



Our vision is to create an inclusive, friendly, safe and engaging learning environment which is grounded in our Christian values, enabling children to navigate obstacles, fulfil their potential and extend their horizons.

We value all members of our school community and encourage their individual talents and personalities so that each can shine in their own way.

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| Policy Name | Relationships and Health education |
| Date written/Parent Consultation: | June 2023 |
| Date of last update: | June 2023 |
| Date agreed and ratified by Governing Body: | 2 nd October 2023 |
| Date of next full review: | July 2025 |
| Signed by head Teacher: (Jodi Hacker) | |
| Signed by Chair of Governors: (Simon Curd) | |

The National Curriculum and Statutory Requirements

Relationships and Health education (RHE) is statutory in all maintained primary schools, as updated and directed in September 2020. In primary school, the focus is on relationships, health and the human lifecycle but while sex education is not compulsory, the Department for Education guidelines suggest that some form of sex education should take place in primary school to prepare pupils sufficiently for secondary education and the changes that adolescence brings.

“It is important that the transition phase before moving to secondary school supports pupils’ ongoing emotional and physical development effectively. The Department continues to recommend therefore that all primary schools should have a sex education programme tailored to the age and the physical and emotional maturity of the pupils. It should ensure that both boys and girls are prepared for the changes that adolescence brings and – drawing on knowledge of the human life cycle set out in the national curriculum for science - how a baby is conceived and born.” – Department of Education, 2019

As sex education is non-statutory in primary school, we have surveyed the parents and carers in our school community to assess the views and needs of our families and uses this to inform this policy and our RSE curriculum offer.

Aims

The aims of RHE at Hawkhurst Church of England Primary School, are to:

- Provide a framework in which sensitive discussions can take place
- Prepare all of our pupils for puberty, give them an understanding of sexual development and promote the importance of health and hygiene
- Help all of our pupils to develop feelings of self-respect, confidence and compassion
- Create a culture where everyone feels safe and develop a safe culture around sexuality and relationships
- Teach pupils the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies

High-quality RHE is an essential element of PSHE and SMSC and we are committed to delivering relationships education in an age-appropriate way to children in all classes.

Teaching and Learning

At Hawkhurst CEP School, we follow the Kapow scheme of learning for both PSHE and RHE and will therefore deliver learning in line with this.

Relationships education will always be delivered discretely and by the class teacher. Education around puberty and the human lifecycle will be delivered in science lessons by the class teacher.

As a Church of England voluntary controlled school, our curriculum offer in all subjects reflects our Christian distinctiveness and a good understanding of pupils’ faith backgrounds is central to our RHE teaching. Faith perspectives may be discussed but our RHE lessons will always be balanced and will, above all, always reflect the law and principles of equality as set out in the Equality Act 2010.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Governing Body:

The Governing Board will approve the RHE Policy and hold the Headteacher to account for its implementation.

The Headteacher:

The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring that RHE is taught consistently across the school, and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from the non-statutory components of RHE.

Staff:

Staff are responsible for:

- Delivering RHE in a sensitive way
- Modelling positive attitudes to RHE
- Monitoring progress
- Responding to the needs of individual pupils
- Responding appropriately to pupils whose parents wish them to be withdrawn from the non-statutory components of RHE.
- Staff do not have the right to opt out of teaching RHE. Staff who have concerns over teaching RHE are encouraged to discuss this with the Headteacher.

Pupils:

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

Parents' right of withdrawal

Parents do not have the right to withdraw their children from relationships education or science lessons as these are statutory and form part of the National Curriculum for all maintained schools.

We have chosen to include sex education and human reproduction in UKS2 to reflect the responses of the parent and carer questionnaire circulated to inform our curriculum offer. As this is non-statutory, parents do have the right to request that their child be withdrawn from sex education lessons, which will be taught discretely by the class teacher. Parents will be notified when these sessions are planned to take place and will have time to ask questions about the lesson content and, if required, submit a request to withdraw their child from the lesson in writing.

Recording and Assessment

RHE lessons will almost always be discussion-based and there will be limited recording of learning. Where learning is recorded it may be found in reflection areas or the classroom environment. Assessment will be formative and generally part of assessment in PSHE or science. Feedback to children will be verbal feedback in line with our feedback policy.

Monitoring and Evaluating

Monitoring and evaluation of RHE provision will be the responsibility of both the PSHE subject leader and the science subject leader, as the curriculum content spans both subjects. The senior leadership team will also monitor and evaluate the curriculum offer and, with the subject leaders, review this policy each academic year. This policy will ultimately be approved and ratified by the school governing body.

Monitoring of provision and quality of RHE education will take place through pupil voice activities with each age group twice a year to monitor children's understanding of the age-appropriate content of our relationships education curriculum.

Health and Safety

The safety and wellbeing of our pupils and wider school community is of paramount importance. Teachers must, therefore, ensure that the needs of all pupils are being appropriately met in RHE and that where there may be challenging topics for some children, appropriate consideration is given to how to deliver the curriculum content and best support the children in question.