

Relationships, Health and Sex Education Policy

School Vision, Values and Aims

Our school vision, values, aims and motto are rooted in the Church of England's Vision for Education; *Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good* and the biblical teaching of;

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind and with all your strength; and love your neighbour as yourself” (Mark 12.30,31).

Vision

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

Values

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| Respect | Mark 10.14: Let the children come to me |
| Responsibility | Colossians 3.23: Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart |
| Compassion | Colossians 3.12: Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience |
| Perseverance | Deuteronomy 31.6: The Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you or forsake you |

Aims

Our principle aim - For all to know that they are welcome here

To show kindness and forgiveness

To listen to one other

To seek enjoyment in our work.

To show patience with one other

To show love towards one other

To show courage in our work

To keep the children at the heart of our decisions

To embrace innovation and change

To trust one other

To inspire one another

To celebrate the dignity and worth of each individual

To begin each new day positively

To reach out to one other

To have confidence

To encourage one other

To support and challenge one other

To believe in one another

Policy Approved March 2022

To be reviewed

This policy has been produced in response to the Department for Education statutory guidance. Parents have been consulted on their views. The policy will be reviewed every 2 years and parents will be consulted about any changes.

Aims

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) puts in place the fundamental building blocks of healthy, respectful relationships, focusing on family and friendships. Through our RSE curriculum we aim to provide children with the knowledge, understanding and skills they need to be responsible and compassionate members of our school family. We will teach children how to stay safe, respect boundaries and recognise the characteristics of healthy relationships.

The Department for Education recommends that all primary schools should have a sex education programme tailored to the age, physical and emotional maturity of the pupils. It should ensure that both boys and girls are prepared for the changes that adolescence brings and – drawing on knowledge of the human life cycle set out in the national curriculum for science – how a baby is conceived and born. At Leckhampton C of E Primary School we feel that it is essential that we provide children with the understanding they need to proceed to secondary RSE. We know that the trusting relationships children build with their primary school class teachers will allow them to feel comfortable discussing these subjects. All teaching about relationships is set within the context of a whole-school approach, supporting children to be safe, happy and prepared for life beyond school.

Relationships Education

Relationships Education is taught throughout the year by the class teacher, through implicit and explicit learning experiences. Teachers ensure that they create a safe and trusting environment where honest and open discussions are able to happen. It helps to develop positive relationships rooted in mutual respect and supports children’s self-esteem.

Values of how to take turns, how to treat each other with kindness, consideration and respect, the importance of honesty and truthfulness, permission seeking and giving, and the concept of personal privacy are centred in all we teach. Establishing personal space and boundaries, showing respect and understanding the differences between safe or unsafe physical and other contact is explicitly taught. It is known that sexual harassment and sexual violence are not acceptable and will never be tolerated. It is understood by all members of staff that assumptions are not made or excused about any child due to their gender or circumstance, as this can lead to a culture of unacceptable behaviours and an unsafe environment for children. Any unsafe or unacceptable behaviour is identified and tackled promptly in line with our Behaviour Policy.

In Relationships Education, teachers create a safe environment that encourages honest, open discussions. Any information communicated during these sessions that may raise a safeguarding concern will be reported in line with the school’s agreed Policies and Procedures.

In the Early Years Foundation Stage, we teach children:

- To know what a friend is
- To develop an awareness of the needs of others, knowing that they may be different from their own.
- To know what a family is
- To understand similarities and differences between their family and others
- To know who the people are who can support them

| In KS1, children will learn | In KS2, children will learn |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Importance of friendship ○ Healthy family and friendships –security and stability ○ Different families, same love ○ Keeping safe online ○ Keeping myself safe – boundaries, safe and unsafe contact | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Different types of stable friendships and the importance of feeling secure ○ Marriage, civil partnerships and committed relationships ○ Boundaries in friendships ○ Seeking support ○ Different families, same love |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Characteristics of a healthy family ○ Keeping myself safe – boundaries, safe and unsafe contact, unknown adults ○ Keeping safe online ○ Emotional and physical changes that take place during puberty ○ Mental health and self-esteem ○ Importance of permission seeking |
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Through the science curriculum, children in Years 5 and 6 will learn about puberty, emotional and physical changes, hygiene and menstruation and will understand that these changes will happen to them. They will be taught the scientific vocabulary for parts of the body, including genitalia.

Relationships and Sex Education

Relationships and Sex Education will be taught by the class teacher. The children will be occasionally split by gender where it is deemed to benefit the supportive and personal conversations scheduled for that lesson. All Sex Education lessons will happen in line with our School Ground Rules (see appendix) to allow for an inclusive and safe environment that normalises sharing and discussion. Where appropriate anonymous question boxes will be used, teachers will receive training on answering difficult or challenging questions.

In Year 5 children are taught about sexual reproduction in humans, specifically how a baby is conceived and born. Before this unit of work commences, we hold an information session for parents both to reassure them about the content and resources, and to allow the conversation to continue at home.

Right to Withdraw

Parents do not have the right to withdraw children from any part of Relationships or Health education or the Science curriculum. This is because high-quality, evidence based and age-appropriate teaching of these subjects help to prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life. Parents have the right to request that their child be withdrawn from some or all of Sex Education delivered as part of statutory RSE. Parents should make this request to the headteacher, who will grant the request as a matter of course. A record of the parents’ decision and the discussion with the headteacher will be kept on the pupil’s educational record in line with GDPR.

Equality

In line with the Equality Act 2010, our RSE curriculum is inclusive and accessible to all individuals. We make reasonable adjustments to alleviate barriers to access or learning and are mindful of the SEND Code of Practice when planning for these subjects. High-quality teaching with appropriate scaffolds ensure that RSE can be accessed by all children.

Through a whole school approach, we foster healthy and respectful peer-to-peer communication and behaviour between boys and girls and provide an environment which challenges perceived limits on pupils based on their gender or any other characteristic. All teaching reflects the law as it applies to relationships, so that young people clearly understand what the law allows and does not allow. Regular staff training ensures that everyone understands that it is unlawful to discriminate against pupils because of their age, sex, race, disability, religion or beliefs or sexual orientation (protected characteristics).

In our school we take into account of the religious background of children and ensure that all topics included in the core content of Relationships Education are sensitively handled.

We are aware of issues such as everyday sexism, misogyny, homophobia and gender stereotypes and take positive action to build a culture where these are not tolerated and any occurrences are identified and tackled. We recognise that all staff have an important role to play in modelling positive behaviours. This is reflected in our Behaviour Policy and Preventing and Tackling Bullying Policy.

This Policy should be read in conjunction with:

Science National Curriculum Key Stage 2

SEND policy

Behaviour Policy

Preventing and Tackling Bullying Policy

Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

Teaching and Learning Policy

Equalities Statement