching about sexual intercourse which is not part of the statutory primary curriculum. It will therefore be omitted from the Year 6 curriculum. This will not detract from the journey of the overall programme, as the session is optional. A separate parents-only version of this session is available to parents on the online portal to allow them the opportunity to introduce these matters with their children at a time of their own choosing.

Legal Requirements of Relationships and Health Education which overlap with the compulsory National Curriculum Science Programme of Study:

At Key Stage 1, pupils are taught:

- That animals including humans move, feed, grow, use their senses and reproduce.
- To recognise and compare the main external parts of the body of humans.
- That humans can produce babies and that these grow into adults.
- To recognise similarities and differences between themselves and others, and treat others with sensitivity.

At Key Stage 2, pupils are taught:

- That the life processes common to humans and other animals include nutrition, growth and reproduction.
- About the main stages of the human life cycle.

Programme and Resources

Teaching strategies will include:

- establishing ground rules



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- distancing techniques
- discussion
- project learning
- reflection
- experiential
- active
- brainstorming
- film & video
- group work
- role-play
- trigger drawings
- values clarification

(See also 'Sex and Relationship Guidance '. DCSF 2000 for more detail)

(Give some details of how pupils' learning in RSE will be assessed here)

Parents and Carers

We recognise that parents (and other carers who stand in their place) are the primary educators of their children. As a Catholic school, we provide the principal means by which the Church assists parents and carers in educating their children. Therefore the school will support parents and carers by providing material to be shared with their children at home and workshops to help parents/carers to find out more. Parents/carers will be informed by letter when the more sensitive aspects of RSE will be covered in order that they can be prepared to talk and answer questions about their children's learning.

Parents must be consulted before this policy is ratified by the governors. They will be consulted at every stage of the development of the RSE programme, as well as during the process of monitoring, review and evaluation. They will be able to view the resources used by the school in the RSE programme. Our aim is that, at the end of the consultation process, every parent and carer will have full confidence in the school's RSE programme to meet their child's needs.

Parents have **the right to withdraw** their children from RSE except in those elements which are required by the National Curriculum science orders. Should parents wish to withdraw their children they are asked to notify the school by contacting the headteacher. The school will provide support by providing material for parents to help the children with their learning.

We believe that the controlled environment of the classroom is the safest place for this curriculum to be followed.



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Balanced Curriculum

Whilst promoting Catholic values and virtues and teaching in accordance with Church teaching, we will ensure that pupils are offered a balanced programme by providing an RSE programme that offers a range of viewpoints on issues. Pupils will also receive clear scientific information as well as covering the aspects of the law pertaining to RSE (in secondary schools/academies relating to forced-marriage, female genital mutilation, abortion, the age of consent and legislation relating to equality). Knowing about facts and enabling young people to explore differing viewpoints is not the same as promoting behaviour and is not incompatible with our school's promotion of Catholic teaching. We will ensure that pupils have access to the learning they need to stay safe, healthy and understand their rights as individuals.

Responsibility for teaching the programme

Responsibility for the specific relationships and sex education programme lies with the SLT .

However, all staff will be involved in developing the attitudes and values aspect of the RSE programme. They will be role models for pupils of good, healthy, wholesome relationships as between staff, other adults and pupils. They will also be contributing to the development of pupils' personal and social skills.

External Visitors

Our school will often call upon help and guidance from outside agencies and health specialists to deliver aspects of RSE. Such visits will always complement the current programme and never substitute or replace teacher led sessions.

It is important that any external visitor is clear about their role and responsibility whilst they are in school delivering a session. Any visitor must adhere to our code of practice developed in line with CES guidance 'Protocol for Visitors to Catholic Schools'[\[4\]](#).

Health professionals should follow the school's policies, minimising the potential for disclosures or inappropriate comments using negotiated ground rules and distancing techniques as other teachers would. They will ensure that all teaching is rooted in Catholic principles and practice.

Other Roles and Responsibilities regarding RSE

Governors

- Draw up the RSE policy, in consultation with parents and teachers;



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- Ensure that the policy is available to parents;
- Ensure that the policy is in accordance with other whole school policies, e.g., SEN, the ethos of the school and our Christian beliefs;
- Ensure that parents know of their right to withdraw their children;
- Establish a link governor to share in the monitoring and evaluation of the programme, including resources used;
- Ensure that the policy provides proper and adequate coverage of relevant National Curriculum science topics and the setting of RSE within PSHE.

Head teacher

The Head teacher takes overall delegated responsibility for the implementation of this policy and for liaison with the Governing Body, parents, the Diocesan Schools' Service and the Local Education Authority, also appropriate agencies.

PSHE/RSE Co-ordinator

The co-ordinator with the head teacher has a general responsibility for supporting other members of staff in the implementation of this policy and will provide a lead in the dissemination of the information relating to RSE and the provision of in-service training.

All Staff

RSE is a whole school issue. All teachers have a responsibility of care; as well as fostering academic progress they should actively contribute to the guardianship and guidance of the physical, moral and spiritual well-being of their pupils. Teachers will be expected to teach RSE in accordance with the Catholic Ethos of the school. Appropriate training will be made available for all staff teaching RSE. All staff have been included in the development of this policy and all staff should be aware of the policy and how it relates to them.

Relationship to other policies and curriculum subjects

This RSE policy is to be delivered as part of the PSHE framework. It includes guidelines about pupil safety and is compatible with the school's other policy documents (for example, Bullying policy, Safeguarding Policy etc)

Pupils with particular difficulties whether of a physical or intellectual nature will receive appropriately differentiated support in order to enable them to achieve mature knowledge, understanding and skills. Teaching methods will be adapted to meet the varying needs of this group of pupils.



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Learning about RSE in PSHE classes will link to/complement learning in those areas identified in the RSE audit.

Children's questions

The governors want to promote a healthy, positive atmosphere in which RSE can take place. They want to ensure that pupils can ask questions freely, be confident that their questions will be answered, and be sure that they will be free from bullying or harassment from other children and young people.

Controversial or Sensitive issues

There will always be sensitive or controversial issues in the field of RSE. These may be matter of maturity, of personal involvement or experience of children, of disagreement with the official teaching of the Church, of illegal activity or other doubtful, dubious or harmful activity. The governors believe that children are best educated, protected from harm and exploitation by discussing such issues openly within the context of the RSE programme. The use of ground rules, negotiated between teachers and pupils, will help to create a supportive climate for discussion.

(See also Sex and Relationship Guidance, 4.5 'Dealing with questions' 0116/2000, Department for Education and Employment, July 2000 for more detail)

Some questions may raise issues which it would not be appropriate for teachers to answer during ordinary class time, e.g., where a child or young person's questions hints at abuse, is deliberately tendentious or is of a personal nature.

Supporting children and young people who are at risk

Children will also need to feel safe and secure in the environment in which RSE takes place. Effective RSE will provide opportunities for discussion of what is and is not appropriate in relationships. Such discussion may well lead to disclosure of a safeguarding issue. Teachers will need to be aware of the needs of their pupils and not let any fears and worries go unnoticed. Where a teacher suspects that a child or young person is a victim of or is at risk of abuse they are required to follow the school's safeguarding policy and immediately inform the designated senior member of staff responsible.

Confidentiality and Advice

All governors, all teachers, all support staff, all parents and all pupils must be made aware of this policy, particularly as it relates to issues of advice and confidentiality.



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All lessons, especially those in the RSE programme, will have the best interests of pupils at heart, enabling them to grow in knowledge and understanding of relationships and sex, developing appropriate personal and social skills and becoming appreciative of the values and attitudes which underpin the Christian understanding of what it means to be fully human.

Pupils will be encouraged to talk to their parents/carers about the issues which are discussed in the programme. Teachers will always help pupils facing personal difficulties, in line with the school's pastoral care policy. Teachers should explain to pupils that they cannot offer unconditional confidentiality, in matters which are illegal or abusive for instance. Teachers will explain that in such circumstance they would have to inform others, e.g., parents, head teacher, but that the pupils would always be informed first that such action was going to be taken

Monitoring and evaluation

The RSE Co-ordinator will monitor the provision of the various dimensions of the programme by examining plans, schemes of work and samples of pupils' work at regular intervals. The programme will be evaluated biannually by means of questionnaires / response sheets/needs assessment given to pupils, and / or by discussion with pupils, staff and parents. The results of the evaluation should be reported to these groups of interested parties and their suggestions sought for improvements. Governors will consider all such evaluations and suggestions before amending the policy. Governors remain ultimately responsible for the policy.

[\[1\]](#) Sex and Relationship Education Guidance, DfEE, 2000

[\[2\]](#) *ibid*

[\[3\]](#) *Gravissimum Educationis* 1

[\[4\]](#) Protocol for Visitors to Catholic Schools, CES, Feb. 2011