

Relationships Education, RSE, and Health Education Policy

BILLINGE ST AIDAN'S C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:16

The purpose of this Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) policy is to set out the ways in which the school's provision supports pupils through their spiritual, moral, social, emotional and physical development, and prepares them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life.

The following are extracts taken directly from 'Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education Statutory guidance for governing bodies' (DfE 2019) and form the basis of our policy.

"The focus in primary school should be on teaching the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships, with particular reference to friendships, family relationships, and relationships with other children and with adults." paragraph 54

"The Relationships Education, RSE, and Health Education (England) Regulations 2019 have made Relationships Education compulsory in all primary schools. Sex education is not compulsory in primary schools ..." paragraph 65

"The aim of RSE is to give young people the information they need to help them develop healthy, nurturing relationships of all kinds, not just intimate relationships. It should enable them to know what a healthy relationship looks like and what makes a good friend, a good colleague and a successful marriage or other type of committed relationship. It should teach what is acceptable and unacceptable behaviour in relationships." paragraph 69

What are we aiming to do?

Billinge St Aidan's C. of E. School aims to provide a programme that follows the statutory need to include RSE in their curriculum from September 2020 and within the ethos of our Christian school.

Billinge St Aidan's C. of E. School aims:

- to adopt a whole school approach to RSE in the curriculum, which fulfils the entitlement of every child to learning in this area.
- to teach, in a way that is sensitive to the cultural backgrounds of all pupils, about relationships, love and care and the responsibilities of parenthood, as well as about sex and sexuality.
- to equip our pupils with knowledge, understanding and skills to enable them to make choices leading to a healthy lifestyle.
- to ensure that all children
 - ✓ develop confidence in talking, listening and thinking about feelings and relationships.
 - ✓ develop their self-esteem and sense of responsibility.
 - ✓ are able to name parts of the body and describe how their body works.
 - ✓ are prepared for puberty.
 - ✓ can protect themselves and ask for help and support.

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How do we achieve these aims?

RSE is integrated within the wider themes of the Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship & Economic Education and (PSHCEE) curriculum, and will be delivered through Heartsmart, Natterhub, Picture News and Kidsafe lessons. This allows the natural linking of RSE with other work on emotions and relationships that the children are undertaking, as well as with issues such as peer pressure and other risk-taking behaviour such as drugs, smoking and alcohol. However, there are also links between RSE and Science, amongst other subjects, so aspects of the RSE curriculum may be touched upon in other lessons.

Our RSE will ensure that content is relevant to the age, experience and maturity of pupils.

Our school values: Hope, Love, Friendship, Truth, Forgiveness and Perseverance are at the heart of what we do.

RSE is delivered by class teachers, although support from outside agencies, such as the school nurse, may be used in Upper Key Stage 2. We ensure that the contribution of any outside professionals is integrated into the school's overall programme, and their messages are consistent with the school's Christian vision.

As with all curricular areas we encourage children to take an active role in their learning during RSE sessions, and use a variety of approaches including whole class and small group discussions and role play. We try to ensure an honest and balanced approach in the handling of any controversial issues.

Parental Involvement

We recognise that there is a strong link between school and home in the issues covered in RSE, as parents are key figures in helping their children to cope with both the physical and emotional aspects of making friends, sustaining friendship groups and growing up. Therefore before any RSE lessons all parents will receive a letter, informing them of the intended coverage of the sessions. Parents are encouraged to contact the class teacher if there are any issues they wish to discuss prior to the sessions.

We recognise that parents can exercise their right to withdraw their child from the RSE programme if they so wish, but not from Sex Education that is part of the Science Curriculum. Any requests must be made in writing to the headteacher.

Confidentiality

We appreciate that the content of RSE lessons may prompt children to share concerns or problems they are facing. Children are reassured that they can share issues with members of staff without fear of being judged or reprimanded. However, it is the duty of staff to explain the meaning of confidentiality to children and to avoid making unconditional promises. If safeguarding issues arise from a disclosure from a child, the member of staff will follow the school's procedure for handling safeguarding issues.

The subject leader will keep up to date with RSE information and organise training for staff when appropriate. They will also manage resources and organise outside support.

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