



**Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Learning Trust (DNDLT)**  
**Company Number 10847279**

**RSHE Policy 2023 - 24**

Policy Reviewed and Adopted by Board of Directors:

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Responsible Officer: M Piper

## Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Learning Trust Policy for Relationships, Sex Education and Health Education

### Vision Statement

"Every child matters and no child is ever left behind..."

"Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them;  
for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs."

Luke 18:15-17

School Name

School Logo

### DNDLT Vision Statement:

**At the heart of our vision is our commitment to ensure all of our schools are places where children and young people develop and thrive academically, socially, culturally and spiritually. The drive for excellence and effectiveness in our schools is paramount, but not merely because the Government says so. The enabling of every child to flourish in their potential as a child of God is a sign and expression of the Kingdom and is at the heart of the Trust's distinctive mission.**

### School vision Statement:

At St. Mary's C of E Primary School, we understand our responsibility to deliver a high-quality, age appropriate and evidence based relationships, sex and health curriculum for all of our pupils. This policy sets out the framework for our relationships, sex and health curriculum providing clarity on how it is informed and delivered, In developing this policy we have followed the principles in the Church of England Charter for faith sensitive and inclusive relationships education, relationships and sex education (RSE) and health education (RSHE) (Appendix 1)

The school is committed to making reasonable adjustments wherever possible to promote accessibility and inclusivity of the curriculum. The school understands that pupils with SEND or other needs (such as those with social, emotional or mental health needs) are entitled to learn about

relationships, sex and health education and the programme will be designed to be inclusive of all pupils.

### **Statement of Intent**

Statement of intent

At St. Mary's CE Primary, we will provide age-appropriate relationships and health education (RSHE) to all pupils as part of the school's statutory curriculum. Our school aims to assure parents and pupils that all aspects of RSHE will be delivered in a safe space, allowing time and compassion for questions at a level that every pupil understands. Sensitive topics relating to RSHE will be delivered in a sensitive manner as part of a whole-school approach where parents and teachers work in partnership.

RSHE is compulsory in all primary schools in England. The key topics applicable for all key stages have been carefully planned in consultation with responses from parents, young people, schools and experts. Parents are given the opportunity to discuss this policy at any time and staff will be provided with accurate training and further resources to deliver lessons to pupils.

We understand that pupils must be provided with an education that prepares them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life. A key part of this relates to relationships education, which is required to be delivered to every primary-aged pupil. Primary schools also have the option to decide whether pupils are taught sex education.

Relationships education focusses on giving pupils the knowledge they need to make informed decisions about their wellbeing, health and relationships, and ensures can talk to a trusted adult if there is anything worrying them. Health education focusses on equipping pupils with the knowledge they need to make informed decisions about their own health and ensures they receive factual information about the changes they will experience emotionally and physically during puberty.

We understand our responsibility to deliver a high-quality, age-appropriate and evidence-based relationships, sex and health education (RSHE) for all our pupils. This policy sets out the framework for our RSHE curriculum, providing clarity on how it is informed, organised and delivered. Any sex education included within the curriculum consists of age-appropriate content which covers how babies are conceived and how they are born. Sex education does not go above and beyond the focus of reproduction. State-funded primary schools are also required to teach health education.

### **Legal framework**

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- **Section 80A of the Education Act 2002**
- **Equality Act 2010**
- **Children and Social Work Act 2017**
- **The Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education (England) Regulations 2019**
- **DfE (2013) 'Science programmes of study: key stages 1 and 2'**

- DfE (2019) 'Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education'
- DfE (2021) 'Teaching about relationships, sex and health'
- DfE (2023) 'Keeping children safe in education 2023'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- SEND Policy
- Inclusion Policy
- Pupil Equality, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Policy
- Staff Equality, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Policy
- Child-on-child Abuse Policy
- Pupil Confidentiality Policy
- Anti-bullying Policy
- Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) Policy
- Online Safety Policy
- Visitor Policy
- School Improvement Plan (SIP)

### Definitions

For the purposes of this policy "**Relationships and sex education**" is defined as teaching pupils about healthy, respectful relationships, focusing on family and friendships, in all contexts, including online, as well as developing an understanding of human sexuality.

For the purpose of this policy "**Health education**" is defined as teaching pupils about physical health and mental wellbeing, focusing on recognising the link between the two and being able to make healthy lifestyle choices.

### Roles and Responsibilities

**The Academy Council is responsible for:**

- Playing an active role in monitoring, developing and reviewing the policy and its implementation in school.
- Appointing a link governor for RSHE who supports the school and monitors any aspects of RSHE included within the SIP.
- Ensuring all pupils make progress in achieving the expected educational outcomes.
- Ensuring the curriculum is well led, effectively managed and well planned.
- Evaluating the quality of provision through regular and effective self-evaluation.
- Ensuring teaching is delivered in ways that are accessible to all pupils with SEND.
- Providing clear information for parents on subject content and their rights to request that their children are withdrawn.

- Making sure the subjects are resourced, staffed and timetabled in a way that ensures the school can fulfil its legal obligations.
- Ensuring the religious ethos of the school is maintained and developed through the subjects.
- Creating and keeping up-to-date a separate written statement of this policy and ensuring the statement is published on the school's website and provided free of charge to anyone who requests it.
- Ensuring that all staff receive ongoing training on issues relating to PSHE and RSHE and how to deliver lessons on such issues.
- Ensuring that all staff are up to date with policy changes, and familiar with school policy and guidance relating to RSHE.

**The Head teacher is responsible for:**

- The overall implementation of this policy.
- Ensuring adequate time on school timetable to deliver RSHE as a statutory curriculum subject.
- Providing support to staff members who feel uncomfortable or ill-equipped to deal with the delivery of RSHE to pupils; for example, if staff do not feel that their training has been adequate or that aspects of the curriculum conflict with their religious beliefs.
- Ensuring that parents are fully informed of this policy and the RSHE resources are available to parents beforehand.
- Reviewing requests from parents to withdraw their children from the subjects.
- Discussing requests for withdrawal with parents.
- Organising alternative education for pupils, where necessary, that is appropriate and purposeful.
- Reporting to the governing board on the effectiveness of this policy.
- Reviewing this policy on an annual basis.

**The relationships, sex and health education subject leader is responsible for:**

- Overseeing the delivery of the subjects.
- Ensuring that staff values and attitudes will not prevent them from providing a balanced RSHE in school.
- Providing the agreed vocabulary to be used during the lessons to ensure a consistent approach.
- Ensuring the subjects are age-appropriate and high-quality.
- Ensuring teachers are provided with adequate resources to support teaching of the subjects.
- Ensuring the school meets its statutory requirements in relation to the relationships, [sex] and health curriculum.
- Ensuring the relationships, [sex] and health curriculum is inclusive and accessible for all pupils.
- Working with other subject leaders to ensure the relationships, [sex] and health curriculum complements, but does not duplicate, the content covered in the national curriculum.
- Liaising and working in partnership with parents and carers to support further conversations at home and to share the resources ahead of teaching upon request.

- Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the subjects and providing reports to the headteacher.

**The appropriate teachers are responsible for:**

- Delivering a high-quality and age-appropriate relationships, [sex] and health curriculum in line with statutory requirements.
- Using a variety of teaching methods and resources to provide an engaging curriculum that meets the needs of all pupils.
- Ensuring they do not express personal views or beliefs when delivering the programme.
- Modelling positive attitudes to relationships, [sex] and health education.
- Responding to any safeguarding concerns in line with the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.
- Acting in accordance with planning, monitoring and assessment requirements for the subjects.
- Liaising with the SENCO to identify and respond to individual needs of pupils with SEND.
- Liaising with the School Nurse, where appropriate, to support the delivery of the curriculum.
- Working with the relationships, [sex] and health education subject leader to evaluate the quality of provision.

**The SENCO is responsible for:**

- Advising teaching staff how best to identify and support pupils' individual needs.
- Advising staff on the use of TAs in order to meet pupils' individual needs.
- Ensuring that the needs of vulnerable pupils are taken into consideration in designing and teaching these subjects.

**The appropriate teachers are responsible for:**

- Delivering a high-quality and age-appropriate relationships and health curriculum in line with statutory requirements.
- Using a variety of teaching methods and resources to provide an engaging curriculum that meets the needs of all pupils.
- Ensuring they do not express personal views or beliefs when delivering the programme.
- Modelling positive attitudes to relationships, sex and health.
- Responding to any safeguarding concerns in line with the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.
- Acting in accordance with planning, monitoring and assessment requirements for the subjects.
- Liaising with the SENCO to identify and respond to individual needs of pupils with SEND.
- Working with the RSHE subject leader to evaluate the quality of provision.

In line with the responsibilities outlined in the list above, the teachers who will be delivering RSHE are outlined below:

Name	Job title
Ms Heaney	Year 5 and 6 Teacher
Mrs Corcoran	Well-being Lead and HLTA
Miss Coates and Mrs Tweddle	Year 3 and 4 Teacher
Mrs Saunderson-Darkes	Year 1 and 2 Teacher
Miss Carney and Mrs Green	Nursery and Reception Teacher

**Parents are responsible for:**

- Enabling their children to grow and mature and to form healthy relationships.
- Supporting their children through their personal development and the emotional and physical aspects of growing up.
- Ensuring that they are aware of aspects of the curriculum, including when it is going to be delivered and the content.
- Supporting their children’s personal, social and emotional development, by working with the school to create an open home environment where pupils can engage, discuss and continue to learn about matters that have been raised through school PSHE.
- Seeking additional support in this from the school where they feel it is needed.

The school aims to build positive relationships with parents/ carers. The school will share the planned curriculum and resources with parents / carers. The school welcomes parents in to school who wish to discuss any concerns, and to support parents / carers in managing conversations with their children on the issues covered by the curriculum. Parents / carers will also be consulted in the review of this policy and encouraged to provide their views at any time.

**Safeguarding**

- a. Due to the nature of the matters discussed in RSHE, there may be a higher likelihood for safeguarding concerns to arise or be disclosed by pupils. In line with the school’s Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy, all staff will be aware of the indicators and risks of a range of safeguarding issues, including child-on-child abuse, and will follow the appropriate procedures should a safeguarding concern be disclosed.
- b. There is an element of RSHE in pastoral care, so the school will ensure that PSHE and pastoral care teams work together to help pupils feel comfortable indicating that they may be vulnerable and at risk.
- c. RSHE lessons will encourage pupils to discuss the issues raised in the lesson with a member of staff if they wish to do so. Pupils will also be made aware of how to raise concerns or make reports about potential safeguarding issues, and how reports will be handled. This also includes concerns and reports about a friend or peer.

**Where beneficial, the DSL or deputy DSL will be involved in the development of safeguarding-related elements of the RSHE curriculum**

**Curriculum organisation**

At St Mary's C of E Primary School, we have designed an aspirational curriculum with pupils' learning at the centre. We do not tolerate discrimination of any kind and our curriculum celebrates the diverse nature of our society, enabling pupils to embrace the world around them encouraging adherence with the fundamental British values. It also promotes the spiritual, moral, social, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at our school and of society through our core Christian Values of: Love, Trust and Hope.

We will take into account local health profiles of children and young people within the catchment area of the school, which can help to identify local priorities in the curriculum

The delivery of the relationships education and health education coincide with one another and will be delivered as part of the school's PSHE curriculum.

We will use direct teaching via timetabled lessons to teach RSHE. Pupils will be taught RSHE through a range of teaching and learning styles, including active techniques such as discussion and group work. Pupils' opinions and questions, unless inappropriate, will be responded to respectfully by teachers.

RSHE lessons will be tailored to the pupils being taught, with consideration of:

- Pupils' ability.
- Pupils' age.
- Pupils' current knowledge on and readiness to learn about the topic being covered.
- Pupils' cultural backgrounds.
- Pupils with EAL.
- Pupils with SEND or other needs.

The relationships and health curriculum has been organised in line with the statutory requirements outlined in the DfE (2019) 'Relationships, Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education' guidance

The relationships and health curriculum takes into account the views of teachers, pupils and parents. We are dedicated to ensuring our curriculum meets the needs of the whole-school community.

The relationships and health curriculum is informed by issues in the school and wider community to ensure it is tailored to pupil's wider needs and we have consulted with parents, pupils and staff on the development of this policy in line with section 12 of this policy.

Any parent, teacher or pupil wishing to provide feedback about the curriculum can do so at any time during the academic year by contacting the Head Teacher.

When organising the curriculum, the religious backgrounds of all pupils will be considered, so that the topics that are covered are taught appropriately.



An overview of Relationships Education and what pupils will know by the end of primary school is at Appendix 2. An overview of Health Education and what pupils will know by the end of primary school is at Appendix 3.

The school is free to determine within the statutory curriculum content outlined in Appendix 2 what pupils are taught during each year group and the school always considers the age and development of pupils when deciding what will be taught in each year group. A summary of the content that will be taught during each Year Group is outlined at Appendix 4.

**Every primary school is required to deliver statutory relationships education and health education. The delivery of the relationships education and of health education coincide with one another and will be delivered as part of the school's PSHE curriculum.**

For the purpose of this policy:

- "Relationships education" is defined as teaching pupils about healthy, respectful relationships, focussing on family and friendships, in all contexts, including online.
- "Health education" is defined as teaching pupils about physical health and mental wellbeing, focussing on recognising the link between the two and being able to make healthy lifestyle choices.
- "Sex education" is defined as teaching pupils about developing healthy sexuality, and will cover issues, beyond those covered in the science and health curricula, that will be determined in response to the needs of the relevant cohort.

The relationships and health curriculum takes into account the views of teachers, pupils and parents. The school has organised a curriculum that is appropriate for the age and developmental stages of pupils within each year group. When organising the curriculum, the religious backgrounds of all pupils will be considered, so that the topics that are covered are taught appropriately.

The school is dedicated to ensuring our curriculum meets the needs of the whole-school community; therefore, the curriculum is informed by issues in the school and wider community to ensure it is tailored to pupils' needs. For example, if there were to be a local prevalence of specific sexually transmitted infections, our curriculum would be tailored to address this issue.

The school will consult with parents, pupils and staff in the following ways:

- Questionnaires and surveys
- Meetings
- Newsletters and letters
- Training sessions

Any parent, teacher or pupil wishing to provide feedback about the curriculum can do so at any time during the academic year by:

Organising a meeting with the RSHE leader and / or the headteacher.

Emailing: [offcie@stmaryscephprimary.co.uk](mailto:offcie@stmaryscephprimary.co.uk)

An overview of Relationships Education and what pupils will know by the end of primary school is at Appendix 2. An overview of Health Education and what pupils will know by the end of primary school is at Appendix 3.

The school is free to determine within the statutory curriculum content outlined in Appendix 2 what pupils are taught during each year group and the school always considers the age and development of pupils when deciding what will be taught in each year group. A summary of the content that will be taught during each Year Group is outlined at Appendix 4.

### **Sex Education**

The DfE recommends that *all* primary schools should have a sex education programme in place. This should be tailored to the age, and physical and emotional maturity of pupils, and should ensure that boys and girls are prepared for the changes that adolescence brings, drawing on knowledge of the human life cycle.

All pupils must be taught the aspects of sex education outlined in the primary science curriculum – this includes teaching about the main external parts of the human body, how it changes as it grows from birth to old age, including puberty, and the reproductive process in some plants and animals.

At our school, we teach pupils sex education beyond what is required of the science curriculum.

Parents are consulted on the organisation and delivery of our sex education curriculum in accordance with section 6 and section 12 of this policy and are given the opportunity to feedback on what should be taught through sex education.

The age and development of pupils is always considered when delivering sex education.

A summary of the content that is currently taught during each Year Group is outlined at Appendix 5.

### **Consultation with parents**

The school understands the important role parents play in enhancing their children's understanding of relationships and health and how important parents' views are in shaping the curriculum. The school will provide parents with frequent opportunities to understand and ask questions about the school's approach to RSHE.

The school will consult closely with parents when reviewing the content of the school's RSHE curriculum and will give them regular opportunities to voice their opinions. The school will use the views of parents to inform decisions made about the curriculum content and delivery; however, parents will not be granted a 'veto' on curriculum content, and all final decisions will be made by school. The school will permit parents access to all curriculum materials and the school will not enter into contracts with outside providers that seek to prevent parents from seeing materials.

Parents will be provided with the following information:

- The content of the relationships and health curriculum

- The delivery of the relationships and health curriculum, including what is taught in each year group
- The legalities surrounding withdrawing their child from the subjects
- The resources that will be used to support the curriculum

The school will work closely with parents in reviewing the sex education curriculum and will consult with them annually with regard to what is covered.

The school aims to build positive relationships with parents. We welcome parents / carers into school if they would like to discuss what will be taught, address any concerns, and help parents in managing conversations with their children on the issues covered by the curriculum. Parents will also be consulted in the review of this policy and encouraged to provide their views at any time.

### **Delivery of the curriculum**

The relationships and health curriculum will be delivered as part of our PSHE curriculum.

The school will ensure that keeping children safe and preventative education remain at the heart of PSHE subjects.

Sex education will be delivered through the science curriculum and the PSHE curriculum.

Through effective organisation and delivery of the subject, the school will ensure that:

- Core knowledge is sectioned into units of manageable size.
- The required content is communicated to pupils clearly, in a carefully sequenced way, within a planned scheme of work.
- Teaching includes sufficient and well-chosen opportunities and contexts for pupils to embed new knowledge so that it can be used confidently in real-life situations.

The curriculum is delivered proactively, such that it addresses issues in a timely way in line with current evidence on children's physical, emotional development. The school will ensure that all teaching and materials are appropriate for the ages of the pupils, their religious backgrounds, their developmental stages and any additional needs, such as SEND. Lesson plans will provide appropriate challenge for pupils and be differentiated for pupils' needs.

### **Curriculum organisation**

Pupils will receive their entitlement for learning PSHE through a spiral curriculum which demonstrates progression. The RSHE programme is delivered through a variety of opportunities including:

- Designated PSHE time as part of a spiral curriculum
- Circle time
- Use of external agencies and/or services
- School vision
- Small group work
- Cross curricular links
- Enrichment days and weeks

- Residential trips

We are currently using the following resources to support our curriculum:

- SCARF
- NSPCC
- PSHE Association

### **Terminology**

In recognition of the fact that the use of code names for body parts can facilitate the normalisation of child sexual abuse, teaching staff will use and teach pupils the anatomically correct names for body parts.

### **Dealing with difficult questions**

The school will support teaching staff to feel comfortable to answer questions from pupils, by providing regular CPD training in how to deliver sex education, including sessions on confidentiality, setting ground rules, handling controversial issues, responding to 'awkward' questions and an introduction to the rationale of why teaching RSHE is so important. The school will encourage teaching staff to refer questions they feel ill-equipped to answer to the RSHE subject leader for advice or support in handling the question.

Teachers will stop full class discussions where pupils begin to reveal personal, private information related to sensitive issues. If teachers feel concerned about anything shared by a pupil, they will follow the appropriate response as laid out in the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

The programme will be designed to incorporate all pupils, and activities will be planned to ensure all are actively involved.

Teachers will focus heavily on the importance of healthy relationships, though sensitivity will always be given as to not stigmatise pupils based on their home circumstances.

We will undertake informal assessments to determine pupil progress – these include the following:

- Written/Drawing assignments
- Group presentations
- Group tasks
- Projects

### **Working with external experts**

The school may invite guest speakers into school to talk on issues related to RSHE, e.g. an expert or experienced health professional who can challenge pupil's perceptions. A teacher will be present throughout these lessons.

Visitors will be given a copy of this policy and expected to comply with the guidelines outlined within it. All resources used by guest speakers will be available to parents to view prior to lesson delivery.

Before delivering the session, the school will:

- Ensure the lesson the external expert has planned fits with the school's planned curriculum and this policy.
- Ensure the expert's credentials are checked before they are able to participate in delivery of the curriculum, in line with the Visitor Policy.
- Discuss the details of the expert's lesson plan and ensure that the content is age-appropriate and accessible for the pupils.
- Ask to see the materials the expert intends to use, as well as a copy of the lesson plan, to ensure it meets all pupils' needs, including those with SEND.
- Agree with the expert the procedures for confidentiality, ensuring that the expert understands how safeguarding reports should be dealt with in line with the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

#### **Links with other curriculum areas**

The school seeks opportunities to draw links between RSHE and other curriculum subjects wherever possible to enhance pupils' learning. RSHE will be linked to the following subjects in particular:

**Science** – pupils learn about the main external parts of the body and changes to the body as it grows from birth to old age, including puberty.

**Computing and ICT** – pupils learn about e-safety, including how to use technology safely, responsibly, respectfully and securely, how to keep personal information private and how to access help and support.

**PE** – pupils explore various physical activities, are physically active for sustained periods of time, engage in competitive sport and understand how exercise can lead to healthier lifestyles.

**Citizenship** – pupils learn about the requirements of the law, their responsibilities and the possible consequences of their actions.

**PSHE** – pupils learn about respect and difference, values and characteristics of individuals.

#### **Withdrawing from the subjects**

RSHE are statutory at primary and parents do not have the right to withdraw their child from the subjects.

As sex education is not statutory at primary level, other than what must be taught as part of the science curriculum, parents have the right to request to withdraw their child from all or part of the sex education curriculum.

The headteacher will automatically grant a parent's request to withdraw their child from sex education, other than the content that must be taught as part of the science curriculum; however, the headteacher will discuss the request with the parent and, if appropriate, their child, to ensure that their wishes are understood and to clarify the nature and purpose of the curriculum. The headteacher will discuss with the parent, the benefits or receiving this important education and any adverse effects that withdrawal may have on the pupil – this could include, for example, social and emotional effects of being excluded.

The headteacher will keep a record of the discussion between themselves, the pupil and the parent. The parent will be informed in writing of the headteacher's decision.

Where a pupil is withdrawn from sex education, the headteacher will ensure that the pupil receives appropriate alternative education.

Where there is shared parental responsibility, both parties should, where possible, reach a shared agreement to request that their child is withdrawn from sex education.

### **Behaviour**

The school aims to foster a culture based on mutual respect and understanding for one another, and as such, has a zero-tolerance approach to bullying. Any bullying incidents caused as a result of the RSHE programme, such as those relating to sexual orientation, will be dealt with as seriously as other bullying incidents within the school. Any occurrence of these incidents will be reported to a member of school staff, who will then discipline the pupil once they are on school premises. These incidents will be dealt with following the processes in our Behaviour Policy and Anti-bullying Policy. The headteacher will decide whether it is appropriate to notify the police or an anti-social behaviour coordinator in their LA of the action taken against a pupil.

### **Staff training**

All staff members at the school will undergo training on a termly basis to ensure they are up-to-date with the RSHE programme and associated issues. Members of staff responsible for teaching the subjects will undergo further training on a termly basis, led by the RSHE subject leader, to ensure they are fully equipped to teach the subjects effectively.

Training of staff will also be scheduled around any updated guidance on the programme and any new developments, such as 'sexting', which may need to be addressed in relation to the programme.

The DfE training modules provide some examples of good practice and approaches to support staff preparing to teach about individual subjects.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/teaching-about-relationships-sex-and-health&train-teachers-on-relationships-sex-and-health-education>

### **Confidentiality**

The school will aim to provide a safe and supportive school community where pupils feel comfortable seeking help and guidance on anything that may be concerning them about life either at school or at home. Training around confidentiality will be provided to all teachers.

It may be the case that discussion around what is acceptable and not acceptable in relationships may lead to the disclosure of a child protection issue. If this is the case, the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy should be followed.

Pupils will be informed prior to delivery of RSHE lessons that confidentiality will remain unless school staff feel that a child is at risk of harm. This information will need to be passed on to the DSL and the pupils will be informed of the procedure. Staff who breach the right to a child's privacy by disclosing or sharing confidential information with no reason to do so will be dealt with under the school's Disciplinary Policy and Procedure.

### **Quality of education**

The RSHE subject leader is responsible for monitoring the quality of teaching and learning for the subjects. They will conduct subject assessments on a termly basis, which will include a mixture of the following:

- Self-evaluations
- Lesson observations
- Topic feedback forms
- Learning walks
- Work scrutiny
- Lesson planning scrutiny

The RSHE subject leader will create annual subject reports for the headteacher and governing board to report on the quality of the subjects. They will also work regularly and consistently with the headteacher and RSHE link governor, e.g. through monthly review meetings, to evaluate the effectiveness of the subjects and implement any changes.

### **Monitoring and review**

The academy council is responsible for approving this policy.

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis by the RSHE subject leader and headteacher. The next scheduled review date for this policy is **November 2024**. This policy will also be reviewed in light of any changes to statutory guidance; feedback from parents, staff or pupils; and issues in the school or local area that may need addressing.

Any changes made to this policy will be communicated to all staff, parents and, where necessary, pupils.

<b>Policy Agreed by Governors</b>	<b>November 2023</b>
<b>Review Date</b>	<b>November 2024</b>

**Link Governor**

**Matt Levinsolm**



## Appendix 1

### **A CHARTER FOR FAITH SENSITIVE AND INCLUSIVE RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION, RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION (RSE) AND HEALTH EDUCATION (RSHE)<sup>1</sup>**

In The Durham Diocesan MAT we seek to provide Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education (RSHE), which will enable all pupils to flourish.

#### **We commit:**

1. **To work in partnership with parents and carers.** This will involve dialogue with parents and carers through all stages of policy development as well as discussing the resources used to teach their children and how they can contribute at home. It must, however, be recognised that the law specifies that what is taught and how it is taught is ultimately a decision for the school.
2. **That RSHE will be delivered professionally and as an identifiable part of PSHE.** It will be led, resourced and reported to parents in the same way as any other subject. There will be a planned programme delivered in a carefully sequenced way. Staff will receive regular training in RSHE and PSHE. Any expert visitors or trainers invited into the school to enhance and supplement the programme will be expected to respect the schools published policy for RSHE.
3. **That RSHE will be delivered in a way that affords dignity and shows respect to all who make up our diverse community.** It will not discriminate against any of the protected characteristics in the Equality Act<sup>2</sup> and will be sensitive to the faith and beliefs of those in the wider school community. RSHE will seek to explain fairly the tenets and varying interpretations of religious communities on matters of sex and relationships and teach these viewpoints with respect. It will value the importance of faithfulness as the underpinning and backdrop for relationships. It will encourage pupils to develop the skills needed to disagree without being disagreeable, to appreciate the lived experience of other people and to live well together.
4. **That RSHE will seek to build resilience in our pupils to help them form healthy relationships, to keep themselves safe and resist the harmful influence of pornography in all its forms.** It will give pupils opportunities to reflect on values and influences including their peers, the media, the internet, faith and culture that may have shaped their attitudes to gender, relationships and sex. It will promote the development of the wisdom and skills our pupils need to make their own informed decisions.
5. **That RSHE will promote healthy resilient relationships set in the context of character and virtue development.** It will reflect the vision and associated values of the school, promote reverence for the gift of human sexuality and encourage relationships that are hopeful and

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<sup>1</sup> RSHE is used to indicate either Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education as determined by the school context since, after consultation with parents and carers primary schools may decide to include elements of sex education in their curriculum.

<sup>2</sup> The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership and pregnancy and maternity.

aspirational. Based on the school's values it will seek to develop character within a moral framework based on virtues such as honesty, integrity, self-control, courage, humility, kindness, forgiveness, generosity and a sense of justice but does not seek to teach only one moral position.

6. **That RSHE will be based on honest and medically accurate information from reliable sources of information, including about the law and legal rights.** It will distinguish between different types of knowledge and opinions so that pupils can learn about their bodies and sexual and reproductive health as appropriate to their age and maturity.
7. **To take a particular care to meet the individual needs of all pupils including those with special needs and disabilities.** It will ensure that lessons and any resources used will be accessible and sensitive to the learning needs of the individual child. We acknowledge the potential vulnerability of pupils who have special needs and disabilities (SEND) and recognise the possibilities and rights of SEND pupils to high quality relationships and sex education.
8. **To seek pupils' views about RSHE so that the teaching can be made relevant to their lives.** It will discuss real life issues relating to the age and stage of pupils, including friendships, families, faith, consent, relationship abuse, exploitation and safe relationships online. This will be carefully targeted and age appropriate based on a teacher judgment about pupil readiness for this information in consultation with parents and carers.

## **Appendix 2**

### **Relationships education overview**

#### **Early Years Foundation Stage**

##### **Personal, Social and Emotional Development**

Children's personal, social and emotional development (PSED) is crucial for children to lead healthy and happy lives, and is fundamental to their cognitive development. Underpinning their personal development are the important attachments that shape their social world. Strong, warm and supportive relationships with adults enable children to learn how to understand their own feelings and those of others.

Children should be supported to manage emotions, develop a positive sense of self, set themselves simple goals, have confidence in their own abilities, to persist and wait for what they want and direct attention as necessary. Through adult modelling and guidance, they will learn how to look after their bodies, including healthy eating, and manage personal needs independently. Through supported interaction with other children they learn how to make good friendships, co-operate and resolve conflicts peaceably. These attributes will provide a secure platform from which children can achieve at school and in later life.

##### **Development Matters Non-statutory curriculum guidance for the early years foundation stage 2021**

##### **Families and people who care for me**

By the end of primary school, pupils will know:

1. That families are important for them growing up because they can give love, security and stability.
2. The characteristics of healthy family life, commitment to each other, including in times of difficulty, protection and care for children and other family members, the importance of spending time together and sharing each other's lives.
3. That others' families, either in school or in the wider world, sometimes look different from their family, but that they should respect those differences and know that other children's families are also characterised by love and care.
4. That stable, caring relationships, which may be of different types, are at the heart of happy families, and are important for children's security as they grow up.
5. That marriage represents a formal and legally recognised commitment of two people to each other which is intended to be lifelong.
6. How to recognise if family relationships are making them feel unhappy or unsafe, and how to seek help or advice from others if needed.

##### **Caring friendships**

By the end of primary school, pupils will know:

7. How important friendships are in making us feel happy and secure, and how people choose and make friends.

8. The characteristics of friendships, including mutual respect, truthfulness, trustworthiness, loyalty, kindness, generosity, trust, sharing interests and experiences, and support with problems and difficulties.
9. That healthy friendships are positive and welcoming towards others, and do not make others feel lonely or excluded.
10. That most friendships have ups and downs, but that these can often be worked through so that the friendship is repaired or even strengthened, and that resorting to violence is never right.
11. How to recognise who to trust and who not to trust.
12. How to judge when a friendship is making them feel unhappy or uncomfortable.
13. How to manage conflict.
14. How to manage different situations and how to seek help from others if needed.

### **Respectful relationships**

By the end of primary school, pupils will know:

15. The importance of respecting others, even when they are very different from them (for example, physically, in character, personality or backgrounds), make different choices, or have different preferences or beliefs.
16. Which practical steps they can take in a range of different contexts to improve or support respectful relationships.
17. The conventions of courtesy and manners.
18. The importance of self-respect and how this links to their own happiness.
19. That in school and wider society they can expect to be treated with respect by others, and that in turn they should show due respect to others, including those in positions of authority.
20. About the different types of bullying (including cyberbullying), the impact of bullying, responsibilities of bystanders to report bullying to an adult, and how to seek help.
21. What a stereotype is, and how they can be unfair, negative or destructive.
22. The importance of permission-seeking and giving in relationships with friends, peers and adults.

### **Online relationships**

By the end of primary school, pupils will know:

23. That people sometimes behave differently online, including pretending to be someone they are not.
24. That the same principles apply to online relationships as to face-to-face relationships, including the importance of respect for others online, even when we are anonymous.
25. The rules and principles for keeping safe online.
26. How to recognise harmful content and contact online, and how to report these.
27. How to critically consider their online friendships and sources of information.
28. The risks associated with people they have never met.
29. How information and data is shared and used online.

### **Being safe**

By the end of primary school, pupils will know:

30. What sorts of boundaries are appropriate in friendships with peers and others – including in a digital context.
31. About the concept of privacy and the implications of it for both children and adults.
32. That it is not always right to keep secrets if they relate to being safe.
33. That each person's body belongs to them, and the differences between appropriate and inappropriate or unsafe physical, and other, contact.
34. How to respond safely and appropriately to adults they may encounter (in all contexts, including online) who they do not know.
35. How to recognise and report feelings of being unsafe or feeling bad about any adult.
36. How to ask for advice or help for themselves and others, and to keep trying until they are heard.
37. How to report concerns or abuse, and the vocabulary and confidence needed to do so.
38. Where to seek advice, for example, from their family, their school and other sources.

## **Appendix 3**

### **Health education overview**

The focus at primary level is teaching the characteristics of good physical health and mental wellbeing.

#### **Mental wellbeing**

By the end of primary school pupils will know:

39. That mental wellbeing is a normal part of daily life, in the same way as physical health.
40. That there is a normal range of emotions, e.g. happiness, sadness, anger, fear, surprise and nervousness.
41. The scale of emotions that humans experience in response to different experiences and situations.
42. How to recognise and talk about their emotions, including having a varied vocabulary of words to use when talking about their own and others' feelings.
43. How to judge whether what they are feeling and how they are behaving is appropriate and proportionate.
44. The benefits of physical exercise, time outdoors, community participation, and voluntary and service-based activity on mental wellbeing and happiness.
45. Simple self-care techniques, including the importance of rest, time spent with friends and family, and the benefits of hobbies and interests.
46. How isolation and loneliness can affect children and that it is very important they discuss their feelings with an adult and seek support.
47. That bullying (including cyberbullying) has a negative and often lasting impact on mental wellbeing.
48. Where and how to seek support (including recognising the triggers for seeking support), extending to who in school they should speak to if they are worried about themselves or others.
49. That it is common to experience mental ill health and, for the many people who do, the problems can be resolved if the right support is made available, especially if accessed early enough.

#### **Internet safety and harms**

By the end of primary school, pupils will know:

50. That for most people, the internet is an integral part of life and has many benefits.
51. About the benefits of rationing time spent online.
52. The risks of excessive time spent on electronic devices.
53. The impact of positive and negative content online on their own and others' mental and physical wellbeing.
54. How to consider the effect of their online actions on others.
55. How to recognise and display respectful behaviour online.
56. The importance of keeping personal information private.
57. Why social media, some computer games and online gaming, for example, are age-restricted.
58. That the internet can also be a negative place where online abuse, trolling, bullying and harassment can take place, which can have a negative impact on mental health.

59. How to be a discerning consumer of information online, including understanding that information (inclusive of that from search engines) is ranked, selected and targeted.
60. Where and how to report concerns and get support with issues online.

### **Physical health and fitness**

By the end of primary school, pupils will know:

61. The characteristics and mental and physical benefits of an active lifestyle.
62. The importance of building regular exercise into daily and weekly routines and how to achieve this, for example by walking or cycling to school, a daily active mile, or other forms of regular, vigorous exercise.
63. The risks associated with an inactive lifestyle, including obesity.
64. How and when to seek support, including which adults to speak to in school if they are worried about their health.

### **Healthy eating**

By the end of primary school, pupils will know:

65. What constitutes a healthy diet, including an understanding of calories and other nutritional content.
66. The principles of planning and preparing a range of healthy meals.
67. The characteristics of a poor diet and risks associated with unhealthy eating, including obesity, and other behaviours, e.g. the impact of alcohol on diet or health.

### **Drugs alcohol and tobacco**

By the end of primary school, pupils will know:

68. The facts about legal and illegal harmful substances and associated risks, including smoking, alcohol use and drug-taking.

### **Health and prevention**

By the end of primary school, pupils will know:

69. How to recognise early signs of physical illness, such as weight loss or unexplained changes to the body.
70. About safe and unsafe exposure to the sun, and how to reduce the risk of sun damage, including skin cancer.
71. The importance of sufficient good-quality sleep for good health, and that a lack of sleep can affect weight, mood and ability to learn.
72. About dental health and the benefits of good oral hygiene and dental flossing, including regular check-ups at the dentist.
73. About personal hygiene and germs including bacteria and viruses, how they are spread and treated, and the importance of hand washing.

74. The facts and science relating to immunisation and vaccination.

### **Basic first aid**

By the end of primary school, pupils will know:

75. How to make a clear and efficient call to emergency services if necessary.

76. Concepts of basic first-aid, for example dealing with common injuries, including head injuries.

### **Changing adolescent body**

By the end of primary school, pupils will know:

77. Key facts about puberty and the changing adolescent body, particularly from age 9 through to age 11, including physical and emotional changes.

78. About menstrual wellbeing and key facts relating to the menstrual cycle.



## **Appendix 4**

### **Outline of Relationships Education, Sex Education and Health Education per year group.**

The school plans a progressive curriculum, topics are built upon prior knowledge taught in previous years as they progress through school to provide a smooth transition to secondary school.

We will deliver a carefully sequenced and coherent curriculum, by:

- identifying the essential concepts, knowledge, skills and principles of the subject and providing an opportunity for all pupils to learn and master these critical components
- ensuring pupils' thinking is focused on key ideas within the subject
- working with experienced colleagues to accumulate and refine a collection of powerful analogies, illustrations, examples, explanations and demonstrations
- using resources and materials aligned with the school curriculum (for example, printed or online textbooks or shared resources designed by experienced colleagues that carefully sequence content)
- being aware of common misconceptions and discussing with experienced colleagues how to help pupils master important concepts.

### **Ensuring content is appropriate**

The safety of children is of paramount importance in school.

Teachers should be aware of age inappropriate material on the internet. Great caution should be exercised before setting any assignment, in class or at home, that involves researching a subject where there is a high risk that a child could accidentally be exposed to age inappropriate material, such as pornography. Particularly at primary level, teachers should be careful not to expose children to over-sexualised content.

Knowledge about safer sex and sexual health is important to ensure that young people are equipped to make safe, informed and healthy choices. This should be delivered in a non-judgemental, factual way and allow scope for young people to ask questions in a safe environment. Schools have the freedom to develop an age-appropriate, developmental curriculum which meets the needs of their young people, in consultation with parents and the local community.

Teachers will be mindful of the law and legal requirements and be careful not to condone or encourage illegal political activity or the use of illegal drugs.

We are aware that topics involving gender and biological sex can be complex and sensitive matters to navigate. We will not reinforce harmful stereotypes, for instance by suggesting that children might be a different gender based on their personality and interests or the clothes they prefer to wear. Resources used in teaching about this topic must always be age-appropriate and

evidence based. Materials which suggest that non-conformity to gender stereotypes should be seen as synonymous with having a different gender identity will not be used and we will not work with external agencies or organisations that produce such material. While teachers should not suggest to a child that their non-compliance with gender stereotypes means that either their personality or their body is wrong and in need of changing, teachers should always seek to treat individual students with sympathy and support.

A summary of the content that is currently taught during each Year Group is including in the **DNDLT Programme of Study for Relationships Education, Sex Education and Health Education (available on our website)**

## **Appendix 5**

### **Right to be excused from sex education (commonly referred to as the right to withdraw)**

'It is important that the transition phase before moving to secondary school supports pupils' ongoing emotional and physical development effectively. The Department (of Education) continues to **recommend therefore that all primary schools should have a sex education programme tailored to the age and the 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.'

### **Statutory guidance, Relationships education (Primary), Updated 25 July 2019**

Parents and carers have the right to request that their child be withdrawn from some or all of sex education delivered as part of statutory RSE. Before granting any such request it would be good practice for the headteacher to discuss the request with parents and, as appropriate, with the child to ensure that their wishes are understood and to clarify the nature and purpose of the curriculum. Schools will want to document this process to ensure a record is kept.

Good practice is also likely to include the headteacher discussing with parents and carers the benefits of receiving this important education and any detrimental effects that withdrawal might have on the child. This could include any social and emotional effects of being excluded, as well as the likelihood of the child hearing their peers' version of what was said in the classes, rather than what was directly said by the teacher. It should be noted that the detrimental effects maybe mitigated if the parents propose to deliver sex education to their child at home instead.

Once those discussions have taken place, except in exceptional circumstances for example where there are child protection concerns, the school should respect the parents' and carers' request to withdraw the child.

This process is the same for pupils with Special Educational Needs and / or Disabilities. However there may be exceptional circumstances where the headteacher may want to take a pupil's specific needs arising from their SEND into account when making this decision.

If a pupil is excused from sex education, it is the school's responsibility to ensure that the pupil receives appropriate, purposeful education during the period of withdrawal. **There is no right to withdraw from Relationships Education or Health Education.**

### **Areas that parents and carers cannot withdraw pupils from:**

1. Puberty is now part of statutory Health Education. All pupils should be taught about puberty (before the onset of puberty). This includes key facts about puberty and the changing adolescent body from ages 9 – 11 / menstrual cycle and menstrual wellbeing.
2. The statutory guidance states that schools must adhere to the Equality Act 2010, so being gender inclusive is part of this and also relates to teaching about stereotypes as part of Relationships Education

3. Identifying and naming main parts of the body including external genitalia is not included in statutory Relationships Education or Health Education. However teaching correct terminology is important and will be taught from EYFS onwards as this strongly supports the **schools' duty to safeguard pupils**.
4. Teaching about FGM is a safeguarding issue and is not sex education. FGM specifically is not included in statutory Relationships Education or Health Education but does relate to aspects of it including, by the end of primary school, pupils should learn:
  - about the concept of privacy and the implications of it for both children and adults; including that it is not always right to keep secrets if they relate to being safe.
5. Any sex education delivered in primary schools, as part of the science curriculum. This includes:

### **Key Stage 1 - Year 2**

#### **Animals, including humans**

##### **Statutory requirements**

Pupils should be taught to:

- notice that animals, including humans, have offspring which grow into adults
- find out about and describe the basic needs of animals, including humans, for survival (water, food and air)
- describe the importance for humans of exercise, eating the right amounts of different types of food, and hygiene.

##### **Notes and guidance**

Pupils should be introduced to the basic needs of animals for survival, as well as the importance of exercise and nutrition for humans. They should also be introduced to the processes of reproduction and growth in animals. The focus at this stage should be on questions that help pupils to recognise growth; they should not be expected to understand how reproduction occurs.

The following examples might be used: egg, chick, chicken; egg, caterpillar, pupa, butterfly; spawn, tadpole, frog; lamb, sheep. Growing into adults can include reference to baby, toddler, child, teenager, adult.

Pupils might work scientifically by: observing, through video or first-hand observation and measurement, how different animals, including humans, grow; asking questions about what things animals need for survival and what humans need to stay healthy; and suggesting ways to find answers to their questions.

### **Key Stage 2 - Year 5**

#### **Living things and their habitats**

##### **Statutory requirements**

Pupils should be taught to:

- describe the differences in the life cycles of a mammal, an amphibian, an insect and a bird
- describe the life process of reproduction in some plants and animals.

#### **Animals, including humans**

##### **Statutory requirements**

Pupils should be taught to:

- describe the changes as humans develop to old age.

### **Notes and guidance**

Pupils should draw a timeline to indicate stages in the growth and development of humans. They should learn about the changes experienced in puberty.

Pupils could work scientifically by researching the gestation periods of other animals and comparing them with humans; by finding out and recording the length and mass of a baby as it grows.

- that each person's body belongs to them, and the differences between appropriate and inappropriate or unsafe physical, and other, contact.
- how to report concerns or abuse, and the vocabulary and confidence needed to do so.
- Relationships Education is statutory so learning about marriage (forced marriage is part of safeguarding), healthy and unhealthy relationships and consent is for all pupils.

Headteachers **should** grant a request to withdraw a pupil from sex education covered in the '**Changing adolescent body**' unit, which includes:

- identify the links between love, committed relationships and conception
- what sexual intercourse is, and how it can be one part of an intimate relationship between consenting adults
- how pregnancy occurs i.e. when a sperm meets an egg and the fertilised egg settles into the lining of the womb
- intercourse does not always result in a baby and that pregnancy be prevented with contraception

## Parent / Carer Form: Withdrawal from Sex Education

To be completed by parents / carers	
Name of child	
Class	
Name of parents / carers	
Reasons for withdrawing from sex education	
Any other information you would like school to consider	
Parents (s) / carer (s) signature	
Date	
To be completed by school	
Agreed actions from the discussion with parents / carers Include notes from the meeting	

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## Parental Responsibility

**Where there is shared parental responsibility, both parties should, where possible, should reach a shared agreement to request that their child is withdrawn from sex education.**

Either parent can request to withdraw a child from sex education. If there is a disagreement the other parent would need a prohibited steps order.

**<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dealing-with-issues-relating-to-parental-responsibility/understanding-and-dealing-with-issues-relating-to-parental-responsibility>**

### **Key effects of a father or second female parent acquiring parental responsibility**

When a father or second female parent acquires parental responsibility they:

- can withdraw a child from sex education and religious education classes and make representations to schools concerning the child's education

### **Prohibited steps order**

A prohibited steps order imposes a specific restriction on the exercise of responsibility. This means that no step specified by the court, which a parent could take in meeting his/her parental responsibility, can be taken without the consent of the court.

**Example** One parent wants to take the child abroad for an extended period or prevent the child from attending a form of religious worship, against the wishes of the other parent.