



# RELATIONSHIP and SEX EDUCATION (RSE) POLICY

(Statutory Policy)

(Standards Committee)

(Approval by Standards Committee – 3 Year Review Cycle)

<b>Date to be implemented from:</b>	March 2021
<b>Date to be reviewed by:</b>	March 2024
<b>Date Reviewed by Sub Committee:</b>	

**Approved by:**

Signed: ..... (Chair – Standards Committee)

(Print Name) .....

Date .....

***This Policy supersedes any previous Policy of this name or instructions that pre-date this edition.***

***This Policy has been equality impact assessed and we believe that it is in line with the Equality Act 2010 as it is fair, it does not prioritise or disadvantage any pupil and it helps to promote equality at this School.***

## Policy Statement

1.1 St Andrew's School affirms that individuals are entitled to equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities. The School strives to ensure that all individuals are equally valued and everyone is treated with respect.

1.2 St Andrew's School will meet its legal duty to have a RSE Policy and meet any other legislation or requirements to ensure a safe and healthy environment for pupils, staff, parents/carers and visitors.

1.3 The Policy will be readily accessible within the School on the Website and in hard copy on demand.



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### 2 Reviewing the Policy

2.1 Reviewing the Policy – St Andrew's School will assess the implementation and impact of this Policy on a continuous basis and undertake a regular formal review on an annual basis to ensure it is fit for purpose.

### 3 School Vision

3.1 Our vision is to become an outstanding School within a loving, Christian community.

3.2 Our parents/carers, children and staff will work together to enable all children to:

- achieve their potential
- learn in a safe, stimulating environment
- enjoy learning now and in the future

### 4 Purpose of Policy

4.1 At St Andrew's School, we are a Values School committed to educating and establishing an environment where all members of our community are equally valued and treated with respect. This Policy sets out our expectations and gives a framework for implementation.

4.2 It is a legal requirement to teach the updated relationship aspects of the Relationships & Sex Education (RSE) Policy April 2020 as part of the National Curriculum from 1-9-20. The changes are related to understanding relationships.

4.3 At St Andrew's, we believe that each child is a unique individual created by God. As such, we feel it is important to provide learning opportunities within the context of PSHE and Citizenship that explore awareness, respect and responsibility for the changes that occur in oneself and others.

4.4 At St Andrew's School, we recognise that different cultures and faiths have different sensitivities about Sex Education and we are mindful of these sensitivities and respect them.



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### 5 Aim of Policy

5.1 The aim of this Policy is to create a culture and ethos where children understand the importance of loving and caring relationships and promotes an informed, moral attitude to sexual health.

5.2 This Policy provides a framework that translates the values and aims of the School regarding RSE into effective procedures to enable each child to learn in a supportive, caring and safe environment.

5.3 This Policy identifies how RSE is delivered and by whom and parental right of withdrawal.

5.4 RSE will continue to be taught in an age appropriate and sensitive way. The Policy is closely aligned to the social, moral, spiritual and cultural development of our pupils.

### 6 Definitions

6.1 Sex Education is learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about understanding the importance of marriage for family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality, and sexual health.

6.2 RSE 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. In addition, RSE promotes self-esteem and emotional health and well-being and to help pupils form and maintain worthwhile and satisfying relationships, based on respect for themselves and for others, at home, school, work and in the community.

6.3 We teach RSE through different aspects of the curriculum. While we carry out the main RSE teaching in our PSHE curriculum, we also teach some Sex Education through other subject areas (eg. Science, PE), where we feel that they contribute significantly to a child's knowledge and understanding of her/his own body and how it is changing and developing.

6.3.1 In PSHE we teach children about relationship and we encourage children to discuss issues. We teach about the parts of the body and how these work. We encourage the children to ask for help if they need it and always teach in a sensitive way.

6.3.2 In Science lessons, primarily in KS2, children are taught about puberty and how a baby is



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born. In KS1 we teach children about how animals, including humans, move, feed, grow and reproduce and we also teach them about the main parts of the body.

6.3.3 In Yr5 and Yr6 we place a particular emphasis on health education, as many children experience puberty at this age. We liaise closely with our School nurse regarding suitable teaching materials to use with our children in these specific lessons (always conducted in single sex groups) that cover changes in both sexes. Teachers and nurses answer all questions with sensitivity and care.

6.4 The content of the RSE programme is always agreed in consultation with parents/carers, staff and Governors.



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### 7 Teaching RSE

7.1 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 health-related behaviour. We feel that correct factual knowledge, appropriate to the age of the child, should be introduced to the children using key professionals wherever possible (teacher, School nurse).

7.2 We will ensure children have the ability to accept their own and others' sexuality.

7.3 We will ensure the programme is tailored to the age and the physical and emotional maturity of the children.

7.4 We will ensure a caring atmosphere where questions and discussion on sexual matters can take place without embarrassment.

7.5 We teach RSE:

- To provide the knowledge and information to which all pupils are entitled
- To clarify/reinforce existing knowledge
- To respect and care for their bodies
- To be prepared for puberty and adulthood
- To help pupils understand their sexual feelings and behaviour, so they can lead fulfilling and enjoyable lives
- To show pupils that not all families look the same
- To challenge sexual stereotyping and sexual discrimination.
- To raise pupils' self-esteem and confidence, especially in their relationships with others
- To help pupils develop skills (language, decision making, choice, assertiveness) and make the most of their abilities
- To provide the confidence to be participating members of society and to value themselves and others
- To help gain access to information and support
- 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, the media and social media platforms.



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By teaching about:

- The physical development of their bodies as they grow into adults
- How to recognise their emotions and talk about them
- Respect for their own bodies and the importance of sexual activity as part of a committed, long- term and loving relationship
- The importance of family life
- Relationship issues
- Healthy friendships
- Moral questions
- The way humans reproduce
- Respect for the views of other people
- How to recognise who to trust and who not to trust – including when on-line
- Sex abuse and what they should do if they are worried about any sexual matters



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### 8 Procedures

8.1 **Parental Right to Withdraw** - Section 405 of the Education Act 1996 enables parents/carers to withdraw their children from Sex Education other than the Sex Education that is in the National Curriculum. Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the RSE provided at School except for those parts included in the statutory NC. At St Andrew's we respect parents/carers right to withdraw their child(ren) from RSE classes and a request for withdrawal should be made in writing to the class teacher of their child(ren).

8.2 Parents/carers will be kept fully consulted on the content of our RSE and when and how it will be taught. We will offer opportunities for parents/carers to view DVDs being used and any resources that contribute significantly to our RSE programme.

8.3 The School will follow a scheme that ensures that pupils have an RSE element of the Curriculum that is tailored to the age and the physical and emotional maturity of the children. All children, including those who develop earlier than the average, need to know about puberty **before** they experience the onset of physical changes and we will monitor pupils in our care so that they are prepared for the onset of puberty.

8.4 We will encourage valued members of the community to work with us to provide advice and support to the children with regard to health education. In particular, members of the Local Health Authority, such as the School nurse and other health professionals, to give us valuable support with our RSE programme.

8.5 Class teachers will discuss the RSE programme, content and teaching method with the designated teacher with responsibility for coordinating RSE before teaching the programme.

8.6 **All staff will:**

- conduct RSE lessons in a sensitive manner and in confidence and uphold the values and aims of the School in all lessons



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- use an appropriate range of teaching methods which involve children's full participation are used to teach sex and relationship education. These include use of video, discussion, looking at case studies, drama and role play
- deliver Relationships and Sex Education in mixed gender groups and/or single gender groups where it is more appropriate and relevant
- informs parent/carers when aspects of the RSE programme are taught and provide opportunities for parents to view the videos and resources being used
- be aware that effective RSE, which brings an understanding of what is and what is not acceptable in a relationship, may lead to disclosure of a child protection issue and then the procedures for Safeguarding must be followed and the Headteacher informed
- Refer to the RSE co-ordinator on any concerns or need for support.

### 8.7 The **School Leadership** will:

#### *Headteacher*

- ensure the RSE curriculum is fit for purpose
- ensure all children, including those with protected status, feel comfortable with RSE
- inform parents/carers of the RSE Policy and their rights/responsibilities
- ensure alternative work is set where parents/withdraw pupils from classes
- ensure there is a named RSE Co-ordinator
- ensure that all staff who deliver any element of RSE have undertaken appropriate training so they can handle any challenging situation with confidence and sensitivity
- work with outside agencies who can help deliver good RSE and complement teacher's work
- ensure pupils, staff, parents/carers and Governors all understand this Policy and its implications
- monitor and evaluate this Policy at regular intervals

#### *Governance*

- RSE provision will be monitored by the Governor with responsibility for RSE with the Headteacher and RSE Co-ordinator
- In conjunction with the Headteacher, the Governing Body will decide what Sex Education, beyond that set out in the statutory NC for science should be included in the School's Curriculum, what it should consist of and how it should be organised
- The Governors must keep a clear record of all their decisions related to RSE



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### 9 Sources of further information and support

The National Curriculum – Gov.UK

<https://www.gov.uk/national-curriculum/other-compulsory-subjects>

Relationships Education for primary pupils and relationships and sex education (RSE) FAQs - DfE

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education-faqs>

RSE and Health Education: Statutory guidance for governing bodies, proprietors, head teachers, principals, senior leadership teams, teachers - DfE

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/908013/Relationships\\_Education\\_Relationships\\_and\\_Sex\\_Education\\_RSE\\_and\\_Health\\_Education.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/908013/Relationships_Education_Relationships_and_Sex_Education_RSE_and_Health_Education.pdf)

RSE guidance published by PSHE Association, Brook and Sex Education Forum – PSHE Association

[https://www.pshe-association.org.uk/news\\_detail.aspx?ID=1383](https://www.pshe-association.org.uk/news_detail.aspx?ID=1383)

Sex and relationships education factsheet – FPA

<http://www.fpa.org.uk/factsheets/sex-and-relationships-education>