



STAMFORD ST GILBERT'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

RELATIONSHIPS, SEX AND HEALTH EDUCATION POLICY

2020/21

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Context/Introduction

The aims of our school are reflected in the statement from the Education Reform Act 1988 that the school curriculum should be one which:

- promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society.
- prepares such pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

This policy outlines the purpose, nature and management of relationships and sex education at St Gilbert's and has been developed in consultation with all stakeholders, including governors, staff, pupils and parents/carers.

1. A Definition of Relationships, Sex and Health Education for Church Schools

All Church of England and Methodist schools within the Diocese of Lincoln are statutorily required to teach Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education. Within the context of Christian beliefs about human dignity (e.g. Genesis 1:26-27) and the need to love your neighbour as you love yourself (e.g. Mark 12:30-31), RSHE enables pupils to flourish and gain every opportunity to live fulfilled lives.

RSHE is about the emotional, social and physical aspects of growing up, healthy relationships, sex, human sexuality and sexual health. It is also about the spiritual and moral aspects of relationships within the context of a Christian vision for the purpose of life. Through RSHE in church schools, pupils will have the chance to learn about how to ensure that they treat themselves and others, at all times and in all contexts, with dignity and respect.

Relationships Education is learning about how to:

- be appreciative of existing relationships
- to form new healthy relationships
- to enjoy strong positive, non-exploitative, caring relationships online and in person.

This will particularly reference family relationships including marriage, friendships, relationships and partnerships with peers and adults.

Sex Education in primary schools is not mandatory; however, the National Curriculum for Science in primary schools includes content about human body parts, growth, puberty and reproduction. **Parents/guardians do not have the right to withdraw from this aspect of the curriculum.**

At St Gilbert's, we have decided that it is important to include sexual intercourse and the conception and birth of a baby to protect and prepare the children in our community. **Parents/carers do have the right to excuse their children from this aspect of Sex Education (see below for more information).**

2. Statutory Requirements

As a primary church school academy, we must provide Relationships Education to all pupils as per section 34 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017. We do not have to follow the National Curriculum, but we are required to offer all pupils a curriculum that is similar in breadth and depth to the National Curriculum, including requirements to teach science, which would include the elements of sex education contained within the Primary Science curriculum.

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

At St Gilbert's Church of England Primary School, we teach RSHE as set out in this policy.

3. RSHE Curriculum

Our RSHE curriculum has been developed in consultation with various stakeholders, including governors, staff, pupils and parents/carers and takes into account the context of the school and its pupils.

The topics covered include:

- Families and people who care for me
- Caring friendships and respectful relationships
- Internet safety, safe online relationships and the risks of online relationships
- Mental wellbeing
- Basic first aid, physical health and fitness, health and fitness, healthy eating, risks to health, e.g. drugs, alcohol and tobacco
- Key facts about puberty and the changing adolescent body
- Sex education

This RSHE curriculum has been planned in the context of our broader Curriculum Intent, and the delivery of this part of the curriculum is one of the ways in which we seek to realise our overarching distinctively Christian vision. It reflects core Christian teachings about human beings and healthy relationships, including the belief that all are made in the image of God, are loved by God and are therefore to be treated with dignity and respect. This enables our pupils to understand that they should value the gift of themselves and recognise and respect this gift of uniqueness in others by seeking out healthy relationships. It will also help them understand a range of Christian views on the importance of long-term relationships as building blocks for family stability.

4. Delivery of RSHE

RSHE is taught as part of the broader PSHE curriculum and in accordance with the Equalities Act 2010. Biological aspects of RSHE are taught within the Primary Science Curriculum and some elements of RSHE may be taught within the RE curriculum, particularly with relation to a range of views on relationships from religions and worldviews. Teaching is delivered by class teachers; some elements of RSHE education are delivered by a trained health professional. The school uses a range of resources to deliver effective RSHE and all staff involved in delivering RSHE receive appropriate training and support. Pupil progress and attainment in RSHE will be monitored annually.

All RSHE is delivered with an understanding that pupils and staff may be personally engaged in different structures of support and familial relationships, including single parent families, LGBTQ families, families headed by grandparents, civil partnership families, adoptive parents, foster parents/carers, young carers, etc. The RSHE curriculum has been carefully designed to ensure that no person feels stigmatised; this is set within the context of the biblical teaching that all human beings are created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-7) and that Christians are called to respect and honour everyone (e.g. 1 Peter 2:17). Due respect will also be paid to the range of faith and non-faith positions held by our pupils in line with the Equalities Act 2010.

For more information about the delivery of RSHE, please contact the RSHE curriculum leader, Jan Hopkins.

5. Parental Right to Withdraw from Sex Education

Parents/guardians do not have the right to withdraw their children from Relationships Education. Elements of Sex Education are included in the Primary Science Curriculum and parents/guardians **do not have the right to withdraw their children from the Science Curriculum.**

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the non-science elements of Sex Education within RSHE. Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing to the head teacher. We will invite you to talk through your concerns, review the materials we use and explain our rationale. Withdrawing your child from Sex Education remains a statutory right as a parent or legal guardian.