

The Magdalen Church of England / Methodist School Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) January 2021

Statutory Relationships and Health Education

“The Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education (England) Regulations 2019, made under sections 34 and 35 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017, make Relationships Education compulsory for all pupils receiving primary education... They also make Health Education compulsory in all schools except independent schools.”

DfE Guidance p.8

As a primary church academy, we must provide Relationships Education to all pupils as per section 34 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017. We do not have to follow the National Curriculum, but we are required to offer all pupils a curriculum that is similar in breadth and depth to the National Curriculum, including requirements to teach Science, which would include the elements of sex education contained within the primary Science curriculum. In teaching RSHE, we have regard to the guidance issued by the Secretary of State as outlined in section 403 of the Education Act 1996.

At The Magdalen Church of England / Methodist School, we teach RSHE as set out in this policy.

Context

At The Magdalen Church of England/Methodist School, we believe that all are made in the image of God, are loved by God and are therefore to be treated with dignity and respect. This enables our pupils to understand that they should value the gift of themselves and recognise and respect this gift of uniqueness in others by seeking out healthy relationships.

Our school seeks to ensure that the RSHE curriculum protects, informs and nurtures all pupils. The curriculum is delivered with an understanding that pupils and staff will have differing experiences of family structures eg single parent families, LBGQT families, families headed by grandparents, adoptive parents, foster parents / carers and young carers etc. We are clear that no member of our school community should feel stigmatised as Christians are called to respect and honour everyone (1Peter 2:17). All lessons will be delivered with sensitivity within a caring and respectful setting.

Our RSHE curriculum 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. We teach RSHE within a moral (but not moralistic) framework.

To ensure progression and a spiral curriculum, we use Jigsaw, the mindful approach to PSHE, as our chosen teaching and learning programme and tailor it to our children's needs. Whilst the Jigsaw units 'Healthy Me', 'Relationships' and 'Changing Me' are predominantly associated with statutory RSHE, it is important to see the subject as being intrinsically linked to, not only other units with PSHE, but also to our School Values and the Christian distinctiveness of the school and its ethos. When planning RSHE lessons, teachers are mindful of these links as well as the environmental and social experiences of our school community.

Relationships Education

Relationships Education involves direct teaching about :

- Families and people who care for me
- Caring friendships
- Respectful relationships
- Online relationships
- Being safe

It is important to explain that whilst the Relationships Puzzle (unit) in Jigsaw covers most of the statutory Relationships Education, some of the outcomes are also taught elsewhere in Jigsaw e.g. the Celebrating Difference Puzzle helps children appreciate that there are many types of family composition and that each is important to the children involved. This holistic approach ensures the learning is reinforced through the year and across the curriculum.

Parents should also be aware that the Church of England states in "Valuing All God's Children", 2019, that Relationships and Sex education should: *"Make it clear that relationships and sex education is designed to prepare all pupils for the future, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. RSE must promote gender equality and LGBT equality and it must challenge discrimination. RSE must take the needs and experiences of LGBT people into account and it should seek to develop understanding that there are a variety of relationships and family patterns in the modern world."* (Page 34)

Health Education (Physical Health and Mental Well-Being)

Health Education involves direct teaching about :

- Mental well-being
- Internet safety and harms
- Physical health and fitness
- Healthy eating
- Drugs, alcohol and tobacco
- Health & prevention
- Basic first aid
- The changing adolescent body

It is important to explain that whilst the Healthy Me Puzzle (unit) in Jigsaw covers most of the statutory Health Education, some of the outcomes are taught elsewhere in Jigsaw e.g. emotional and mental health is nurtured every lesson through the Calm me time, social skills are grown every lesson through the Connect us activity and respect is enhanced through the use of the Jigsaw Charter.

Teaching children about puberty is now a statutory requirement which sits within the Health Education part of the DfE guidance within the 'Changing adolescent body' strand, and in Jigsaw this is taught as part of the Changing Me Puzzle (unit).

Sex Education

The DfE Guidance 2019 (p.23) recommends that all primary schools 'have a sex education programme tailored to the age and the physical and emotional maturity of the pupils. However, Sex Education is not compulsory in primary schools'.

The national curriculum for science includes subject content in related areas, such as the main external body parts, the human body as it grows from birth to old age (including

Always building friendships with one another, whilst being thankful for what we have.

while trying hard each and every day to trust other people around us through humility and service.

puberty) and reproduction in some plants and animals. In our school, the elements of sex education will be taught through the Science curriculum. However, in line with best practice, as detailed in Relationships and sex education (RSE) and health education (Gov.uk July 2020) we realise the importance of the transition phase before moving on to secondary school and the need to ensure that we support both boys and girls by preparing them for the changes that adolescence brings and – draws on knowledge of the human life cycle as set out in the national curriculum for science - how a baby is conceived and born.

As well as consulting parents more generally about the school's overall policy, we consult parents before the final year of primary school about the detailed content of what will be taught. This process includes offering parents support in talking to their children about sex education and how to link this with what is being taught in school.

Parental right to withdraw

Parents / Guardians do not have the right to withdraw their child from Relationships Education.

Parents / Guardians do not have the right to withdraw their child from elements of the science curriculum which include elements of sex education.

A parent / guardian does have the right to withdraw a child from non-science elements of sex education delivered through RSHE although as previously stated, such topics, in our school are covered through the science curriculum. We would always aim to discuss and address any concerns that a parent may have in a measured way. Such discussions would take place between Mrs Anita Mills (subject leader) and / or the class teacher as appropriate. A parent wishing for their child to be withdrawn from such lessons, must submit their request in writing to the Head Teacher.

Monitoring

This policy will be monitored and reviewed by SLT, PSHE leader and Governors in June 2022.

Remembering to forgive when we have been wronged and hoping to help others less fortunate than ourselves.

Determined to show compassion for those around us and develop a community that embraces Justice and peace.