



St Stephen's CE Primary School Tockholes Relationship Education Policy

Our Christian Vision

As a small yet unique part of God's Big family, we will inspire and nurture all to become the very best they can be. Opening up the world, we will celebrate our Father's (God's) wondrous, diverse creation. We will all live, love, laugh and learn in the light of Christ.

'I can do all things/through Christ who strengthens me' Philippians 4: 13

To create a community where hope is firmly rooted in the fullness of God, where each individual can fulfil their true potential.

Forgiveness

To encourage respect, understanding for and forgiveness of each other.

Compassion

To inspire children to show compassion for others within school and in local and global communities.

Community

To strengthen links with the local community and Church.

To develop an inclusive community where all are included and all are valued.

Friendship

To equip children to develop socially and emotionally; having due regard for other peoples' feeling and situations. Developing empathy, resilience and self-confidence.

Humility

To inspire empathy and compassion, putting the needs of others before themselves.

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 St Stephen's 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.

Aims

The aims of relationship education at St Stephen's CE Primary School are:

- *To ensure Relationships Education is part of a child's broad, balanced curriculum, integral to PHSE and 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 relationships.*
- *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 Christian values.*
- *To know how to 'love your neighbour' even when we might disagree.*

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, parents and governors. The consultation and policy development process involved the following steps:

- Review - The Headteacher and PHSE leader gathered all relevant information including relevant national, diocesan and local guidance
- Staff consultation - all school staff were given the opportunity to look at the policy and make recommendations
- Stakeholder consultation - parents and any interested parties were invited to attend and respond to the policy.

- Pupil consultation - we investigated what exactly pupils want from their relationship education
- Ratification - once amendments were made, the policy was shared with governors and ratified.

This policy will be reviewed regularly 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.

Health Education (See PHSE Policy) is a programme of teaching about puberty, physical health and fitness, healthy eating, mental wellbeing, drugs, alcohol and tobacco. The Science curriculum covers human reproduction (see Science Policy).

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

Curriculum Delivery of Relationship Education

The PHSE outlines the curriculum overview for the school in relation to how relationship education are taught in which years. In addition, the overview indicates where cross-curricular work covers Relationship Education content.

All content is adapted to meet the needs of pupils with special educational needs or disabilities.

Difficult questions & sensitive issues in relation to sex education

Our school's Relationship 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 (see below) over which some staff, parents and governors may have reasonable concerns.

Our 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 including homosexual practices or foreplay. AIDS/HIV issues will be discussed in an age-appropriate and sensitive manner as and when they are encountered.

If a child asks a question on any topic listed in the first section of the above list, teachers will explain that this is a matter not dealt with in school, that the child should consult his/her parent for an answer. The school will normally seek to inform parents when such a question is asked.

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 written policy and procedure for Child Protection. 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 Body

The governing board will approve the Relationship Policy and hold the headteacher to account for its implementation.

The Headteacher

The headteacher is responsible for ensuring that Relationship Education is taught in a carefully sequenced way within a planned programme.

Staff

Staff are responsible for:

- Teaching in line with the Church of England foundation of the school.
- Delivering Relationship Education with sensitivity.
- Modelling positive attitudes to Relationship Education.
- Responding to the needs of individual pupils.

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

Pupils

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

Training

Staff are trained on the delivery of Relationship Education.

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

Monitoring arrangements

The delivery of Relationship Education is monitored through regular book looks, lesson observations, pupil and conferencing in line our school monitoring timetable.

