

Relationships and Sex Education Policy

St Mary's C.E. Primary School

Approved by: The Governing Body **Date:** February 2025

Next review due by: Spring 2026

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1. Aims

The aims of relationships and sex education (RSE) at our school are to:

- > Prepare pupils for puberty, and give them an understanding of sexual development and the importance of health and hygiene
- > Help pupils develop feelings of self-respect, confidence and empathy
- > Create a positive culture around issues of sexuality and relationships
- > Teach pupils the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies

At St Mary's care and compassion are at the heart of every child's learning, encouraging their capacity for reflective thought to make a more creative difference in our world. We aim for all pupils to develop the fundamental social and emotional learning skills which will enable them to make positive choices throughout life. We ensure St Mary's children are equipped with the knowledge and skills to stay safe and are able to develop healthy, happy and equal relationships.

2. Statutory requirements

As a maintained primary school we must provide relationships education to all pupils as per section 34 of the <u>Children and Social work act 2017.</u>

However, we are not required to provide sex education but we do need to teach the elements of sex education contained in the science curriculum.

In teaching RSE, we must have regard to <u>guidance</u> issued by the secretary of state as outlined in section 403 of the <u>Education Act 1996</u>.

At St Mary's we teach RSE as set out in this policy.

3. 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 – a member of staff/ working group pulled together all relevant information including relevant national and local guidance

- Staff consultation all school staff were given the opportunity to look at the policy and make recommendations
- 3. Parent/stakeholder consultation parents were sent the policy and given a survey to respond with any thoughts
- 4. Pupil consultation we investigated what exactly pupils want from their RSE
- Ratification once amendments were made, the policy was shared with governors and ratified

4. Definition

RSE is about the emotional, social and cultural development of pupils, and involves learning about relationships, sexual health, sexuality, healthy lifestyles, diversity and personal identity. RSE involves a combination of sharing information, and exploring issues and values.

RSE is not about the promotion of sexual activity.

5. Curriculum

Our curriculum is set out as per Appendix 1. We have developed the curriculum in consultation with parents, pupils and staff, taking into account the age, needs and feelings of pupils. If pupils ask questions outside the scope of this policy, teachers will respond in an appropriate manner so they are fully informed and don't seek answers online.

Primary sex education will focus on:

- > Preparing boys and girls for the changes that adolescence brings
- > How a baby is conceived and born

For more information about our curriculum, see our curriculum map in Appendix 1.

6. Delivery of RSE

RSE is taught within the personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education curriculum and also PATHS (Promoting Alternative THinking Strategies) lessons. Biological aspects of RSE can also be taught within the science curriculum, and other aspects are included in religious education (RE).

A trained health professional such as the school nurse may also be invited to support the delivery in standalone sex education sessions.

Teaching will be differentiated, and content will be adapted to meet the needs of all students.

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

For more information about our RSE curriculum, see Appendices 1 and 2.

These areas of learning are taught within the context of family life taking care to ensure that there is no stigmatisation of children based on their home circumstances (families can include single parent families, LGBT parents, families headed by grandparents, adoptive parents, foster parents/carers amongst other

structures) along with reflecting sensitively that some children may have a different structure of support around them (for example: looked after children or young carers).

6.1 Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

Pupils with SEND are given the opportunity to fully participate in RSE lessons, and a differentiated program is provided where necessary, to ensure that all pupils gain a full understanding.

The pace and detail of some of the topics may differ and pupils may require additional support to generalise their learning outside of RSE lessons and provide support to personalise the learning to their own relationships, behaviours and maturation. It may be appropriate to revisit topics more frequently with pupils with SEND to support 'overlearning'.

Pupils may need additional support to make sense of RSE lessons, sometimes separate small group sessions or individual work is provided, since aspects of the children's maturity may be behind their peers. Additional small group sessions for pupils with SEND is offered which allows for questions and discussion about concepts that might be challenging.

Teachers will ensure any new pupils whom join the school are assessed for curriculum knowledge and understanding and if required, 'caught up' with any gaps so they can access the curriculum to the full.

6.2 Curriculum Catch-Up

Pupils who join St Mary's later on may not have the necessary prior learning to access the curriculum in the year they join – for example, a child joining in Year 6 from overseas where RSE is not delivered in the same way may not have the necessary prior learning to access that year group's content. In these instances, class teachers will assess their prior learning and make the necessary adjustments so that they can access year group content; this may require additional sessions for that child or resources sent home.

7. Roles and responsibilities

7.1 The governing board

The governing board will approve the RSE policy, and hold the Headteacher to account for its implementation.

7.2 The Headteacher

The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring that RSE is taught consistently across the school, and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from non-statutory components of RSE (see section 8).

7.3 Staff

Staff are responsible for:

- > Delivering RSE in a sensitive way
- > Modelling positive attitudes to RSE
- > 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 RSE

Staff do not have the right to opt out of teaching RSE. Staff who have concerns about teaching RSE are encouraged to discuss this with the Headteacher.

The class teacher is responsible for timetabling to ensure that the relevant sections of the Scheme of Work are covered during each half term. Teachers will use a balance of:

- teacher-prepared materials
- published resources
- practical tasks
- visitors, e.g. parents, experts
- educational visits

Teachers are careful to ensure that their personal beliefs and attitudes do not influence the teaching of PSHE/RSE. To this end, ground rules have been agreed to provide a common values framework within which to teach. There are clear parameters as to what will be taught in whole class setting and what will be dealt with on an individual basis.

7.4 Pupils

Pupils are expected to engage fully in RSE and, when discussing issues related to RSE, treat others with respect and sensitivity.

8. Parents' right to withdraw

Parents do not have the right to withdraw their children from Relationships Education.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the non-statutory components of sex education within RSE.

Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing using the form found in Appendix 3 of this policy and addressed to the Headteacher.

Alternative work will be given to pupils who are withdrawn from sex education.

9. Training

Staff are trained on the delivery of RSE as part of their induction and it is included in our continuing professional development calendar.

The Headteacher will also invite visitors from outside the school, such as school nurses or sexual health professionals, to provide support and training to staff teaching RSE.

10. Monitoring arrangements

The delivery of RSE is monitored by the PSHE leader through:

Planning scrutiny, learning walks, and lesson observations.

Pupils' development in RSE is monitored by class teachers as part of our internal assessment systems.

This policy will be reviewed by the PSHE lead annually. At every review, the policy will be approved by the governing board and the Headteacher.

11. Equalities Statement

St Mary's positively celebrates diversity and inclusion is core to its Christian ethos. The Governing Body recognises that no one should receive less favourable unlawful treatment than another on the grounds of gender, marital or civil partnership status, colour, race, nationality, ethnic or national origin, disability, religious beliefs, age, or sexual orientation. It is the Governors' aim that no-one at the School should suffer unlawful

direct or indirect discrimination, victimisation or harassment on any of these grounds. The Governing Body is committed to embedding fairness and equality at the heart of the school community, and in all aspects of the school's policies, procedures and practices.
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Relationships and Sex Education curriculum map

Discovery Education Health and Relationships

	Healthy and happy friendships	Similarities and differences	Caring and responsibility	Families and committed relationships	Healthy body , healthy mind	Coping with change
Y1	Forming friendships and how kind or unkind behaviours impact other people.	Similarities and differences between people and how to respect and celebrate these.	Identifying who our special people are and how they keep us safe.	What a family is (including difference and diversity between families), and why families are important and special.	Our bodies and the amazing things they can do. Learning the correct names for different body parts.	Growing from young to old and how we have changed since we were born.
Y2	Understanding what makes a happy friendship. Recognising personal boundaries and safe/unsafe situations.	Exploring different strengths and abilities. Understanding and challenging stereotypes.	The different communities and groups we belong to and how we help and support one another within these.	The different people in our families, and how families vary.	Ways to stay healthy, including safe and unsafe use of household products and medicines.	Exploring how our bodies and needs change as we grow older. Aspirations and goal setting.
Y3	Being a good friend and respecting personal space. Strategies for resilience.	Respecting and valuing differences. Shared values of communities.	Our responsibilities and ways we can care and show respect for others.	Different types of committed relationships and the basic characteristics of these.	Maintaining physical and mental wellbeing, through healthy eating, sleep and keeping clean.	Coping with feelings around the changes in our lives.
Y4	Solving friendship difficulties. How to act if someone invades your privacy or personal boundaries.	Identity and diversity. Seeing different perspectives and not making judgements based on appearance.	Rights and responsibilities within families and wider society, including the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.	The range of relationships we experience in our everyday lives. How to understand the differences between types of relationships we encounter.	Influences on our health and wellbeing, including friends, family and media, and awareness of how these can affect personal health choices.	How our bodies change as we enter puberty, including hygiene needs and menstruation.
Y5	Identity and peer pressure off- and online. Positive emotional health and wellbeing.	Celebrating strengths, setting goals and keeping ourselves safe online.	How our care needs change and the effects of loneliness and isolation. Ways in which we can show care in the community.	The characteristics of healthy, positive and committed relationships, and how these develop as people grow older.	Our unique bodies and self- acceptance – valuing our bodies and minds; lifestyle habits (including alcohol, tobacco and drugs) and their effects on wellbeing.	How puberty changes can affect our emotions and ways to manage this; questions about puberty and change.
Y6	How relationships evolve as we grow, including when transitioning to secondary school. How to cope with a wider range of emotions.	Identity and behaviour online and offline. Reflecting on how people feel when they don't 'fit in'.	How we can take more responsibility for self-care and who cares for us as we grow older, including at secondary school.	*Sex education: adult relationships and human reproduction, including different ways to start a family.	Being the healthiest me: ongoing self-care of bodies and minds, including ways to prevent and manage mental ill-health.	Ways to manage the increasing responsibilities and emotional effects of life changes.

Discovery Education Health and Relationships

Healthy and happy friendships

This topic explores friendships: their importance, what being a good friend means, and how to keep friendships positive and healthy. Pupils investigate their own values and identity (including their online identity), and develop skills to resolve difficulties within friendships, including maintaining and respecting personal boundaries and safe touch, managing peer pressure and the effects on friendships of change.

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Year	group	Video	Vocabulary	Lessons	
Y1	Making friends and getting along	A new school	friend, friendly, kind, unkind, welcoming, happy, sad, share	Friends Kindness Getting along, sharing and turn taking	
Y2	What makes a happy friendship?	Friends at first	happy, healthy, kindness, friend, smile, no, touch, uncomfortable, boundaries, personal, space, worries, help, trust	What makes a happy friendship? Personal boundaries Worries	
Y3	Being a good friend	The friendship tree	friend, respect, values, touch, private, privacy, resilience, encouragement	What makes a good friend? Personal space Resilience	
Y4	Solving friendship difficulties	Peer mediators	friend, values, qualities, difficulty, compromise, communication, yes, no, boundaries, permission	Qualities of a good friend Solving friendship difficulties Personal boundaries and permission	
Y5	Changing friendships	Changing friendships	identity, stereotypes, prejudice, peer pressure, choice, emotions, wellbeing, emotional health, mental health, stress, anxiety	Identity Peer pressure Emotional health and wellbeing	
Y6	Relationships and feelings	Moving on	personal safety, risk, consequences, friends, change, relationships, emotions, feelings	Personal safety Relationships and change Wider emotions	

Discovery Education Health and Relationships

Similarities and differences

This topic explores and celebrates the similarities and differences between people, exploring and encouraging ways to value and respect difference and diversity. It looks at the damaging effect that stereotypes can have, and how to identify and challenge them. It helps pupils recognise their own personal strengths and abilities, and develop self-respect.

Year	group	Video	Vocabulary	Lessons
Y1	Recognising strengths and respecting differences	What makes us special	similarity, difference, special, unique, strengths, abilities	I am special Who I am makes me unique We don't all feel the same way
Y2	Strengths, abilities and stereotypes	What can you tell?	strengths, abilities, gender, stereotype, qualities	My strengths and abilities Stereotypes Whose job?
Y3	Valuing and respecting one another	You can do anything	different, equal, respect, community, values, diversity, customs, respect, feelings, values	Different but equal Our school community Valuing one another and considering people's feelings
Y4	Identity and diversity	Celebrating diversity	diversity, stereotypes, judge, judgement, point- of-view, opinion, disagree, agree	Being British Making a judgement A different point of view
Y5	Celebrating strengths and setting goals	See me for who I am	strength, weakness, proud, abilities, goals, aspirations, achievement, future, vision, online, social media, profile, safety	Strengths and abilities Setting goals Online safety
Y6	Respectful behaviour online and offline	Noah Boundaries	online identity, communication, risk, online bullying, diversity, inclusive, differences	Identity online Online bullying Identities and belonging

Discovery Education Health and Relationships Caring and responsibilities		This topic focuses on special people. It explores why they are special and how they care for and keep one another safe. It examines pupils' increasing responsibilities towards themselves and others as they get older, including the role they can play and the difference they can make within their communities.		
Year	group	Video	Vocabulary	Lessons
Y1	Our special people	A special person trophy	special, people, important, care, safe, worried, nervous, scared, help, helper, rules, safe, unsafe	My special people How our special people care for us Keeping safe
Y2	Special people in our communities	My community	community, kindness, understanding, help, community helpers, trusted adult, signs, difference, similarity, respect	Community helpers When we need help Our communities and groups
Y3	Responsibility and boundaries	Anita Care-More	responsibility, responsible, consequences, irresponsible, personal space, crowded, uncomfortable, boundaries, invade, defend, empathy, caring, support, understanding	Being responsible Responsibility and personal space Caring and empathy
Y4	Rights and responsibilities	Being responsible	rights, responsibilities, respect, opportunities, entitled, agreement, rights, convention, United Nations, roles, responsibilities	Our rights, our responsibilities The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child Family roles and responsibilities
Y5	Caring in the community	Caring for one another	care needs, caring, alone, loneliness, lonely, isolation, isolated, volunteer, volunteering, community, involvement	Changing needs Feeling lonely Why volunteer?
Y6	Responsible behaviour as we get older	Changes at secondary school	strengths, self-care, development, saving, bank account, responsible, irresponsible, budget, interest, transition, secondary, Independence, networks	Taking care of myself Looking after my money Transition to secondary

Discovery Education Health and Relationships

Families and committed relationships

This topic explores the importance and diversity of families, and the characteristics of healthy, positive family relationships. It enables pupils to recognise when they may feel unsafe within a family, and how to ask for help if they need it. It identifies the characteristics of a committed relationship, and at Year 6 explores human reproduction and other ways that people can start a family.

Year	group	Video	Vocabulary	Lessons		
Y1	The importance of family	My family	family, important, differences, similarities, happy, special, superhero	My family Our families Superhero families!		
Y2	The diversity of families	Different families	family, family tree, relatives, related, love, sharing, listening, support, similar, different, traditions	Who is in a family? A happy family Families of all kinds		
Y3	Different types of committed relationships	Belonging together	commitment, safe, secure, trust, relationship, marriage, change, affect, loss, separation, divorce	Commitment and marriage All change! Family changes: when parents separate		
Y4	Families and other relationships	Spoiling the fun?	relationships, appropriate, behaviour, belonging, membership, together, family	Different relationships: boundaries and behaviour Belonging Caring families		
Y5	Healthy, committed relationships	What is love?	relationships, healthy, diversity, commitment	Values of healthy relationships Diversity in relationships It's all about commitment		
Y6	Starting a family (sex education)	Starting a family	sexual intercourse, sex, fertilise, conception, foetus, sperm, egg, pregnant, IVF, adoption, Caesarean section, babies, commitment, responsibility, law, legal, age restriction, age of consent, safe	1) Starting a family 2) The impact of having a baby 3) When is it right?		

Discovery Education Health and Relationships Healthy bodies, healthy minds			This topic explores how to stay healthy, both physically and mentally. It explores ways to maintain wellbeing and prevent illness; how to develop a healthy, balanced lifestyle; and the consequences and effects of different habits and choices. It encourages the development of positive self-worth and recognition, what might affect or influence unhealthy ways of thinking, and how to overcome this.		
Year	group	Video	Vocabulary	Lessons	
Y1	Amazing bodies	Our bodies	body, healthy, private, penis, testicles, vulva vagina, similar, different, health, healthy choices	My amazing body Private body parts (introducing correct terminology) Looking after our bodies	
Y2	Staying safe and healthy	Where would you go for help?	healthy, feelings, emotions, medicine, unwell, dose, safe, helpful, harmful, instructions, health, body, mind	Healthy feelings Staying safe at home Feeling poorly	
Y3	Sleep, food and hygiene	Healthy habits	health, wellbeing, sleep, routine, healthy, carbohydrates, proteins, dairy, fats, germs, virus, routines, hygiene, healthy, poorly, teeth, toothpaste, hand washing, soap	The power of sleep Making healthy food choices Germs!	
Y4	Influences and personal choices	Dealing with feelings	Influence, pressure, persuade, healthy choices, consequence, responsibility, feelings emotions	Healthy influences Making healthy choices Dealing with feelings	
Y5	Valuing our bodies and minds	Finding your calm	self-image, self-respect, attributes, self- talk, development, proud, drugs, alcohol, tobacco, cigarettes, e-cigarettes, vaping, caffeine, substances, legal, illegal, effects, bacteria, virus, infection, immunisation, vaccination, antibiotic	Valuing ourselves Alcohol, tobacco and drugs Keeping well	
Y6	Being the best me	Ask the expert: picturing myself	self-respect, boundaries, kind, confidence, strengths, weaknesses, trolling, social media, internet, comparison, mental health, mental III- health, wellbeing, illness, symptoms, mind	Being the best me Social media and our wellbeing Taking care of our mental health	

Discovery Education Health and Relationships Coping with change			This topic explores how people grow and change from babies, through puberty to adulthood. At Key Stage 1, it examines ways in which children have grown and how they will continue to change, and how to develop resilience to change. At Key Stage 2, it identifies changes that will take place in children's bodies during puberty, and explores ways to manage the emotional effects of life changes, including transition to secondary school.			
Year	group	Video	Vocabulary	Lesson	S	
Y1	Growing and changing	How I have changed	growing, adults, babies, change, older, growing up, jobs, future	1) 2) 3)	Animal babies How have we changed? A future me	
Y2	Growing up and setting goals	Three generations	growing, adult, baby, change, timeline, life cycle, likes, dislikes, change, future, likes, dislikes, change, future	1) 2) 3)	When I am older Looking at the changes ahead Goals	
Y3	Coping with feelings when things change	When Bailey's dog died	changes, support, feelings, sad, empathy, sympathy, happy, positive, kind, emotions	1) 2) 3)	New changes Feeling sad and showing empathy Happiness	
Y4	Puberty and hygiene	Sweat, soap and showers	puberty, hormones, menstruation, eggs, sanitary pads, periods, hygiene, hormones, sweat, health	1) 2) 3)	What is puberty? Understanding periods Keeping clean as we grow and change	
Y5	Puberty and emotions	Elise explains: periods	hormones, menstruation, periods, sperm, eggs, ovaries, testicles, vagina, penis, puberty, emotions, hormones, changes, feelings, support, control	1) 2) 3)	Puberty Puberty and emotions Emotional changes: managing well	
Y6	Coping with emotional effects of life changes	Ask the expert: puberty	body image, reality, pressure, attributes, influence, relationships, emotions, secondary school, future, memories, reflect	1) 2) 3)	Body image Puberty and changing relationships Moving on	

EYFS

RSE in EYFS is covered through the teaching of PATHS lessons and also the Health and self-care and People and communities' section of Development matters. This non-statutory guidance material supports practitioners in implementing the statutory requirements of the EYFS, which are learning about Health and Self Care and People and communities

From September 2021 we will be following the new framework with additional areas of learning including **Managing Self, Building Relationships and People Culture and Communities.**

Appendix 2: By the end of primary school pupils should know

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Families and people who care about me	 That families are important for children growing up because they can give love, security and stability 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 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 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 That marriage represents a formal and legally recognised commitment of two people to each other which is intended to be lifelong 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	 How important friendships are in making us feel happy and secure, and how people choose and make friends The characteristics of friendships, including mutual respect, truthfulness, trustworthiness, loyalty, kindness, generosity, trust, sharing interests and experiences and support with problems and difficulties That healthy friendships are positive and welcoming towards others, and do not make others feel lonely or excluded That most friendships have ups and downs, and that these can often be worked through so that the friendship is repaired or even strengthened, and that resorting to violence is never right How to recognise who to trust and who not to trust, how to judge when a friendship is making them feel unhappy or uncomfortable, managing conflict, how to manage these situations and how to seek help or advice from others, if needed

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Respectful relationships	• The importance of respecting others, even when they are very different from them (for example, physically, in character, personality or backgrounds), or make different choices or have different preferences or beliefs
	Practical steps they can take in a range of different contexts to improve or support respectful relationships
	The conventions of courtesy and manners
	The importance of self-respect and how this links to their own happiness
	• That in school and in 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
	About different types of bullying (including cyberbullying), the impact of bullying, responsibilities of bystanders (primarily reporting bullying to an adult) and how to get help
	What a stereotype is, and how stereotypes can be unfair, negative or destructive
	The importance of permission-seeking and giving in relationships with friends, peers and adults
Online	That people sometimes behave differently online, including by pretending to be someone they are not
relationships	• That the same principles apply to online relationships as to face-to face relationships, including the importance of respect for others online including when we are anonymous
	The rules and principles for keeping safe online, how to recognise risks, harmful content and contact, and how to report them
	How to critically consider their online friendships and sources of information including awareness of the risks associated with people they have never met
	How information and data is shared and used online
Being safe	What sorts of boundaries are appropriate in friendships with peers and others (including in a digital context)
	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
	That each person's body belongs to them, and the differences between appropriate and inappropriate or unsafe physical, and other, contact
	How to respond safely and appropriately to adults they may encounter (in all contexts, including online) whom they do not know
	How to recognise and report feelings of being unsafe or feeling bad about any adult
	How to ask for advice or help for themselves or others, and to keep trying until they are heard
	How to report concerns or abuse, and the vocabulary and confidence needed to do so
	Where to get advice e.g. family, school and/or other sources

Appendix 3: Parent form: withdrawal from sex education within RSE

TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENTS						
Name of child		Class				
Name of parent		Date				
Reason for withdr	rawing from sex education with	in relationsh	nips and sex education			
Any other informa	tion you would like the school	to consider				
Parent signature						
TO BE COMPLET	ED BY THE SCHOOL					
Agreed actions from discussion with parents						