



July 2020

Let Your Light Shine.

Matt 5 vs16

RSE Policy Vision:

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 Mere Brow Church of England School our relationship education seeks to live out this command and explore how we can 'love our neighbour' through what we say and do. Our school focusses on the importance of relationships and the qualities and character needed to sustain the best relationships that honour each other whether within a friendship, family relationship or romantic relationship.

Each child is a unique being, a child of God, loved and accepted. As such, our school seeks to enable children to develop through an inclusive programme of teaching that is based on Christian principles, which both respects the human body and seeks to ensure health and well-being.

Aim:

The aims of relationship and sex education at Mere Brow CE Primary School are:

- ☐ To ensure Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) is part of a child's broad, balanced curriculum, integral to the basic curriculum of the school and part of the child's all-round development.
- ☐ To enable pupils to understand the qualities of healthy relationships based on Christian principles, including the importance of marriage and lifelong commitments.
- ☐ To prepare children for healthy relationships in an online world.
- ☐ To understand how to stay safe, know the importance of boundaries and how to report abuse or feelings of being unsafe.
- ☐ Help pupils develop a positive and secure personal identity, a sense of their own value and feelings of confidence and empathy.
- ☐ Create a positive culture around issues of sexuality and relationship.
- ☐ To ensure that all understand the importance of respecting others and accepting those who differ, yet challenging those behaviours and attitudes which exploit others and do not reflect our Christian values.
- ☐ To know how to 'love your neighbour' even when we might disagree.

RSE Statutory Requirements:

This school complies with the requirements of the Equality Act and the Public Sector Equality Duty in addition to complying with the statutory guidance on Relationships Education, Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education

Policy Development and Review:

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

1. Review – a member of staff or working group gather all relevant information including relevant national, diocesan and local guidance.
2. Staff consultation – all school staff were given the opportunity to look at the policy and make recommendations
3. Parent/stakeholder consultation – parents and any interested parties were invited to attend a meeting (or respond to a questionnaire) about the policy
4. Pupil consultation – we investigated what exactly pupils want from their RSE
5. Ratification – once amendments were made, the policy was shared with governors and ratified

This policy will be reviewed every three years using the above process, drawing on the views of pupils, parents, staff and the community at the time of review.

Definitions:

Relationships Education is the programme of work that forms part of the basic curriculum. It covers all types of relationships including online, peer to peer, family and carer relationships. It also covers respect for others and staying safe.

Sex Education is a programme of work that covers romantic relationships, sexual health, conception linking to our Science Curriculum, which covers Human Reproduction.

Health Education is a programme of teaching about puberty, physical health and fitness, healthy eating, mental wellbeing, drugs, alcohol and tobacco.

Right to be excluded from Sex Education:

Parents have the right to request that their child be withdrawn from some or all of sex education delivered as part of RSE.

Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing and addressed to the head teacher. A copy of the withdrawal request will be placed in the pupil's educational record. The Head teacher will arrange a meeting to discuss the request with parents and, where appropriate the child, and take appropriate action. Alternative work will be given to pupils who are withdrawn from Sex Education, as agreed by the head teacher.

Parents cannot withdraw their child from any part of Relationship Education as this now forms part of the basic curriculum and is a requirement of the government's statutory guidance.

Dealing with Difficult questions/situations:

Our school's Relationship and Sex Education programme will provide opportunities for children to 'talk honestly and openly'. At the same time, we have to respect the pace of children's maturation. We feel that some topics are best postponed until the secondary school years. There are also sensitive or controversial topics over which some staff, parents and governors may have reasonable concerns, which will be referred to families to discuss with their child/ren.

Our Primary school has decided not to teach about or answer questions on:

rape, oral sex, exploitative or violent sexual practices, incest, abortion, prostitution, contraception, masturbation or about forms of sexual intercourse or foreplay. AIDS/HIV issues will be discussed in an age appropriate and sensitive manner as and when they are encountered.

Every child has the right to ask questions about their own body and understanding in relation to RSE, therefore if a child asks a question which staff feel is not appropriate to explore within our RSE provisions it will be referred to families. At parental request school can also refer these questions to the school nurse, who will discuss it with the child/ren.

In some cases, a question or request for advice may indicate the pupil to be at risk or in danger, in which case appropriate action will be taken in accordance with the school's Safeguarding procedures. This also means that if a pupil puts a private question to a teacher or other member of staff and

requests secrecy, no promise of secrecy or confidentiality will be given, but with the reassurance that any steps taken will always be in the pupil's best interest.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

The Governing Board:

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

The Head teacher:

The head teacher is responsible for ensuring that RSE is taught in a carefully sequenced way within a planned programme, and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from sex education.

Staff:

Staff are responsible for:

- Teaching in line with the Church of England foundation of the school.
- Delivering RSE with sensitivity.
- Modelling positive attitudes to RSE.
- Responding to the needs of individual pupils.
- Responding appropriately to pupils whose parents wish them to be withdrawn from sex education.

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 head teacher.

Pupils:

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

Training:

Staff are trained on the delivery of RSE.

The head teacher may invite visitors, such as school nurses or sexual health professionals, to assist with the delivery of RSE or to train staff. Any visitors will follow the school policy and deliver in line with the Church of England ethos of the school.

Policy: RSE

Reviewed: Sept 2020

Next Review: Sept 2022

Responsibility: Head teacher/Governors

