



CHRISTIAN MALFORD
Church of England Primary School

Challenge Motivate Succeed

CHRISTIAN MALFORD, SEAGRY AND SOMERFORDS' WALTER POWELL PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Relationship, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) Policy

Policy approved by: Local Board
Policy adoption date: September 2023
Due for review: September 2025

Vision Statement

At the Vine Schools of Christian Malford, Seagry and Walter Powell, our curriculum is driven by the ambition to foster children's growth in all aspects of life, including spiritual, interpersonal skills, critical thinking as well as academic knowledge.

Through direct teaching, our curriculum is designed to guide children in establishing values that are important to their wellbeing. This will be facilitated by the teaching of our whole school Christian 'GRAPES' values, a foundation in British Values and planned opportunities to discuss and consider real world problems.

Our curriculum is designed to develop and expand Empathy. By approaching the curriculum through empathy, we want our children not just to be engaged in their learning but to be 'bothered' about what's going on in the world around them, empowering them to become courageous advocates and have their voice heard.

Relationship, Sex and Health Education Policy: Christian Malford, Seagry and Somerfords' Walter Powell Church of England Primary Schools

Our school's approach to Relationship, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) follows that of the Church of England Education Office in that it seeks to be faith-sensitive and inclusive. It is underpinned by two key Biblical passages:

"So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them" (Genesis 2:7)

"I have come in order that you might have life - life in all its fullness" (John 10:10)

At Christian Malford, Seagry and Somerfords' Walter Powell Church of England Primary Schools, everyone will be treated with dignity as all people who are made in the image of God and are loved equally by God. 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; where bullying of all kinds is eliminated; and where they are free to be themselves and fulfil their potential without fear.

Our school seeks to ensure that the RSHE curriculum protects, informs and nurtures all pupils. It clearly differentiates between factual teaching (biology, medicine, the law, marriage, different types of families and the composition of society) and moral teaching about relationships and values, recognising that the distinction can be easily blurred and that there needs to be discernment about the manner in which this is taught. We teach RSHE within a moral (but not moralistic) framework.

RSHE in Christian Malford, Seagry and Somerfords' Walter Powell Church of England Schools is about what constitutes wellbeing and loving care for ourselves (physical and mental health education), how we show loving care for others (relationships education) and, when at an appropriate age and stage in life, how we show loving care to those we choose to be intimate with, including within marriage (sex education).

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.

Defining Relationships Education

Relationships Education is learning about how to:

- be appreciative of existing relationships;
- form new healthy friendships; and

- enjoy strong positive, caring, relationships with good boundaries, online and in person. This will particularly refer to family relationships (including marriage), friendships and relationships with peers and adults.

Defining Sex Education

Sex education is about reproduction: learning how babies can be made and the emotions that people experience when they are ready for close intimacy.

The national curriculum for science includes content about human body parts, growth, puberty and gestation. Parents do not have the right to withdraw from the science aspect of the curriculum.

Organisation

- We teach RSHE through different aspects of the curriculum – mainly through science and in our Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) curriculum. We feel that science contributes significantly to a pupil's knowledge and understanding of his or her own body, and how it is changing and developing.
- In PSHE we teach pupils about relationships, and we encourage them to discuss issues.
- In science lessons, teachers inform pupils about puberty and how a baby is born. For this we follow the guidance material in the national scheme of work for science. In Key Stage 1 we teach pupils about how animals, including humans, move, feed, grow and reproduce, and we also teach them about the main parts of the body. Pupils learn to appreciate the differences between people and how to show respect for each other. In Key Stage 2 we teach about life processes and the main stages of the human life cycle in greater depth.
- In Years 5 and 6, we place a particular emphasis on health education, as pupils may experience puberty at this age. We liaise with the Local Health Authority about suitable teaching materials to use with our pupils in these lessons. Teachers do their best to answer all questions with sensitivity and care. By the end of Key Stage 2, we ensure that both boys and girls know how babies are born, how their bodies change during puberty, what menstruation is, and how it affects women. We always teach this with due regard for the emotional development of the pupils.

The role of parents and carers:

We are well aware that the primary role in pupils' sex education lies with parents and carers. We wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents and carers of our pupils through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation.

In promoting this objective we:

- inform parents about RSHE policy and practice when it comes up in the curriculum;
- answer any questions that parents may have about the Relationships, Sex and Health Education of their child;
- take seriously any issue that parents and carers raise with teachers or Local Board members about this policy or the arrangements for RSHE;

- inform parents and carers about the best practice known with regard to RSHE, so that the teaching in school supports the key messages that parents and carers give to children at home. We believe that, through this mutual exchange of knowledge and information, pupils will benefit from being given consistent messages about their changing body and their increasing responsibilities.

The right to withdrawal from sex education

Parents do have the right to excuse their children from the sex education aspect of RSHE and can do so by making concerns known and applying in writing to the Headteacher. The school will invite any enquiring parents or legal guardians to talk through concerns. An explanation of the rationale for RSHE will be given; an opportunity will be offered to review the intended materials and to consider the impact of not receiving sex education with peers.

Withdrawing a child from sex education remains a statutory right as a parent or legal guardian. If a pupil is excused from sex education it is the school's responsibility to ensure that the pupil receives appropriate, purposeful education during the period of withdrawal. There is no right to withdraw from relationships education or health education. The school will document this process to ensure a record is kept.

Defining Health Education

Health education is learning about physical health and mental wellbeing so that pupils can make wise choices to ensure their own flourishing and the flourishing of others.

How will RSHE be taught in our school?

RSHE will be delivered professionally and as an identifiable part of PSHE and Science. It will be led, resourced and reported to parents in the same way as any other subject. There will be a planned programme delivered in a carefully sequenced way.

RSHE will be delivered in a way that affords dignity and shows respect to all who make up our diverse community. It will not discriminate against any of the protected characteristics in the Equality Act and will be sensitive to the faith and beliefs of those in the wider school community. RSHE will seek to explain fairly the tenets and varying interpretations of religious communities on matters of sex and relationships and teach these viewpoints with respect. It will value the importance of faithfulness as the underpinning and backdrop for relationships. It will encourage pupils to develop the skills needed to disagree without being disagreeable, to appreciate the lived experience of other people and to live well together.

RSHE will seek to build resilience in our pupils to help them form healthy relationships, to keep themselves safe and resist the harmful influence of the excesses of media in all its forms.

RSHE will promote healthy resilient relationships set in the context of character and virtue development that sits within the schools Christian Vision and Values.

Values such as such as honesty, integrity, self-control, courage, humility, kindness, forgiveness, generosity and a sense of justice

All staff teaching this sensitive and important subject will have received training. This training will be regularly reviewed and revisited.

Pupils with SEND will have had the content made accessible to them by their class teacher with advice from the Special Educational Needs Coordinator.

At Christian Malford, Seagry and Somerfords' Walter Powell Church of England Academies RSHE is taught by confident trained staff and only some elements will be taught by outside agencies (such as First Aid or aspects about puberty). It is important that pupils have confidence in the teacher and that a 'safe space' is created where pupils feel confident and can ask age-appropriate questions. RSHE will be monitored and evaluated.

This will follow the same monitoring and evaluation processes used throughout the school for other subjects i.e. pupil conferencing, work reviews, learning walks etc.

Policy Review

This policy has been produced by consultation with the Diocese of Bristol and Local Board Curriculum and Standards sub-committee.

It has been produced in consultation with parents. It must, however, be recognised that the law specifies that what is taught and how it is taught is ultimately a decision for the school.

This policy will be reviewed every: 2 years

It is due to be reviewed again on: September 2025

It was approved by LB on: September 2023

This policy should be read in conjunction with The Equalities Act 2010

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/equality-act-2010-guidance>

Executive Principal and Heads of School to keep written records, giving details of the content and delivery of the RSHE programme that we teach in our Schools.

Signed:..... Chair of Local Board