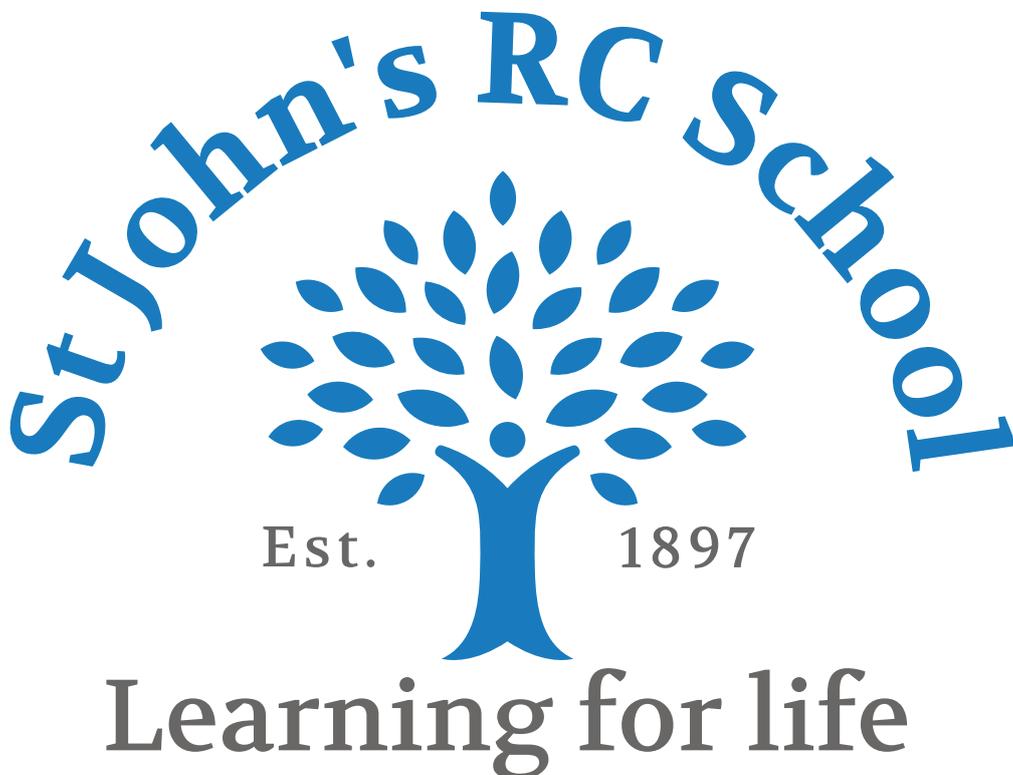


# St John's RSE Policy

## 2020-2021



## **Introduction:**

This policy covers our school's approach to teaching Relationships and Sex Education (RSE). It was produced by our PSHE coordinator, through the consultations with the school's behaviour mentors, our R.E coordinator and the schools Senior Leadership Team (SLT). Consultation took the form of collaboratively building a curriculum. The policy will be reviewed in September 2021. Parents and carers will be able to access the policy through our website. If you require this policy in paper copy, please contact our school office.

Our school's ethos and objectives, for our pupils, is to be able to reach their full potential through educational development and building on each pupil's individual talents, abilities, skills and understanding. As well as, building upon each child's self-esteem and giving them opportunities to grow in confidence, to allow them to understand that they can achieve anything. St John's have created a community of love and learning, based on Christian values. We build the foundation for building tolerance for each other and ensuring that all of our young people respect, not only themselves, but those around them. Pupils at St John's are encouraged to value their contribution to the local and wider community which includes our links with the Diocese.

## **Aims and objectives**

We define relationships and sex education (RSE) as learning about the emotional, social and physical aspects of growing up. It should equip children and young people with the information, skills and positive values to have safe, fulfilling relationships, to enjoy their sexuality and to take responsibility for their sexual health and well-being.

At St John's, we believe RSE is essential for our pupils as it prepares them for their journey into adulthood. Actively giving them the skills, they need to be able to build healthy relationships, be able to make decisions and understand how their body works.

## **Key requirements**

Our RSE programme is rooted in the Catholic Church's teaching about what it is to be truly human in Christ, what it means to live well in relationship with others and be presented within a positive framework of Christian virtue. Our learning will be split into three broad areas of focus:

1. Created and Loved by God (this explores the pupil).
2. Created to Love Others (this explores a pupil's relationships with others) God is love.
3. Created to Live in Community – local, national & global (this explores the pupil's relationships with the wider world).

We teach RSE as part of our PSHE programme. Current regulations and guidance from the Department for Education state that all schools must deliver relationships education (in primary schools) and relationships and sex education (in secondary schools).

## **Curriculum**

At St John's, we ensure RSE is inclusive and meets the needs of all our pupils by collectively engaging in producing a PSHE curriculum, which has identified the needs of our pupils. The curriculum has been designed to be flexible. It provides staff with the tools and support they need to ensure they are able to deliver outstanding lessons.

Our RSE programme is an integral part of our whole school PSHE education provision and, within a pupil's primary education, teach the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationship (families, friends and other important people in their lives), understand turn taking and how to treat others with kindness, consideration and respect, the rules of internet safety, body parts, puberty and the different types of families we see in our communities. In secondary, we build upon our pupils' prior knowledge as well as, healthy relationships, being a good friend/colleague, what is a healthy marriage or committed relationship, internet and social media safety, contraception, developing healthy intimate relationships, resisting pressure, understand the benefits of their mental wellbeing, law about sex, sexuality and sexual health and gender identity in an inclusive way.

## **Learning environment**

The RSE programme is taught by class teachers during their weekly PSHE lessons. We will ensure RSE is matched to the needs of our pupils by training our staff who will be delivering the RSE curriculum to ensure that the lessons are multisensory, hands on and engaging. RSE at St John's, will be taught through a range of teaching methods and interactive activities, including our 'Shine' Clubs, designed to support our secondary students, who have been identified as someone who would benefit from these groups, by splitting them into small gender groups.

Our young people are vulnerable and therefore the teaching of RSE is important. This will give our pupils the tools to deal with any situation that may arise in adulthood. Our pupils will also feel comfortable to be able to communicate with their trusted adults within our school. We will ensure a safe learning environment by ensuring the lessons are delivered by staff whom the children trust, ensuring that they are mature enough for specific lesson and giving our students the skills to communicate.

Within our RSE lessons, we will ensure confidentiality allowing pupils to communicate with us in a range of ways. If a pupil makes a disclosure we will ensure the correct safeguarding measures are followed. This follows our schools Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

## **Parents and carers**

At St John's, by working with the parents/carers and our staff, we are committed to provide our young people with a safe space to be able to learn about RSE, through our PSHE programme. We view the partnership of home and school as vital in providing the context of the RSE curriculum. Parents and carers support within this area will ensure their young people have access to a curriculum which is tailored to meet each pupils' needs. It is important that we work with their families, to ensure that we work collaboratively and are able to support them with any issues.

Parents will be informed about the policy through RSE consultations and the policy will be available to parents through our school website. We are committed to working with parents and carers by providing them with as much information, skills

and knowledge we can. It is important that we work closely with parents to ensure that they are fully aware of what is being taught and provide additional resources and support through our PSHE/RSE Parent Information sessions.

As part of our whole school approach to RSE, Parent Information sessions and opportunities for parents to view the materials and resources used will be delivered annually. This will be divided into primary and secondary and will be delivered for any new pupils and their families. There will be further information available to families on our school website. We will notify parents when Relationships and Sex education will be taught, by sending out letters and encouraging feedback from the parents.

Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their children from RSE content that is not part of statutory National Curriculum Science, however we advise that what is being taught to their child is an essential part of growing up. If a parent/carer requests that their child be removed from RSE, we will feed back this information to our head teacher and provide support by meeting with those parents, discussing their concerns and deciding an outcome.

## **Review**

This policy will be reviewed on a yearly cycle. It will be reviewed by the school's PSHE coordinator, behaviour mentors, our R.E coordinator and our Senior Leadership Team. This will ensure that any changes within the current curriculum is updated.