

St Laurence’s Catholic Primary School

Policy Statement

For

R.S.H.E

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| **This policy was adopted:** | **September 2022** |
| **By name:** | **Mr John Holmes** |
| **Position:** | **Chair of Governors** |
| **Signature:** | ***J. Holmes*** |

**Our Mission Statement**

We aim to celebrate our partnership with the families we serve and the community we live in.

We aim to provide an education that enables each child to reach their full potential.

Our aim is the creation of an atmosphere where all are valued, gifts and talents are celebrated and the gospel values of love, respect and justice are at the heart of all we do.

**Our Vision**

Everyone feels a sense of belonging,

Has the opportunity to shine,

To enjoy their teaching and learning

But most of all – to dream big!

**Rationale**

*‘I have come that you might have life and have it to the full’* (Jn.10.10)

Our belief in the unique dignity of the human person as made in the image and likeness of God underpins the approach to all education in our school. Our approach to Relationship, Sex and Health Education therefore is rooted in the Catholic Church’s teaching of the human person and is presented positively and prudently.

At the heart of the Christian life is the Trinity, Father, Son and Spirit in communion, united in loving relationship and embracing all people and all creation. As a consequence of the Christian belief that we are made in the image and likeness of God, gender and sexuality are seen as God’s gift, reflect God’s beauty, and share in the divine creativity. R.S.H.E at St Laurence’s will therefore be placed firmly within the context of relationship as it is there that sexuality grows and develops.

We acknowledge that Personal, Social and Health Education (P.S.H.E) and Citizenship, as well as Relationship, Sex and Health Education (R.S.H.E), are all underpinned by a theology of relationship and are all encompassed in the title ‘Relationships and Sex Education’ (R.S.H.E).

Stemming from this vision of what it means to be human, we seek to educate the whole child: spiritually, intellectually, morally, emotionally, psychologically, and physically towards our understanding of Christian maturity.

Relationship, Sex and Health Education will be in accordance with the Church’s moral teaching. It will emphasise the central importance of relationships, marriage and the family whilst acknowledging that all pupils have a fundamental right to have their life respected whatever kind of household they come from and support will be provided to help pupils deal with different sets of values.

**Aims**

Our Mission Statement commits us to:

\*our partnership with families;

\*enabling every child to reach their full potential and to create an atmosphere where the gospel values of love, respect and justice are at the heart of all that we do.

We believe that R.S.H.E is an integral part of this education.

Furthermore, our school aims to raise pupils’ self-esteem, help them to grow in knowledge and understanding, recognise the value of all persons and develop caring and sensitive attitudes. It is in this context that we commit ourselves, in partnership with parents, to provide children with a “positive and prudent sexual education” which is compatible with their physical, cognitive, psychological, and spiritual maturity, and rooted in a Catholic vision of education and the human person.

Our aims of R.S.H.E are:

* To raise children’s awareness about relationships – with themselves, with God and with each other.
* To deepen understanding of what it means to love – themselves, God, family and each other.
* To encourage pupils’ growth in self -respect, acknowledging we are all created in the image and likeness of God
* To help pupils develop an understanding that love is the central basis of relationships
* To help pupils to understand the nature of relationships and to encourage them to reflect on their own relationships and respect differences between people
* To develop pupils’ confidence in talking, listening and thinking about feelings and relationships
* To help pupils’ confidence in talking, listening and thinking about feelings and relationships
* To help pupils acquire the skills necessary to develop and sustain relationships
* To offer sex education in the wider context of relationships
* To ensure that pupils protect themselves and ask for help and support when needed
* To ensure that pupils are prepared for puberty
* To help pupils to develop a healthier, safer lifestyle

**Purpose**

The purpose of this policy for R.S.H.E at St Laurence’s is to:

* Provide a framework in which sensitive discussions can take place
* Help pupils develop feelings of dignity, self-worth, self-respect, confidence and empathy
* Prepare pupils for puberty and give them an understanding of sexual development and the importance of health and hygiene.
* Create a positive culture around the issues of sexuality and relationships
* Teach pupils the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies.

**Statutory Requirements**

At St Laurence’s, we must provide Relationships Education to all pupils as per section 34 of the Children and Social work act 2017.

In teaching Relationship and Sex Education, we must have regard to Catholic Education Service guidance issued by the Bishops Conference of England and Wales 2017.

The statutory guidance from the Department for Education issued under Section 80A of the Education Act 2002 and section 403 of the Education Act 1996 Appendix A.

The statutory guidance from the Department for Education Equality Act 2010.

**Policy Development**

This policy has been developed in consultation with staff, pupils and parents. The consultation and policy development process involved the following steps:

1. Review – RE leader has attended Archdiocesan training and has received relevant updates from DfE
2. Staff consultation – all school staff have been given the opportunity to look at the policy and make recommendations.
3. Parent/stakeholder consultation – parents and any interested parties were invited to provide feedback on the policy.
4. Pupil consultation – we investigated what exactly pupils want from their Relationship Sex and Health Education.
5. Ratification – once amendments were made, the policy was shared with governors and ratified.

**Definition**

Relationship, Sex and Health Education involves a combination of sharing information, and exploring issues underpinned by our Catholic values.

Relationship Sex and Health Education is about the emotional, social and cultural development of pupils, and involves learning about personal relationships, sexual health, sexuality, healthy lifestyles, diversity and personal identity.

# Curriculum

We have developed our curriculum with recommendations from the Archdiocesan Education Department to ensure that they meet with Catholic Church teaching.

After consultation with parents, Relationship and Sex Education will be covered using the Archdiocesan recommended resource ‘A Journey in Love’ 2020, this includes \*sexual intercourse at Year 6. (See right of withdrawal)

We have considered the age, stage and feelings of pupils and have consulted with parents and staff to ensure we are offering a quality curriculum which is adequately catered to meet their needs.

We have adapted the P.S.H.E Association Primary Scheme of Work to further enhance the teaching of R.S.H.E across all year groups.

If pupils ask questions outside the scope of our curriculum, teachers will respond in an appropriate manner so they are fully informed and do not seek answers online.

The new statutory guidance for Relationships Education focuses on teaching the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships including:

* Families and people who care for me.
* Caring friendships.
* Respectful relationships.
* Online relationships.
* Being safe.

These areas of learning are taught within the context of ‘family life’ and could include married or single parent families, same sex parents, families headed by grandparents, adoptive parents, foster parents/carers amongst other structures, along with reflecting sensitively that some children may have a support structure around them (for example: looked after children or young carers).

**Delivery of R.S.H.E**

Teaching and learning in R.S.H.E at St Laurence’s will be relevant to the age, experience and maturity of pupils.

RSHE is taught through the Archdiocesan recommended resource ‘A Journey in Love’. It is reinforced through our life style in school and through the subjects ofReligious Education, Science and by way of a cross-curricular, integrated approach.

All elements of P.S.H.E and Citizenship, whilst non-statutory at Key Stage 1 and 2, are covered. Significant aspects of Relationship, Sex and Health Education remain part of the National Curriculum for Science and can also be linked to Physical Education. These will be taught to all pupils. *(Parents are unable to withdraw pupils from such lessons.)*

We acknowledge that every area of school life can potentially contribute to R.S.H.E as the school, of its very nature operates through positive human relationships. We recognise value and greatly appreciate the contribution made by all members of staff in deepening the quality of our Christian community.

Teachers will use their professional judgement when addressing issues in R.S.H.E. Careful consideration will be given to the wide and varied experience and backgrounds of the pupils in their care.

All staff will be involved in developing the attitudes and values aspect of the R.S.H.E programme. They will be role models for pupils of good, healthy, wholesome relationships as between staff, other adults and pupils. They will also be contributing to the development of pupils’ personal and social skills.

As a school, we promote equality of opportunity and foster good relations. Our school environment uniformly applies values of inclusion and respect to all pupils and their families. All staff are proactive in promoting positive relationships and receive regular training.

**Resources**

‘A Journey in Love’ has been agreed by staff, Governors and parents to be the programme used to deliver R.S.H.E.

In following ‘A Journey in Love’ the children will have time to work individually, drawing on their own experiences and deepen their knowledge and understanding. They will also be provided with opportunity to share with partners, groups and whole class – dependent on activity and age appropriateness of children.

The children will be involved in recording their learning in a number of ways e.g. video/photos, role play and drama, poems, prayers, art, thought showers/brainstorming, reflection and individual work.

**Early Years Foundation Stage**

Journey In Love 2020

The Underwear PANTS Rule[www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)

The PSHE Association [www.pshe-association.org.uk](http://www.pshe-association.org.uk)

CAFOD

**Key Stage One**

Journey In Love 2020

The Underwear PANTS Rule[www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)

The PSHE Association [www.pshe-association.org.uk](http://www.pshe-association.org.uk)

CAFOD

**Key Stage Two**

Journey In Love 2020

The Underwear PANTS Rule[www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)

The PSHE Association [www.pshe-association.org.uk](http://www.pshe-association.org.uk)

CAFOD

**Assessment Recording and Reporting**

A record is kept in teacher’s planning of the delivery of R.S.H.E. The programme is assessed, monitored and evaluated by the co-ordinator in accordance with the school’s monitoring and evaluation policy. Pupils are given opportunity to reflect and celebrate their new learning within each lesson. Relevant comments may be made in individual pupil’s reports.

**Equal opportunities**

All pupils have access to the R.S.H.E curriculum. Where pupils have specific educational needs, arrangements for support from outside agencies and support staff are made to ensure these pupils have an appropriate, differentiated curriculum.

**Outside Agencies**

The expertise of outside agencies will be used appropriately *to support* but not at the expense of the school’s delivery.

**Safeguarding Procedures**

The school has procedures to deal with any sensitive issues or children thought to be vulnerable. Our pastoral lead can work with children who may find certain aspects of R.S.H.E difficult to understand or are sensitive to the nature of the lesson. Staff will pass on any safeguarding concerns to the DSL (designated safeguarding lead) in school and will record concerns on CPOMS.

**Roles and Responsibilities**

**The Governing Body**

The Governing body and Foundation Governors in particular recognise their responsibility to ensure the R.S.H.E programme follows Diocesan principles and reflects the Church’s teaching. The Governing Body will hold the head teacher to account to ensure its implementation.

**The Head Teacher**

The headteacher is responsible for ensuring that R.S.H.E is taught consistently across the school and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from the non-statutory element of Relationship, Sex and Health Education in Year 6\* (see right of withdrawal).

**The Teaching Staff**

Staff do not have the right to opt out of teaching R.S.H.E as this forms part of the Teaching Standards. Any staff who have concerns about teaching RSHE are encouraged to discuss this with the headteacher.

Staff are responsible for:

* Delivering R.S.H.E in a sensitive way which complies with Church teaching.
* Modelling positive attitudes to R.S.H.E.
* Monitoring progress.
* Responding to the needs of individual pupils.
* Responding appropriately to pupils whose parents wish them to be withdrawn from the non-statutory components of R.S.H.E.

**Parents**

The Church has always recognised that it is the privilege and the responsibility of parents to educate and inform their children in all matters pertaining to personal growth and development particularly in the sensitive area of their moral education and sexual development. The Church also recognises that many parents require help and support in this task from both schools and parishes.

The Governing body fully subscribes to the views expressed by the Bishops’ Conference and will always ensure that:

* Parents are supported in their task.
* Parents are consulted and kept informed of the R.S.H.E Programme; its contents, evaluation and review and any subsequent developments.

**Pupils**

Pupils are expected to engage fully in R.S.H.E and, when discussing issues related to R.S.H.E, treat others with dignity, respect and sensitivity.

**Parents’ Right of Withdrawal**

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the non-statutory component of sex education in Year 6. This is where sexual intercourse is taught discretely as part of the Physical aspect within ‘A Journey in Love’, the Archdiocesan recommended resource.

Requests for withdrawal should be made in writing and addressed to the headteacher. The headteacher will discuss the request with parents and take appropriate action. Alternative work will be given to pupils who are withdrawn.

Parents do not have the right to withdraw their children from Statutory Relationships Education as set out in the DFE guidance 2020.

**Monitoring and Review**

The delivery of R.S.H.E is currently being monitored by the R.S.H.E lead. Monitoring is in the form of learning walks, gathering pupil voice, book scrutinies and questionnaires.

Pupil progress and development of skills and understanding is monitored by class teachers. This policy will be agreed annually by the governors and reviewed every three years.

Parents will be consulted before any proposed changes are made.

**REVIEW OF POLICY**

The effectiveness of this policy will be reviewed annually by the Senior Leadership Team and every three years by the Governing Body. If changes are made to the policy, the Governing Body will ratify amendments.

This policy was reviewed: September 2022

Signed: J Holmes

Designation: Chair of Governors

Date: 22nd September 2022