

'For With God Nothing is Impossible' Luke 1:37

Church Lench C E First School

RSE Policy 2024

At the heart of the school is our belief that 'with God nothing is impossible', which allows our children to have high aspirations and know that they are part of a loving family. We have a flexible, child-led, broad and balanced curriculum where every child can thrive in a happy, inclusive and safe environment.

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Definition of RSE:

RSE is learning accurate and age-appropriate skills, attitudes and knowledge about the body, reproduction, sex and sexual health. RSE also gives children and young people essential skills for building positive, enjoyable, respectful and non-exploitative relationships and staying safe both on and offline. Some aspects are taught in science, and others are taught as part of personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE).

Aims and Outcomes of RSE in the curriculum:

The overall aim of RSE is to foster a positive notion of lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development, including how to look after physical and mental health. It aims to support the development of self-respect and empathy for others and promotes the development of skills and understanding necessary to manage conflict peaceably and learn how to recognise and avoid exploitation and abuse.

RSE provides opportunities for pupils to:

- better understand the nature of human relationships
- learn about relationships, the importance of communication and assertiveness skills including the importance of values such as respect (for self and others), equality, responsibility, care and compassion
- reflect upon the importance of stable and loving relationships for family life, including the bringing up of children, this also includes marriage and civil partnerships
- consider and understand the changes that occur to their bodies, minds and emotions as a consequence of growth from childhood to adulthood
- reflect upon how to make good, informed and safe choices concerning relationships and healthy lifestyles.

Morals, Values, Equalities and Safeguarding

The RSE programme at Church Lench CE First School reflects our ethos, and demonstrates and promotes the following:

- Learn the value of respect, care and love
- Valuing family life within stable, loving and committed relationships
- Acceptance of same sex unions as also offering stable, loving and committed relationships to nurture children
- Respect for self and others

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- Respect for rights and responsibilities within relationships
- Appreciate that different, successful family structures exist
- Understanding diversity regarding religion, gender, culture and sexual orientation
- Importance of striving to reduce intolerance and discrimination based on sexual orientation, disability, ethnicity, religion and gender.
- Acceptance of difference and diversity
- Promote gender equality and equality in relationships
- Challenge gender stereotypes and inequality
- Develop spiritual, moral, social and cultural awareness in line with the 2010 Equality Act and the schools' safeguarding and child protection protocols.

How Relationships and Sex Education is organised in the curriculum.

RSE is not delivered in isolation, but firmly embedded in all curriculum areas including Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education and Science. At Church Lench CE First School, the main RSE content is delivered as part of a wider topic to provide a context for learning. Many aspects of RSE are taught throughout the year, whilst some specific age-related aspects are delivered at a pre-planned point during the year in order that parents are informed and can be involved in supporting their child.

RSE is normally delivered by class teachers in mixed gender groups.

Pupils are able to ask anonymous questions by writing a note in the worry box

Resources used are flexible in order to meet the needs of the pupils and curriculum.

Correct medical vocabulary will be used throughout the RSE and PSHE curriculum

RSE is delivered through a varied range of activities, which promote dialogue and understanding. These include: Circle time, active teaching and learning, role play/scenarios, card sorting and discussions. External agencies can be invited to support the delivery of RSE. These include: the school nurse and the police. External agencies and Visitors are familiar with and understand the school's RSE policy and safeguarding policy and work within these documents All input to RSE lessons is part of a planned programme and negotiated and agreed with staff in advance. All visitors are supervised/supported by a member of staff at all times. The input of visitors is monitored and evaluated by staff. This evaluation informs future planning.

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Parental involvement

Church Lench CE First School is committed to working with parents and believes that it is important to have the support of parents and the wider community for the PSHE and RSE programme. Parent views and opinions have been taken into consideration when writing this policy.

Parental rights to withdraw their children

Parents will not be able to withdraw their children from any aspect of Relationships Education or Health Education (which includes learning about the changing adolescent body and puberty). Parents will be able to withdraw their children from any aspects of Sex Education other than those which are part of the science curriculum. At Church Lench First School we will not be teaching any extra sex education that does not fall under the science or PSHE curriculum.

Pupil Involvement

We involve pupils in the development of the RSE curriculum through the Teaching and Learning approach, which promotes dialogue about feedback and learning, enabling teachers to monitor pupils' views. The RSE leader interviews random groups of pupils across the school as part of the monitoring and evaluation process.

How the school responds to specific issues related to Relationships and Sex Education Answering Difficult Questions

Staff are aware that views around RSE related issues are varied. However, while personal views are respected, all RSE issues are taught without bias. Topics are presented using a variety of views and beliefs so that pupils are able to form their own, informed opinions but also respect others who may have a different opinion. Both formal and informal RSE arising from pupils' questions are answered according to the age and maturity of the pupil(s) concerned and the limits of the year group topics. The school believes that individual teachers must use their skill and discretion in this area and refer to the Designated Safeguarding Lead if they are concerned or believe any pupil to be at risk.

How RSE is taught

RSE is taught in a safe, non-judgmental environment where adults and children are confident that they will be respected. Specific ground rules will be established at the beginning of the RSE work, in addition to those already used in the classroom. These rules include respecting the views of others, taking the time to listen to each other, not being judgemental and to have the right not to speak about a subject.

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Inclusion.

The RSE policy reflects and is in line with the schools' equal opportunities policy and the schools ensures that the RSE teaching programme is an inclusive one and is appropriate and relevant to all pupils, including those with SEN and disabilities. Teachers ensure that the content, approach and use of inclusive language reflect the diversity of the school community, and help all pupils feel valued and included, regardless of their gender, ability, disability, experiences and family background. RSE strives to meet the needs of all pupils and to answer appropriate questions and offer support to all pupils. Homophobic and transphobic references and homophobic and transphobic actions and bullying are not tolerated at Church Lench CE First School and are challenged and dealt with as part of our commitment to promoting inclusion, gender equality and preventing bullying.

Confidentiality and Child Protection Issues

As a general rule a child's confidentiality is maintained by the teacher or member of staff concerned. RSE discussions may prompt a pupil to disclose about related incidents; for example, FGM, Forced marriage, child exploitation or abuse. If the member of staff believes that the child is at risk or in danger or has concerns about any information disclosed, she/he talks to the named Designated Safeguarding Lead who takes action as laid down in the Child Protection Policy. All staff are familiar with the policy and know the identity of the member of staff with responsibility for Child Protection issues. The child concerned will be informed that confidentiality is being breached and reasons why. The child will be supported by staff throughout the process.

How the Relationships and Sex Education Programme is Monitored, Evaluated and Assessed

We ensure that all pupils have equal access to the RSE programme through a thorough process of monitoring, evaluation and assessment, which takes into consideration pupils' needs, maturity, age, ability and personal circumstances. Class teachers assess pupils' understanding and progress through formative and summative processes. These include pre- and post-topic mind maps, drawings, task outcomes, questioning and observation. At the end of the year each year group reviews the RSE programme they have implemented and pass on any comments to the RSE leader as part of her monitoring cycle. The RSE policy is reviewed on an annual basis taking into account the feedback from teaching staff, pupils and parents. Governors consider evaluations and recommendations before amending the policy. Governors remain ultimately responsible for the policy.

Professional Development for Staff

Staff are kept informed of developments in key aspects of RSE, including links with safeguarding, inclusion, equality, child protection and antibullying, through regular training provided at staff meetings and INSET days.

Links to other policies and advice

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This RSE Policy is supported by, but not limited to:

PSHE Policy

Behaviour Policy

Health and Safety Policy

Safeguarding/Child Protection Policy

School Visits

Confidentiality Policy

Equality Policy

Anti-bullying Policy

Intimate Care Policy

Relationship and Sex Education Guidance – DfE

Written September 2024

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