

Relationship and Sex Policy

St Michael and All Angels

2022-2023

The logo of St Michael & All Angels Primary School is a large, faint watermark in the background. It features a central figure of an angel with wings, surrounded by the text 'ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS' at the top and 'PRIMARY SCHOOL' at the bottom, all enclosed in a circular border.

This policy was adopted on	Date: July 2022 Review Date : Sept 2023
By Name:	Fr A Rowlands
Position:	Chair of Governors
Signature:	on behalf of St Michael & All Angels Primary School

Believe-Achieve-Belong

Together with Christ

In the light of St. Michael the Archangel, we strive to be champions of all Christians and to the Church itself.

Christ Centred Aim- Believe

- to live the Gospel values and live life to the full, with forgiveness, love and respect and kindness for all.

Teaching and Learning Aim- Achieve

- to learn, grow and inspire as we act as role models when we care for others, the world and the environment

Community Aim -Belong

- to be messengers of Christ opening a door to the Church for the community to share its Gospel values both locally and globally.

We pray that our patron, St Michael the Archangel protects our school, community and Church.

Rationale

"I have come that you might have life and have it to the full," (John 10:10).

Introduction

At St Michael and All Angels we acknowledge that Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) as well as Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) are underpinned by a theology of relationship education and are all encompassed in the title Relationship and Sex Education (RSE).

Our belief is 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 relationships 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 Religious Education 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.

Aims of Relationship and Sex Education (RSE)

- To encourage pupils' growth in self respect, acknowledging we are all created in the image and likeness of God
- To help pupils develop an understanding that love is the central basis of a relationship
- To help pupils to understand the nature of relationships and to encourage them to reflect on their own relationship and respect differences between people
- To develop pupils' confidence in talking, listening and thinking about feelings and relationships
- To help pupils acquire the skills necessary to develop and sustain relationships
- To offer sex education in the wider context of relationships
- To ensure that pupils protect themselves and ask for help and support then when needed
- To ensure that pupils are prepared for puberty
- To help pupils to develop a healthier, safer lifestyle
- To prepare pupils to play an active role as citizens and to understand the Catholic vision of what it means to be citizens of the Kingdom/ reign of God.

Delivery of RSE

RSE is taught through our lifestyle in school and through the subjects of Religious Education, Science and by the way of a cross – curricular, integrated approach.

All elements of PSHE and Citizenship whilst non-statutory at Key Stage 1 and 2, are covered. Significant aspects of sex and relationship education remain part of the National Curriculum for Science. These will be taught to pupils. (Parents are unable to withdraw from such lessons).

Key Stage 1 (5-7)

- *That humans move, feed, grow, use their senses and reproduce;*
- *To name the main external parts of the body;*
- *That humans grow from babies into children and then into adults, and that adults can produce babies;*
- *To recognise similarities and differences between themselves and other pupils.*

Key Stage 2 (7-11)

- *That the life processes common to humans and all animals include nutrition, growth and reproduction;*
- *The main stages of the human life cycle.*

We acknowledge that every area of school life can potentially contribute to RSE as the school, of its very nature operates through positive human relationships. We recognise value and greatly appreciate the contribution made by all members of staff in deepening the quality of our Christian community.

Teachers will use their professional judgement when addressing issues in RSE. Careful consideration will be given to the wide and varied experience and backgrounds of the pupils in their care.

While we operate a whole school approach to relationships and Sex Education through our RSE Programme, pupils in Year 5 and Year 6 will learn about the emotional and the physical changes of puberty. For this particular part of the curriculum, children will be taught together and in gender groups on request.

Resources

We acknowledge that parents and carers are the key persons for children learning about relationships and sex; the foremost educators. Our role and our programme simply complement their role in nurturing their children's human wholeness. However, the role of parents and our day to day interactions in school are currently supported by the following curriculum resources:

All that I Am.

Assessment Recording and Reporting

A record is kept in teacher's planning of the delivery of RSE. The programme is assessed, monitored and evaluated by the Subject Leader in accordance with the school's monitoring and evaluation policy. Pupils are given the opportunity for self-evaluation at an appropriate level for each year group. Reporting is made in individual pupils' reports.

Outside Agencies

The expertise of outside agencies will be used appropriately to support but not at the expense of the school's delivery. The school is particularly thankful of the help available from local diocesan agencies and charities such as Nugent Care.

Curriculum Continuity

The school has an ongoing dialogue with the PSHE Subject Leader of our school; RSE, RE, Spiritual, Moral and PSHE Policies complement each other as appropriate.

The Governing Body

The Governing Body and Foundation Governors in particular recognise their responsibility to ensure the RSE programme follows Diocesan principles and reflects the Church's teaching.

Safeguarding Procedures

The school has procedures to deal with any sensitive issues or children thought to be vulnerable. Staff will pass on any concerns of this nature to the Designated Safeguarding Officer.

The role of the parent/carer

The Church has always recognised that it is the privilege and the responsibility of parents to educate and inform their children in all matters pertaining to personal growth and development particularly in the sensitive area of their moral education and sexual development. The Church also recognises that many parents require help and support in this task from both schools and parishes.

The Governing Body fully subscribes to the views expressed by the Bishop's Conference and will always ensure that:

- Parents and carers are supported in their task
- Parents and carers consulted and kept informed of the EPR Programme; its contents, evaluation and review and any subsequent developments.

Right of Withdrawal

It is our hope that parents would wish their children to be involved in the schools positive and prudent programme of relationship and sex education, following annual consultation regarding the school's approach. However, we recognise parents and carers have the right to withdraw their children from such lessons (not included in National Curriculum Science) after discussion with the headteacher.

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be monitored annually by the RSE Subject Leader and will be reviewed annually by the Governing Body. Parents and Carers will be consulted before any proposed changes.

