

# **Relationship and Sex Education Policy (RSE) September 2021**



*'Walking together with Jesus to Love, Learn and  
Serve'*

## **Intent**

**We acknowledge that Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) and Citizenship, as well as Relationships and Sex Education (RSE), are all underpinned by a theology of relationship and are all encompassed in the title 'Relationships and Sex Education' (RSE).**











Our belief that each human is made in the image and likeness of God underpins the approach to all education in St Albert's Catholic Primary School. Our approach to Relationship 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.

The teaching of Relationships 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 importance of the Sacrament of marriage and the family, whilst acknowledging that all pupils have a fundamental right to have their life respected whatever household they come from. Appropriate support will be provided, if necessary, 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 relationships
-  To help pupils to understand the nature of relationships and to encourage them to reflect on their own relationships and to 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 when needed
-  To ensure that our pupils are prepared for puberty
-  To help pupils 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 of God





## **Implementation**

Relationships, Sex and Health Education is taught through our life style in school and through the subjects of Religious Education, Science, PSHE, and by way of a cross-curricular, integrated approach as a fundamental part of the Catholic Life of the school.

All elements of PSHE and Citizenship, at Key Stage 1 and 2, are covered. Significant aspects of Relationship and Sex Education remain part of the National Curriculum for Science. These will be taught to all pupils (**parents are NOT able to withdraw pupils from these lessons**).



### **Key Stage 1 (5 - 7 years)**

#### **Pupils will learn:**

-  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 years)**

#### **Pupils will learn:**

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

Pupils in Year 5 will learn specifically about the emotional and physical changes of puberty, whilst Year 6 pupils will cover the life cycle and sexual intercourse.

We acknowledge that every area of school life can potentially contribute to Relationships and Sex Education, as the school of its very nature operates through positive human relationships. We recognise, value and 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 Relationships and Sex Education. Careful consideration will be given to the wide and varied experience and backgrounds of the pupils in their care.

### **Resources**

We acknowledge that parents and carers are the key adults for children when learning about Relationships and Sex. Our role as a school, is simply to complement their role in nurturing their child's human wholeness.

Using the Archdiocesan recommended resource '**Journey in Love' 2020**, we believe that we can promote the development of the whole child so that children can grow in *virtue, wisdom and stature*. We want our pupils to understand both the emotional, social and physical aspects of growing spiritually, as well as moral aspects of relationships within a context of a Christian vision for the purpose of life.

### **Outside Agencies**

The expertise of outside agencies may be used to support our RSE curriculum, but not at the expense of the school's delivery.

### **Safeguarding Procedures**

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

### **The Governing Body**

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

### **The Role of Parents**

The Church has always recognised that it is the responsibility of the 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 may require help and support from the school and parish with this task.

### **Definition**

Relationship and Sex Education involves a combination of sharing information, and exploring issues underpinned by our Catholic values. It is about the emotional, social and cultural development of pupils, and involves learning about personal relationships, sexual health, sexuality, healthy lifestyles, diversity and personal identity.

### **Equal Opportunities**

All pupils have access to the RSE curriculum. Where pupils have specific educational needs, arrangements for support from outside agencies and support staff can be made, to ensure these pupils have an appropriate, differentiated curriculum.

### **Roles and Responsibility**

#### **The Governing Body**

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

#### **The Head Teacher**

The head teacher is responsible for ensuring that RSE is taught consistently across the school and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from the non-statutory element of Relationship and Sex Education in Year 6 (see right of withdrawal).

#### **Staff**

Staff do not have the right to opt out of teaching RSE as this forms part of the Teaching Standards. Any staff who have concerns about teaching RSE are encouraged to discuss this with the head teacher.

Staff are responsible for:

- Delivering RSE in a sensitive way which complies with Church teaching

- 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

### **Pupils**

Pupils are expected to engage fully in RSE and to treat others with dignity, respect and sensitivity during discussions.

### **Parental right to withdraw**

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the non-statutory component of sex education in Year 6. This is where sexual intercourse is taught discretely as part of the physical aspect within Journey in Love, the Archdiocesan recommended resource.

Requests for withdrawal should be made in writing and addressed to the head teacher. The head teacher will discuss the request with parents and take appropriate action.

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

Parents do not have the right to withdraw their children from Statutory Relationships Education as set out in the DfE guidance 2020.

### **Impact**

The programme is assessed, monitored and evaluated by the RSE Lead in accordance with the school's monitoring and evaluation policy. Pupils are given the opportunity for self-evaluation at a level appropriate to their age.

### **Monitoring arrangements**

The delivery of RSE is monitored by Mrs Riddick through learning walks, staff and pupil consultations, planning and work scrutinies and questionnaires.

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

### **Policy Review:**

This policy will be agreed annually by the governors and reviewed every three years, or in the light of new guidance from the Archdiocese, DfE or LA.

Parents will be consulted before any proposed changes.

