



St. Benet's RC Primary School Relationships and Health Education Policy

Mission Statement

Jesus calls us by our name to:
Grow together in a journey of faith and love
Help us to see, in the people we meet – the face of God above
Do our very best, when we work and when we play
Use our special gifts –serving one another every day and in every way

Our mission statement commits us to the education of the whole child (spiritual, physical, intellectual, moral, social, cultural and emotional) and we believe that RHE is an integral part of this education. Furthermore we endeavour 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 and young people 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.

Rationale:

*'I have come that you might have life and have it to the full'
(John 10.10)*

At St Benet's RC Primary School we are committed to RHE because of our Christian beliefs about God and the whole human person. The belief in the unique dignity of the human person made in the image and likeness of God underpins the approach to all education in a Catholic School. Our approach to RHE therefore is rooted in the Catholic Church's teaching of the human person and presented in a positive framework of Christian ideals.

At the heart of 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 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. RHE will be placed firmly within the context of relationship – as it is there that sexuality grows and develops.

Following the guidance of the Bishops of England and Wales and as advocated by the DfE, RHE will be firmly embedded in the PSHE framework as it is concerned with nurturing human wholeness and integral to the physical, spiritual, emotional, moral, social and intellectual development of pupils. It is centred on Christ's vision of being human as good news and will be positive and prudent, showing the potential for development, while enabling the dangers and risks involved to be understood and appreciated.

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

INTENT:

In partnership with parents, we aim 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.

To develop the following attitudes and virtues:

- respect for the dignity of every human being – in their own person and in the person of others;
- joy in the goodness of the created world and their own bodies;
- responsibility for one's actions and a recognition of the impact of these on others;
- recognising and valuing their own sexual identity and that of others;
- celebrating the gift of life-long love;
- recognising the importance of marriage and family life

To develop the following personal and social skills:

- making sound judgements and good choices;
- loving and being loved, and the ability to form friendships and loving, stable relationships;
- managing emotions within relationships including when relationships break down;
- managing conflict positively, recognising the value of difference;
- humility, mercy and compassion, learning to forgive and be forgiven;
- developing self-esteem and confidence, demonstrating self-respect and empathy for others;
- building resilience and the ability to resist unwanted pressures, recognising the influence and impact of the media, internet and peer groups

To develop the following knowledge and understanding:

- the Church's teaching on marriage and the importance of marriage and family life;
- the centrality and importance of virtue in guiding human living and loving;
- the physical and psychological changes that accompany puberty;
- the facts about human reproduction, how love is expressed sexually and how sexual love plays an essential and sacred role in procreation

IMPLEMENTATION:

RHE will be developed in a variety of ways: through the whole school ethos of our school; through PSHCE sessions and specific RHE sessions delivered; and by working alongside the school nurse.

Life to the Full is a Catholic RHE curriculum and is based upon 'a model Catholic RHE Curriculum' by the Catholic Education Service. The programme follows a four-stage structure which is repeated across four different learning stages:

- EYFS (Nursery & Reception)
- Key Stage 1 (Year 1 & Year 2)
- Lower Key Stage 2 (Year 3 & Year 4)

- Upper Key Stage 2 (Year 5 & Year 6)

Within each learning stage, there are three modules which are based on the Model Catholic RHE Curriculum:

- Created and Loved by God
- Created to Love Others
- Created to Live in Community

Life to the Full is intended to be a partnership between home, school and church.

Teaching and Learning:

A variety of teaching and learning strategies will be used from across the curriculum adapted appropriately to the needs and learning styles of pupils.

Inclusion and Equality:

All pupils in our school, irrespective of ability, faith and background will have appropriate differentiated access to the Religious Education programme.

The governing body have wider responsibilities under the Equalities Act 2010 and will ensure that our school strives to do the best for all of the pupils, irrespective of disability, educational needs, race, nationality, ethnic or national origin, sex, gender identity, religion or sexual orientation or whether they are looked after children. We will ensure RHE is sensitive to the different needs of individual pupils in respect to pupils' different abilities, levels of maturity and personal circumstances; for example, their own sexual orientation, faith or culture and is taught in a way that does not subject pupils to discrimination. Lessons will also help children to realise the nature and consequences of discrimination, teasing, bullying and aggressive behaviours (including cyber-bullying), use of prejudice-based language and how to respond and ask for help.

Parents and Carers:

We recognise that parents (and other carers who stand in their place) are the primary educators of their children. As a Catholic school, we provide the principal means by which the Church assists parents and carers in educating their children. Therefore the school will support parents and carers by providing material to be shared with their children at home and workshops to help parents/carers to find out more. Parents/carers will be informed by letter when the more sensitive aspects of RHE will be covered in order that they can be prepared to talk and answer questions about their children's learning.

Parents will be consulted before this policy is ratified by the governors. They will be consulted at every stage of the development of the RHE programme, as well as during the process of monitoring, review and evaluation. They will be able to view the resources used by the school in the RSE programme. Our aim is that, at the end of the consultation process, every parent and carer will have full confidence in the school's RHE programme to meet their child's needs.

Parents continue to have the right to withdraw their children from RSE except in those elements which are required by the National Curriculum science orders. Should parents wish to withdraw their children they are asked to notify the school by contacting Mrs Blakey. The school will provide support by providing material for parents to help the children with their learning.

External Visitors:

Our school will often call upon help and guidance from outside agencies and health specialists to deliver aspects of RHE. Such visits will always complement the current programme and never

substitute or replace teacher led sessions. It is important that any external visitor is clear about their role and responsibility whilst they are in school delivering a session. Parents will be informed of such visits in advance.

Other Roles and Responsibilities:

Governors:

- draw up the RHE policy, in consultation with parents and teachers;
- ensure that the policy is available to parents;
- ensure that the policy is in accordance with other whole school policies, e.g., SEN, the ethos of the school and our Christian beliefs;
- ensure that parents know of their right to withdraw their children;
- establish a link governor to share in the monitoring and evaluation of the programme, including resources used;
- ensure that the policy provides proper and adequate coverage of relevant National Curriculum science topics and the setting of RHE within PSHE.

Headteacher:

The Headteacher takes overall delegated responsibility for the implementation of this policy and for liaison with the Governing Body, parents, the Diocesan Schools' Service and the Local Education Authority, also appropriate agencies.

PSHE/RHE Co-Ordinator:

The co-ordinator with the head teacher has a general responsibility for supporting other members of staff in the implementation of this policy and will provide a lead in the dissemination of the information relating to RHE and the provision of in-service training. (They may be supported by the curriculum deputy and the member of staff with responsibility for child protection).

All Staff:

RHE is a whole school shared responsibility. All teachers have a responsibility of care; as well as fostering academic progress they should actively contribute to the guardianship and guidance of the physical, moral and spiritual well-being of their pupils. Teachers will be expected to teach RHE in accordance with the Catholic Ethos of the school. Appropriate training will be made available for all staff teaching RHE. All staff have been included in the development of this policy and all staff should be aware of the policy and how it relates to them.

IMPACT:

The RHE Co-ordinator will monitor the provision of the 'Life to the Full' programme by examining plans, schemes of work and samples of pupils work at regular intervals. The programme will be evaluated biannually by means of questionnaires and discussion with pupils, staff and parents. The results of the evaluation will be reported and suggestions sought for improvements. Governors will consider all such evaluations and suggestions before amending the policy. Governors remain ultimately responsible for the policy.

Revised/reviewed by: Head, Deputy Head, staff & governors: Autumn 2023
Consultation with parents: 10th October 2023

Next Review: Autumn 2024 or sooner if regulations / circumstances change