

St Anne's Catholic Primary School



Relationship and Sex Education (RSE)

RSE POLICY

October 2017

Introduction – context

St Anne's is situated in Ancoats and serves a diverse mix of children and families. Children are growing up in a digital world that increases concerns around child sexual abuse and exploitation that calls us to act in relation to pupil safety. St Anne's are currently working towards becoming a 'Unicef Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA)'.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) is at the heart of a school's planning, policies, practice and ethos. The following Articles are from the UN convention on 'The Rights of The Child'.

Unicef Rights of the Child - Article 24 (health and health services)

Every child has the right to the best possible health. Governments must provide good quality health care, clean water, nutritious food and a clean environment and education on health and wellbeing so that children can stay healthy.

Unicef Rights of the Child - Article 34 (sexual exploitation)

Governments must protect children from all forms of sexual abuse and exploitation.

Ethos and Values

Every pupil should receive their full entitlement to RSE regardless of their gender, race, ethnicity, faith or sexual orientation. Through RSE we aim to prepare children for the responsibilities of later life to ensure positive health and wellbeing. The RSE programme of study 'Growing and Changing' will be delivered as a whole school approach to ensure that every child has the same level of understanding and will equip children and young people with the skills necessary transition in to adulthood.

Following the guidance of the Bishops of England and Wales and as advocated by the DFE (and the Welsh Assembly Government) RSE will be firmly embedded in the PSHE framework as it is concerned with nurturing human wholeness and integral to the physical, spiritual, emotional, moral, social and intellectual development of pupils. It is centred on Christ's vision of being human as good news and will be positive and prudent, showing the potential for development, while enabling the dangers and risks involved to be understood and appreciated.

Definition

According to the Sex and Relationship Education Guidance 2000 and the 2014 supplementary guidance, SRE is "learning about the emotional, social and physical aspects of growing up, relationships, sex, human sexuality and sexual health. It should equip children and young people with the information, skills and values to have safe, fulfilling and enjoyable relationships and to take responsibility for their sexual health"

At St Anne's RC primary school we believe that RSE is about empowering and enabling children to make informed decisions about their own personal relationships. RSE teaching ensures that children have the necessary knowledge to prepare for puberty.

Aim and Objectives

AIMS:

- To equip children and young people with information, skills and values to understand and to be able to cope with the physical and emotional changes that happen during puberty.

OBJECTIVES:

- Provide information which is relevant and appropriate to the age and maturity of the pupils
- Include the on-going development of communication and social skills
- Encourage the exploration and clarification of values and the development of positive attitudes.

Content / Curriculum

The school's RSE programme uses the Growing and Changing Together curriculum Year 1-6. The content covers all of the statutory requirements for RSE required as part of the National Curriculum for Science to all children within school. Alongside this the school recognises that that sex education should be more than solely science if it is to meet children's needs.

Curriculum

The minimum statutory requirement for RSE is that schools must deliver the National Curriculum for Science to all children within school:

National Curriculum Science – Sex and Relationship Education (statutory)

Detailed below are sections taken directly from the updated Science Curriculum Statutory (2014). The sections detailed are those, which specifically mention relationships and sex education. There are other relevant sections, which could create opportunity to discuss relationships and sex education further.

Key Stage 1

Children should learn to:

- identify, name, draw and label the basic parts of the human body and say which part of the body is associated with each sense
- notice that animals, including humans, have offspring which grow into adults

Key Stage 2

Children should learn to:

- describe the changes as humans develop to old age
- describe the life process of reproduction in some plants and animals
- recognise that living things produce offspring of the same kind, but normally offspring vary and are not identical to their parents

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-curriculum-in-england-science-programmes-of-study/national-curriculum-in-england-science-programmes-of-study>

National Curriculum PSHE – Sex and Relationship Education (non-statutory)

In addition to the Science National Curriculum, PSHE provides an appropriate vehicle for RSE. A planned and co-ordinated approach to PSHE can provide an appropriate framework for RSE to take place providing pupils with a consistent message.

The national Sex and Relationship Education Guidance (DfEE, 0116/2000 and Supplementary Guidance 2014) advises schools on the themes that should be covered in SRE to support pupils through their physical, emotional and social development.

Detailed below is recommend content for non-statutory sex and relationships education as part of PSHE.

Key Stage 1

- Respect their own bodies
- Private parts
- Differences between males and females
- Naming body parts
- Where babies come from

Key Stage 2

- The physical and emotional changes of growing up
- Similarities and differences between male and females
- Coping with emotions
- How to be healthy and safe
- Love and different kinds of relationships
- Gender stereotypes and homophobia
- Puberty and sexual feelings
- Conception and how babies develop

<http://www.sexeducationforum.org.uk/media/17706/sreadvice.pdf>

Teaching

In St Anne's RC Primary School RSE lessons follow the Growing and Changing Together curriculum and are delivered by class teachers and where possible are supported by Healthy Schools Specialist on RSE or by a School Nurse. Lessons which cover content on puberty are delivered in single gender groups and where possible of a teacher or health professional of the same gender. The lessons are delivered in discrete PSHE lessons and adhere to the scheme of work provided through NHS Healthy Schools.

Monitoring, Assessing and Reviewing

To ensure the curriculum content and teaching is effective the delivery is assessed and evaluated in the classroom. Pupil evaluation of RSE is carried out via the Growing and Changing Together monitoring form to measure pupil progress.

RSE it is monitored on an annual basis in school to ensure that the content is relevant for our pupils.

Implementation

Dealing with difficult questions

Within school, clear parameters of what is appropriate and inappropriate are agreed with governors, staff and parents prior to any delivery-taking place.

At St Anne's we:

- Use specific groundrules for this work which will clarify boundaries for children/young people
- Clarify that personal questions should not be asked
- Use the Ask it Basket as a technique to filter appropriate and inappropriate questions
- If a teacher doesn't know the answer this should be acknowledged.
- If a question is too explicit, is age inappropriate for the pupil or the whole class, then it should be acknowledged with a promise to attend to it later on an individual basis.
- If a question is raised that alerts a member of staff that a pupil is at risk of sexual abuse, then the school's Safeguarding Procedures should be followed.

Dealing with difficult topics

At St Anne's we use the Growing and Changing resources and cover the content as describe in the lesson plans. We are aware other topics may arise will respond by using the 'dealing with questions' guidelines above.

Working with Parents

At St Anne's we work very closely with the school community. The schools publishes the curriculum on the website alongside the RSE policy which is freely available to parents and on request s available in translated formats. Every year the school informs parents when the curriculum is being delivered and are invited to attend a specific meeting to view the resources used within school.

We recognise that parents (and other carers who stand in their place) are the primary educators of their children. As a Catholic school, we provide the principal means by which the Church assists parents and carers in educating their children. Therefore parents are able to view resources used by school and are invited to attend parent workshops to find out more. Parents/carers will be informed by letter when the more sensitive aspects of RSE will be covered in order that they can be prepared to talk and answer questions about their children's learning.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from RSE except in those elements which are required by the National Curriculum science orders. Should parents wish to withdraw their children they are asked to notify the school by contacting the headteacher. The school will provide support by providing material for parents to help the children with their learning.

We believe that the controlled environment of the classroom is the safest place for this curriculum to be followed.

Dealing with the Media

In dealing with the media, in the first instance members of the school community should refer enquiries from the press to the Headteacher. The Head teacher may at their discretion, contact Manchester City Council press office (0161 234 3729).

Relationship with other policies

PSHE

Relationship and Sex Education sits within of the PSHE curriculum and as such should be planned, delivered, co-ordinated, assessed and monitored in line with the school's PSHE Policy.

Anti-bullying

This should be linked to the school's broader policy on anti-bullying. An effective RSE programme will include raising awareness about lesbian and gay sexuality, therefore an anti-bullying policy needs to include strategies to tackling homophobic bullying in school.

Child Protection

If any allegations occur during a RSE lesson or concerns are raised, teachers will follow the school's procedure for Safeguarding.

Confidentiality

Children have rights under the Children's Act 1989 and can thus expect to be treated sensitively regarding seeking information and advice. However, staff should not give guarantees of confidentiality where the safety and welfare of a child is at risk.

Breaches of the Policy

All staff are under a contractual obligation to uphold the policy as with all other school policies.

Date and Review of the Relationship and Sex Education Policy

The governors agreed this policy on 18/10/17 and it will be reviewed in partnership with staff, parents / carers and students again in October 2018 unless there are changes in National or Local Guidance.

Policy, Leadership and Management

Governors, in consultation with the head teacher, have a statutory responsibility for RSE in the school.

The named governor with the responsibility for RSE is Tracey Weedon

The RSE policy and resources used have been agreed by the school's governing body.