



**COWBIT ST. MARY'S (ENDOWED)
CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Relationships, Sex and Health Education Policy

Our Vision

We are a small, inclusive Church of England Primary School that welcomes everyone and encourages all voices to be heard. Through challenge and support, we strive towards each person becoming the best person God intended them to be, happily flourishing as human beings. We empower our whole school community to be hopeful about the future and to be drivers of positive change.

This policy has been developed in consultation with all stakeholders, including governors, staff, pupils and parents/carers. We have followed the guidance from the [DfE Statutory Guidance](#) and the [Lincoln Diocese Guidance](#). (click for links)

1. A Definition of Relationships, Sex and Health Education for Church Schools

All Church of England and Methodist schools within the Diocese of Lincoln are statutorily required to teach Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education. Within the context of Christian beliefs about human dignity (e.g. Genesis 1:26-27) and the need to love your neighbour as you love yourself (e.g. Mark 12:30-31), RSHE enables pupils to flourish and gain every opportunity to live fulfilled lives.

RSHE is about the emotional, social and physical aspects of growing up, healthy relationships, sex, human sexuality and sexual health. It is also about the spiritual and moral aspects of relationships within a context of a Christian vision for the purpose of life. Through RSHE in church schools, pupils will have the chance to learn about how to ensure that they treat themselves and others, at all times and in all contexts, with dignity and respect.

Relationships Education is learning about how to:

- be appreciative of existing relationships
- to form new healthy relationships
- to enjoy strong positive, non-exploitative, caring relationships online and in person.

This will particularly reference family relationships including marriage, friendships and relationships with peers and adults.

In this school any content that might be regarded as Sex Education: learning about human body parts, growth, puberty and reproduction will be taught through the Science Curriculum. Parents do not have the right the excuse their children from this aspect of the curriculum.

Sex Education in primary schools is not mandatory; however, the National Curriculum for Science in primary schools includes content about human body parts, growth, puberty and reproduction. Parents/guardians do not have the right to withdraw from Science aspects of the curriculum.

In Cowbit St Mary's Church of England Primary School should we have decided that it is important to include certain aspects of the sex education curriculum to protect and prepare the children in our community. We will inform parents or carers to that they have the right to excuse their children from this aspect of Sex Education.

2. Statutory Requirements

As a local authority maintained church school, we are statutorily required to provide Relationships Education to all pupils under section 34 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017. We are not required to provide Sex Education, but we are required to teach 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 in [section 403 of the Education Act 1996](#).

At Cowbit St Mary's Church of England Primary School, we teach RSHE as set out in this policy.

3. RSHE Curriculum

Our RSHE curriculum has been developed in consultation with various stakeholders, including governors, staff, pupils and parents/carers and takes into account the context of the school and its pupils.

- *Families and people who care for me*
- *All about me*
- *Caring friendships and respectful relationships*
- *Internet safety, safe online relationships and the risks of online relationships*
- *Mental wellbeing*
- *Basic first aid, physical health and fitness, health and fitness, healthy eating, risks to health, e.g. drugs, alcohol, tobacco]*

This RSHE curriculum has been planned in the context of our broader curriculum intent, and the delivery of this part of the curriculum is one of the ways in which we seek to realise our overarching distinctively Christian vision. It reflects core Christian teachings about human beings and healthy relationships, including the belief 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. It will also help them understand a range of Christian views on the importance of long-term relationships as building blocks for family stability.

4. Delivery of RSHE

We teach Sex and Relationship education through different aspects of the curriculum from Reception through to Year 6. The main Sex and Relationship education teaching is in our personal, social and health education (PSHE) curriculum. We also teach some Sex and Relationship education

through other subject areas (for example, science and PE), where we feel that they contribute significantly to a child's knowledge and understanding of his or her own body, and how it is changing and developing.

Children will know that they are free to ask further questions and to discuss issues with their teacher. The teachers will answer children's questions in an open, factual and appropriate way but will not enter into discussions about personal issues. Governors and teachers are agreed that teachers will answer questions as long as they consider the child to be mature enough to ask the question. Teachers will also encourage the children to discuss questions with their parents.

All RSHE is delivered with an understanding that pupils and staff may be personally engaged in different structures of support and familial relationships, including single parent families, LGBTQ families, families headed by grandparents, adoptive parents, foster parents/carers, young carers, etc. The RSHE curriculum has been carefully designed to ensure that no person feels stigmatised; this is set within the context of the biblical teaching that all human beings are created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-7) and that Christians are called to respect and honour everyone (e.g. 1 Peter 2:17).

For more information about the delivery of RSHE, please contact the RSHE curriculum leader, Mr Johnson.

5. Parental Right to Withdraw from Sex Education

Parents/guardians do not have the right to withdraw their children from Relationships Education. Elements of Sex Education are included in the Primary Science Curriculum and parents/guardians do not have the right to withdraw their children from the Science Curriculum.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the **non-science** elements of Sex Education within RSHE. Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing to the head teacher. We will invite you to talk through your concerns, review the materials we use and explain our rationale. Withdrawing your child from Sex Education remains a statutory right as a parent or legal guardian.

This policy will be monitored and reviewed by Governors, Headteacher and Staff.

Approved by the full governing body November 2020

Date of review: Sept 2021