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**St. Giles' C of E (Aided) Infant School**

Dene Road, Ashted, KT21 1EA

# **Relationships and Sex Education Policy**

**“Loving God and Loving our Neighbour”**

Responsible Governor	Daniel Beck
Approved by the Governing Body	Autumn term 2023
Date of Next Review	Autumn term 2024
Chair of Governors signature	

## **Statement of principles**

- This policy is rooted in our Christian values of Love, Compassion, Respect, Forgiveness, Thankfulness, Courage and Friendship. Our teaching of RSE is underpinned by these values
- We demonstrate Love with the care with which we plan exciting and engaging learning experiences for the children and the respect with which we involve them as partners in developing the curriculum

## **Extract from the Church of England charter**

‘All pupils have a right to an education which enables them to flourish and is set in a learning community where differences of lifestyle and opinion (within that which is permissible under UK law) are treated with dignity and respect; bullying of all kinds is eliminated; and where they are free to be themselves and fulfil their potential without fear’.

The Church of England Education Office – November 2019

## **What is Relationships and Sex Education?**

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) follows that of the Church of England Education Office (CEEEO) in that it seeks to be faith-sensitive and inclusive. 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.

The greatest commandment Jesus taught was to love God and to love your neighbour. Within this commandment is the foundation of the Christian view of relationships. At St Giles’ C of E (A) Infant school, our relationship education seeks to live out this command and explore how we can ‘love our neighbour’ through our words and actions. Our school focuses on the importance of relationships and the qualities and character needed to sustain the best relationships that honour each other. At St Giles’ C of E (A) Infant School everyone will be treated with dignity as all people who are made in the image of God are loved equally by God.

RSE in St Giles’ C of E (A) Infant School aims to provide opportunities for pupils to develop the skills, knowledge and understanding they need to lead confident, healthy, independent lives and become active and informed citizens. Information will be delivered in an accepting and honest way, which enables pupils to contribute, and as deemed age appropriate. It is also about the spiritual and moral aspects of healthy, loving and nurturing relationships within a context of a Christian vision for the purpose of life.

Pupils will consider how to ensure that they treat themselves and others, at all times and in all contexts, with dignity and respect.

**Based on the foundation of the Christian faith, RSE will focus on:**

**Attitudes and Values**

- Learning about the values of family life and stable relationships
- Learning the value of respect, love and care
- Exploring, considering and understanding moral dilemmas
- Developing critical thinking as part of decision making

**Personal and Social skills**

- Learning to manage emotions and relationships confidently and sensitively
- Developing self-respect and empathy for others
- Learning to make choices based on understanding of differences and with the absence of prejudice
- Providing opportunities for young people to develop the ability to understand the consequences of their decisions and actions and to manage conflict

**Knowledge and Understanding**

- Information about healthier, safer lifestyles
- Physical development
- Emotions and relationships

**Implementation**

All teachers are responsible for the implementation of the RSE programme. A range of teaching and learning methods will be used, with an emphasis placed on the children taking an active part in discussions, role play etc.

Any sensitive questions will be answered in an honest and simple way that is appropriate for that child. The teachers will use their skills and discretion in these situations.

The RSE programme is covered within the PSHE scheme of work known as 'Jigsaw'. This scheme has been quality assured by the PSHE association as meeting the requirements set out in the governments 'Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education. The scheme runs across all year groups in our school and covers all aspects of personal, social, moral and spiritual education divided into six themes:

- Being me in my world

- Celebrating difference
- Dreams and goals
- Healthy me
- Relationships
- Changing me (including RSE)

## **Coverage of Sex Education**

- EYFS – Growing up; how we have changed since we were babies
- Year 1 – Boys’ and girls’ bodies ; body parts
- Year 2 –Body parts and respecting privacy (which parts of the body are private and why this is)

## **Parental involvement**

St Giles’ C of E (A) Infant school is committed to working with parents and believes it is important to have the support of parents and the wider community for the PSHE and RSE programmes.

## **Parental rights to withdraw their children**

Parents **will not** be able to withdraw their children from any aspect of **Relationships or Health Education**. Parents **will** be able to withdraw their children from any aspects of **Sex Education** other than those which are part of the Science curriculum.

Requests for withdrawal from sex education should be put in writing and addressed to the Headteacher. A copy of withdrawal requests will be placed in the child’s educational record. The Headteacher will discuss the request with parents.

Pupils will be given separate work to do during their withdrawal from sex education.

## **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.

## **Confidentiality**

Teachers are aware that effective Relationships and Sex Education, which brings an understanding of what is and is not acceptable in a relationship, can lead to the disclosure of a safeguarding or child protection issue. If staff become concerned that a pupil is at risk, the school's child protection procedures will be followed.

## **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 topics are taught without bias. Topics are presented using a variety of views and beliefs so that pupils are to form their own, informed opinions but also respect others who may have a different opinion. Questions are answered according to the age and maturity of the pupil(s) concerned.

## **Inclusion**

The RSE policy reflects and is in line with the schools' equal opportunities policy and the school ensures that the RSE teaching programme is inclusive and appropriate and relevant to all pupils including those with special educational needs 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.

## **How the Relationships and Sex Education programme is monitored, evaluated and assessed**

Class teachers assess pupils' understanding and progress through primarily formative processes which will be carried out during and at the end of each Jigsaw unit. The RSE policy is reviewed annually and Governors consider evaluations and recommendations before amending 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 anti bullying, through regular training provided at staff meetings and INSET days.

## **Links with other policies**

Safeguarding and child protection policy

Religious Education policy

PSHE policy

Collective Worship policy

Science policy

Anti bullying policy

Behaviour policy

Health and safety policy

Equal opportunities policy

Special Educational Needs and Disability policy

Relationships and Sex Education guidance – Department for Education

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