



## CHOLLERTON CHURCH OF ENGLAND AIDED FIRST SCHOOL

*Be the best you can be through:*

*...faith, nurture, inspiration, respect, happiness, inclusion, in a safe, loving Christian family.*

# Sex and Relationships Education Policy

## School Vision

At Chollerton C. of E. First School, our vision is to nurture every child in a supportive Christian environment, inspired by the Parable of the Lost Sheep (Matthew 18:12-14). We believe every individual is valued and deserves to reach their full potential.

## Introduction

Effective Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) is crucial for helping young people make informed and responsible decisions. At our small rural school, we cater to pupils aged 4 to 9 years and aim to equip them to navigate the physical, emotional, and moral challenges of growing up. SRE is integrated within our Personal, Social, Health, and Economic (PSHE) education curriculum.

## Statement of Intent

- Curriculum Quality:** We are committed to providing a high-quality, age-appropriate, and evidence-based relationships, sex, and health education (RSHE) curriculum, aligned with the Church of England's principles (Appendix 1).
- Holistic Development:** Our RSHE curriculum promotes social and cultural development, character building, and mental health, supporting pupils in flourishing within their communities.
- Inclusivity:** We make reasonable adjustments to ensure all pupils, including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), have access to SRE.

## Legal Framework

This policy adheres to relevant legislation and guidance, including:

- **Education Act 2002** (Section 80A)
- **Children and Social Work Act 2017**
- **RSE and Health Education Regulations 2019**
- **Equality Act 2010**
- **DfE Guidance on RSE and Health Education (2019)**

## Definitions

- **Relationships and Sex Education (RSE):** Teaching about healthy relationships, family, friendships, and understanding human sexuality.
- **Health Education:** Teaching about physical health, mental well-being, and making healthy lifestyle choices.

## Roles and Responsibilities

- **Governing Body:** Oversees curriculum implementation, evaluates provision, ensures accessibility, and communicates with parents regarding their rights.

- **Headteacher:** Implements the policy, trains staff, addresses parental withdrawal requests, and reports on policy effectiveness. oversees RSE delivery,
- **Teachers:** Deliver the curriculum sensitively, model positive attitudes, ensures age-appropriate content, monitors the curriculum's effectiveness and collaborate with support staff for inclusive teaching.

### **Curriculum Organisation**

1. **Core Elements:** The SRE program includes attitudes and values, personal and social skills, and knowledge and understanding.
2. **Integrated Approach:** SRE is delivered as part of the PSHE curriculum, informed by community issues and parental feedback.
3. **LGBTQ+ Education:** LGBTQ+ topics will be integrated into the curriculum, considering pupils' age and maturity.

### **Consultation with Parents and Carers**

- Parents play a crucial role in supporting their children’s understanding of relationships and health. We engage with parents through surveys, meetings, and newsletters to inform them of curriculum content and their rights regarding withdrawal.

### **Right to Withdraw from Sex Education**

- Parents cannot withdraw their children from relationships or health education but may request withdrawal from some aspects of sex education, as detailed in statutory guidance. The Headteacher will discuss these requests with parents and document the process.

### **Resources and External Partners**

- Teaching resources will be age-appropriate and sensitive to pupils' backgrounds. External partners may assist in delivering SRE, ensuring alignment with our curriculum and safeguarding policies.

### **Bullying and Confidentiality**

- The school adopts a zero-tolerance policy towards bullying, including incidents related to sexual orientation. Confidentiality will be respected, and any safeguarding concerns will be reported according to the Child Protection Policy.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

This policy will be reviewed annually by the subject leader and Headteacher, considering changes in statutory guidance and community feedback. The Governing Body will approve any amendments, which will be communicated to staff, parents, and pupils as necessary.

Signed by the Governing Body:

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**This policy was reviewed: Autumn 2024**

**Date of next review: Autumn 2026**

## **Appendix 1**

### **A CHARTER FOR FAITH SENSITIVE AND INCLUSIVE RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION, RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION (RSE) AND HEALTH EDUCATION (RSHE)<sup>1</sup>**

At Chollerton First School we seek to provide Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education (RSHE), which will enable all pupils to flourish.

We commit:

1. To work in partnership with parents and carers. This will involve dialogue with parents and carers through all stages of policy development as well as discussing the resources used to teach their children and how they can contribute at home. 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.

2. That RSHE will be delivered professionally and as an identifiable part of PSHE. 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. Staff will receive regular training in RSHE and PSHE. Any expert visitors or trainers invited into the school to enhance and supplement the programme will be expected to respect the schools published policy for RSHE.

3. That 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<sup>2</sup> 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.

4. That 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 pornography in all its forms. It will give pupils opportunities to reflect on values and influences including their peers, the media, the internet, faith and culture that may have shaped their attitudes to gender, relationships and sex. It will promote the development of the wisdom and skills our pupils need to make their own informed decisions.

<sup>1</sup> RSHE is used to indicate either Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education as determined by the school context since, after consultation with parents and carers primary schools may decide to include elements of sex education in their curriculum.

<sup>2</sup> The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership and pregnancy and maternity.

5. That RSHE will promote healthy resilient relationships set in the context of character and virtue development. It will reflect the vision and associated values of the school, promote reverence for the gift of human sexuality and encourage relationships that are hopeful and aspirational. Based on the school's values it will seek to develop character within a moral framework based on virtues such as honesty, integrity, self-control, courage, humility, kindness, forgiveness, generosity and a sense of justice but does not seek to teach only one moral position.

6. That RSHE will be based on honest and medically accurate information from reliable sources of information, including about the law and legal rights. It will distinguish between different types

of knowledge and opinions so that pupils can learn about their bodies and sexual and reproductive health as appropriate to their age and maturity.

7. To take a particular care to meet the individual needs of all pupils including those with special needs and disabilities. It will ensure that lessons and any resources used will be accessible and sensitive to the learning needs of the individual child. We acknowledge the potential vulnerability of pupils who have special needs and disabilities (SEND), and recognise the possibilities and rights of SEND pupils to high quality relationships and sex education.

8. To seek pupils' views about RSHE so that the teaching can be made relevant to their lives. It will discuss real life issues relating to the age and stage of pupils, including friendships, families, faith, consent, relationship abuse, exploitation and safe relationships online. This will be carefully targeted and age appropriate based on a teacher judgment about pupil readiness for this information in consultation with parents and carers.

## **Appendix 2**

### **Relationships education overview**

#### **Families and people who care for me**

By the end of primary school, pupils will know:

- That families are important for them growing up because they can give love, security and Stability.
- The characteristics of healthy family life, commitment to each other, including in times of difficulty, protection and care for children and other family members, the importance of spending time together and sharing each other's lives.
- That others' families, either in school or in the wider world, sometimes look different from their family, but that they should respect those differences and know that other children's families are also characterised by love and care.
- That stable, caring relationships, which may be of different types, are at the heart of happy families, and are important for children's security as they grow up.
- That marriage represents a formal and legally recognised commitment of two people to each other which is intended to be lifelong.
- How to recognise if family relationships are making them feel unhappy or unsafe, and how to seek help or advice from others if needed.
- Caring friendships
- By the end of primary school, pupils will know:
- How important friendships are in making us feel happy and secure, and how people choose and make friends.
- The characteristics of friendships, including mutual respect, truthfulness, trustworthiness, loyalty, kindness, generosity, trust, sharing interests and experiences, and support with problems and difficulties.
- That healthy friendships are positive and welcoming towards others, and do not make others feel lonely or excluded.
- That most friendships have ups and downs, but that these can often be worked through so that the friendship is repaired or even strengthened, and that resorting to violence is never right.
- How to recognise who to trust and who not to trust.
- How to judge when a friendship is making them feel unhappy or uncomfortable.
- How to manage conflict.
- How to manage different situations and how to seek help from others if needed.
- Respectful relationships
- By the end of primary school, pupils will know:
- The importance of respecting others, even when they are very different from them (for example, physically, in character, personality or backgrounds), make different choices, or have different preferences or beliefs.
- Which practical steps they can take in a range of different contexts to improve or support respectful relationships.
- The conventions of courtesy and manners.
- The importance of self-respect and how this links to their own happiness.
- That in school and wider society they can expect to be treated with respect by others, and that in turn they should show due respect to others, including those in positions of authority.
- About the different types of bullying (including cyberbullying), the impact of bullying, responsibilities of bystanders to report bullying to an adult, and how to seek help.
- What a stereotype is, and how they can be unfair, negative or destructive.
- The importance of permission-seeking and giving in relationships with friends, peers and

adults.

### **Online relationships**

By the end of primary school, pupils will know:

- That people sometimes behave differently online, including pretending to be someone they are not.
- That the same principles apply to online relationships as to face-to-face relationships, including the importance of respect for others online, even when we are anonymous.
- The rules and principles for keeping safe online.
- How to recognise harmful content and contact online, and how to report these.
- How to critically consider their online friendships and sources of information.
- The risks associated with people they have never met.
- How information and data is shared and used online.

### **Being safe**

By the end of primary school, pupils will know:

- What sorts of boundaries are appropriate in friendships with peers and others – including in a digital context. About the concept of privacy and the implications of it for both children and adults.
- That it is not always right to keep secrets if they relate to being safe.
- That each person's body belongs to them, and the differences between appropriate and inappropriate or unsafe physical, and other, contact.
- How to respond safely and appropriately to adults they may encounter (in all contexts, including online) who they do not know.
- How to recognise and report feelings of being unsafe or feeling bad about any adult.
- How to ask for advice or help for themselves and others, and to keep trying until they are heard.
- How to report concerns or abuse, and the vocabulary and confidence needed to do so.
- Where to seek advice, for example, from their family, their school and other sources.

## **Appendix 3**

### **Health education overview**

The focus at primary level is teaching the characteristics of good physical health and mental wellbeing.

### **Mental wellbeing**

By the end of primary school pupils will know:

- That mental wellbeing is a normal part of daily life, in the same way as physical health.
- That there is a normal range of emotions, e.g. happiness, sadness, anger, fear, surprise and nervousness.
- The scale of emotions that humans experience in response to different experiences and situations.
- How to recognise and talk about their emotions, including having a varied vocabulary of words to use when talking about their own and others' feelings.
- How to judge whether what they are feeling and how they are behaving is appropriate and proportionate.
- The benefits of physical exercise, time outdoors, community participation, and voluntary and service-based activity on mental wellbeing and happiness.
- Simple self-care techniques, including the importance of rest, time spent with friends and family, and the benefits of hobbies and interests.
- How isolation and loneliness can affect children and that it is very important they discuss their feelings with an adult and seek support.
- That bullying (including cyberbullying) has a negative and often lasting impact on mental wellbeing.
- Where and how to seek support (including recognising the triggers for seeking support), extending to who in school they should speak to if they are worried about themselves or others.
- That it is common to experience mental ill health and, for the many people who do, the problems can be resolved if the right support is made available, especially if accessed early enough.

### **Internet safety and harms**

By the end of primary school, pupils will know:

- That for most people, the internet is an integral part of life and has many benefits.
- About the benefits of rationing time spent online.
- The risks of excessive time spent on electronic devices.
- The impact of positive and negative content online on their own and others' mental and physical wellbeing.
- How to consider the effect of their online actions on others.
- How to recognise and display respectful behaviour online.
- The importance of keeping personal information private.
- Why social media, some computer games and online gaming, for example, are age-restricted.
- That the internet can also be a negative place where online abuse, trolling, bullying and harassment can take place, which can have a negative impact on mental health.
- How to be a discerning consumer of information online, including understanding that information (inclusive of that from search engines) is ranked, selected and targeted.
- Where and how to report concerns and get support with issues online.
- Physical health and fitness
- By the end of primary school, pupils will know:

- The characteristics and mental and physical benefits of an active lifestyle.
- The importance of building regular exercise into daily and weekly routines and how to achieve this, for example by walking or cycling to school, a daily active mile, or other forms of regular, vigorous exercise.
- The risks associated with an inactive lifestyle, including obesity.
- How and when to seek support, including which adults to speak to in school if they are worried about their health.

### **Healthy eating**

By the end of primary school, pupils will know:

- What constitutes a healthy diet, including an understanding of calories and other nutritional content.
- The principles of planning and preparing a range of healthy meals.
- The characteristics of a poor diet and risks associated with unhealthy eating, including obesity, and other behaviours, e.g. the impact of alcohol on diet or health.

### **Drugs alcohol and tobacco**

By the end of primary school, pupils will know:

- The facts about legal and illegal harmful substances and associated risks, including smoking, alcohol use and drug-taking.

### **Health and prevention**

By the end of primary school, pupils will know:

- How to recognise early signs of physical illness, such as weight loss or unexplained changes to the body.
- About safe and unsafe exposure to the sun, and how to reduce the risk of sun damage, including skin cancer.
- The importance of sufficient good-quality sleep for good health, and that a lack of sleep can affect weight, mood and ability to learn.
- About dental health and the benefits of good oral hygiene and dental flossing, including regular check-ups at the dentist.
- About personal hygiene and germs including bacteria and viruses, how they are spread and treated, and the importance of hand washing.
- The facts and science relating to immunisation and vaccination.

### **Basic first aid**

By the end of primary school, pupils will know:

- How to make a clear and efficient call to emergency services if necessary.
- Concepts of basic first-aid, for example dealing with common injuries, including head injuries.
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### **Changing adolescent body**

By the end of primary school, pupils will know:

- Key facts about puberty and the changing adolescent body, particularly from age 9 through to age 11, including physical and emotional changes.
- About menstrual wellbeing and key facts relating to the menstrual cycle.