

Marcham Church of England Primary School **Relationships and Sex Education Policy**

The Education Reform Act (Section 1) states that schools should provide a curriculum that *"promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils.... and of society; and prepare such pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life."*

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE), therefore, is an important dimension of a child's statutory entitlement.

Rationale

Relationships and Sex Education is an umbrella term for all the teaching and learning we offer pupils to understand the emotional, social and physical aspects of growing up, relationships, sex and human sexuality, and to develop skills for relationships and informed decision making. At Marcham Church of England Primary School we believe that Relationships and Sex education is the entitlement of each child. We are committed to deliver it within the context of a broad and balanced programme of health education, within the Science and PSHE programme, and in the spiritual context of a Church School. The policy and practice is founded on the Christian values of love, respect and trust and is supported by appropriate knowledge.

Aims

In our school we aim to:

- Ensure that Relationships and Sex education is integrated into the curriculum and not isolated, taken out of context or over-emphasised in any way;
- Foster self-esteem and respect for others as the cornerstone of good health education and good Relationships and Sex education;
- Ensure sensitive support for children and young people as they grow and mature through a nurturing of the partnerships between the adults who are a part of the school community - governors, teachers, support staff and parents.
- Ensure children have the ability to accept their own and others' gender/sexual identity;
- Encourage children to enjoy relationships based upon mutual trust and respect, free from any abuse;
- Generate an atmosphere where questions and discussion on sexual matters can take place without embarrassment;
- Adopt a whole school approach to Relationships and Sex education.

Teaching and Learning

The school's programme for Relationships and Sex Education is embedded within the Science curriculum and the wider curriculum for Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE) and will help children to respect themselves and others. The programme is tailored to the age and the physical and emotional maturity of the children and is delivered by the school staff and invited professionals. Assessment of the teaching programme and the children's learning will be made by the class teacher.

Effective teaching of Relationships and Sex education will increase pupils' knowledge of:

- Body awareness: preparation for puberty and adulthood;
- Human growth and development;
- Families, parenting and life cycles;
- Safety and child protection;
- Helping agencies;
- Sexual identity.

It will also enable pupils to:

- Improve their self-esteem;
- Make informed choices and decisions;
- Develop personal initiative and be able to take responsibility;
- Recognise personal skills and qualities in themselves and others;
- Maintain and develop relationships;
- Develop self-confidence;
- Develop assertiveness in appropriate situations;

- Develop the motivation to succeed.

In RSE, a variety of resources are identified, including DVD material, worksheets, visits from the school health nurses, books and other appropriate media. However, we emphasise the importance of discussion and questioning within the safe, secure and non-judgmental atmosphere of the class with its teacher. Opportunities to explore feelings and to practice personal and interpersonal skills are given, and the principles of trust, mutual acceptance and confidentiality are built within the PSHCE programme.

We believe that partnership with parents is essential and recognise the importance of parental involvement in their children's learning. We acknowledge the learning that occurs in the community and in the home believing that these, alongside school links, are essential dimensions of sex and relationship education. Parents are informed about the RSE programme within the curriculum. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from all or part of the Sex Education programme that does not form part of the statutory National Curriculum for Science. This must be stated in writing to the Headteacher and will remain in force until rescinded.

Equal Opportunities

We are committed to delivering an education which provides equality of opportunity and freedom from discrimination on the grounds of race, nationality or national origin, gender, religion, class, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief or disability. All children, as far as is reasonably possible, will follow the same scheme of work and work alongside others in order to enhance the quality and breadth of learning for all.

Internet safety and on-line relationships

Children are growing up in a culture where technology and social media are important and have created more opportunities for sharing personal information. We encourage pupils to think about what they want others to know and see about them and about how perceptions can be assumed – whether on or offline. We address issues of personal safety, privacy and boundaries, peer influence and personal responsibility through the curriculum, through Internet safety weeks during the year and through specific Citizenship activities and training.

The role of the Head teacher and Governing Body

The Head teacher takes overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation and for liaison with the Governing body, LA and appropriate outside agencies. All policies are available and accessible from the school office and this policy is reviewed every two years by the Governing Body.

Further Information

Guidance is currently not provided by Oxfordshire County Council but reference can be made to their document 'Curriculum Matters 9'. This policy should also be read in conjunction with our Curriculum statements for Science and PSCHE and the school's ICT acceptable Use of the Internet and Equalities policies.

For information on safeguarding children and confidentiality see OCC guidance and our school Safeguarding policy.

Our School Health Nurse continues to offer support and guidance on any health issues, including sex education.

Date Agreed with Governing Body: Nov '24

Date of next review: Sept 2026

Signed..... Chair of Governors/Chair of Committee

Signed..... Headteacher