

ST. JOSEPH'S



CATHOLIC PRIMARY
SCHOOL

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Policy on Relationship and Sex Education (RSE)

School Mission Statement:

"Learning and Growing Together in the Light of God's Love"

At St Joseph's Catholic Primary School...

We cherish the uniqueness of all individuals.

We aim to create a learning climate which promotes the development of the whole child and engenders a love for learning and excellence, so that within the framework of a broad and balanced curriculum, all may realise their potential.

We proclaim the Gospel values in the ways in which we love ourselves and others.

Worship, prayer and our relationship with God are at the heart of school life.

We embrace our role in the wider community and seek to bear witness to our Catholic Faith in all that we do.

Date of Policy:	September 2025 - 2027		
Policy Category:	Statutory	Review Cycle:	Every 2 years
Next Scheduled Review Date:	September 2027		

Policy Formation:

In this policy, the Governors and teachers, in partnership with parents, set out their intentions about Relationships and Sex Education (RSE). The policy sets out our rationale for, and approach to relationships and sex education in the school. This policy was formulated in December 2020 following consultation with stakeholders including staff, governors, parents, pupils and the wider school community. It is based on the model policy produced by the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton and updated in line with the Catholic Education Service Model Policy for RSE (2020). It is reviewed every two years or as required by the Headteacher, RSE Leader, staff and governors.

Last updated: August 24 to update resources used to Ten:Ten "Life to the Full Plus"

Foreword from Bishop Richard Moth



“The Church as a mother is under an obligation to provide for its children an education by virtue of which their whole lives may be inspired by the spirit of Christ.”¹

These words, from Decree of the Second Vatican Council on Education, speak of the motivation for our Catholic schools. Our schools are places where the relationship with Christ, to which all are called, enables those we educate to take their place in the Church and Society conscious of their dignity as children of God.

Our schools provide the “principal means of helping parents to fulfil their role in education.”² In entrusting their children to our schools, parents provide them with the best possible start in life, grounded in the deepening of their faith through prayer and the recognition of the presence of God in all things.

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 Catholic schools. To this end, RSE is rooted in the Catholic Church’s teaching of the human person and firmly embedded in the Religious Education framework as it is concerned primarily with nurturing the human wholeness of our pupils.

I am pleased to commend this RSE policy to you and am confident you will find it both invaluable and reassuring as you prepare for the new academic year.

With every Blessing,

+Richard

¹ VATICAN II, Declaration *Gravissimum Educationis* on Christian Education, n.3. (GE)

² Code of Canon Law, c. 796§1.

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Aims

At St Joseph's, Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) - is an integral part of our curriculum. The aims at our school are to:

Provide a framework in which sensitive discussions can take place.

Prepare pupils for puberty, and give them an understanding of sexual development and the importance of health and hygiene.

Help pupils develop feelings of self-respect, confidence and empathy.

Create a positive culture around issues of sexuality and relationships.

Teach pupils the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies.

Statutory requirements

As a maintained primary school we must provide relationships education to all pupils as per section 34 of the [Children and Social work act 2017](#)

However, we are not required to provide sex education but we do need to teach the elements of sex education contained in the science curriculum.

In teaching RSE, we must have regard to [guidance](#) issued by the secretary of state as outlined in section 403 of the [Education Act 1996](#).

At St. Joseph's, we teach RSE as set out in this policy.

Policy development

This policy has been developed in consultation with SLT, governors, staff and parents. The consultation and policy development process involved the following steps:

Review – Materials were and relevant information including relevant national and local guidance were gathered and reviewed by SLT.

SLT, governor and staff consultation – all were given the opportunity to look at the curriculum map and policy - and make recommendations.

Parent/stakeholder consultation – parents and any interested parties were invited to log in to the Ten Ten website to read information about the curriculum map and view materials. They have been invited to feedback during consultation period about the Ten Ten scheme.

Ratification – once amendments were made, the policy was shared with governors and ratified.

Definition

RSE is about the emotional, social and cultural development of pupils, and involves learning about relationships, sexual health, sexuality, healthy lifestyles, diversity and personal identity. RSE involves a combination of sharing information, and exploring issues and values. RSE is not about the promotion of sexual activity.

It is not just learning about growing up, changes and reproduction. It is also about enabling children to make and maintain relationships with others, to understand human sexuality and to feel good about themselves and the choices they make. This involves helping children to gain knowledge, develop skills and form positive beliefs and attitudes. At St. Joseph's, RSE is delivered via discrete sessions, as well as through elements of the National Curriculum.

Curriculum

Ten Ten is an independent Catholic educational organisation that has been working at the forefront of delivering RSE in Catholic primary and secondary schools since 2007. They have been working in partnership with dioceses and schools throughout the UK to develop an integrated programme in Relationship Education for Catholic primary schools and Relationship and Sex Education for Catholic secondary schools called "Life to the Full". Their mission is to enable Catholic schools to deliver an RSE programme that truly enables their students to live "life to the full" (John 10:10).

Delivery of RSE

RSE is taught within the personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) curriculum. The Ten Ten scheme is a developmental RSE programme for children in the primary years, which is supported by the Bishops' Conference and is in accordance with the teaching of the Catholic Church. In each year group, overriding knowledge, understanding and skills, are developed - within the following areas: Physical, Social, Emotional, Intellectual and Spiritual. Biological aspects of RSE are taught within the science curriculum. Other aspects are included in religious education (RE) within some of the RED programme across the year groups.

Also, 'British Values' - either discrete sessions or via elements of the National Curriculum - are taught in accordance with our British Values Policy. This satisfies the requirements of the 2010 Equality Act and includes materials from a range of sources. In addition, the Computing and PE curriculum, as well as 'other' in-school initiatives (See appendix 1) cover aspects of RSE.

Relationships education focuses on teaching the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships including:

- Families and people who care for me
- Caring friendships
- Respectful relationships
- Online relationships
- Being safe
-

Schools retain the freedom to determine an age-appropriate, developmental curriculum, which meets the needs of young people. Where appropriate, this may require a differentiated curriculum i.e. schools have specific duties to increase the extent to which pupils can participate in the curriculum, such as SEN children.

Flexibility is important as it allows schools to respond to local public health and community issues, as well as meet the needs of their community and adapt materials and programmes to meet the needs of pupils (for example, in teaching about local prevalence)

In addition to the science curriculum, in Year 6, reproduction in humans is taught as part of the 'animals including humans' topic.

For more information about our RSE curriculum, see our Ten Ten parent portal, details provided at the end of this document.

These areas of learning are taught within the context of family life taking care to ensure that there is no stigmatisation of children based on their home circumstances (families can include single parent families, LGBT parents, families headed by grandparents, adoptive parents, foster parents/carers amongst other structures) along with reflecting sensitively that some children may have a different structure of support around them (for example: looked after children or young carers).

Roles and responsibilities

The governing board

The governing board will approve the RSE policy, and hold the headteacher to account for its implementation.

The Headteacher

The headteacher is responsible for ensuring that RSE is taught consistently across the school, and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from non-statutory components of RSE (see section 8).

Staff

Staff are responsible for:

- Delivering RSE in a sensitive way
- Modelling positive attitudes to RSE
- Monitoring progress
- Responding to the needs of individual pupils
- Responding appropriately to pupils whose parents wish them to be withdrawn from the non-statutory components of RSE

Staff do not have the right to opt out of teaching RSE. Staff who have concerns about teaching RSE are encouraged to discuss this with the headteacher.

All teaching staff are responsible for the delivery of RSE at St. Joseph's.

Pupils

Pupils are expected to engage fully in RSE and, when discussing issues related to RSE, treat others with respect and sensitivity

Parents' right to withdraw

Parents **do not have the right to withdraw** their children from relationships education.

Parents **have the right to withdraw their children from some or all** of the non- statutory components of sex education within RSE.

Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing using the form found in Appendix 3 of this policy and addressed to the headteacher.

Alternative work will be given to pupils who are withdrawn from sex education.

Training

Staff are trained on the delivery of RSE as part of their induction and it is included in our continuing professional development calendar.

Monitoring arrangements

The delivery of RSE is monitored by Mrs Hall (RSHE Lead team) through: learning walks, staff training etc.

Pupils' development in RSE is monitored by class teachers as part of our internal assessment systems.

This policy will be reviewed by Mrs Hall (RSHE lead) annually.

At every review, the policy will be approved by the governing board and the headteacher .

