



Learning, Growing
And Living with Jesus

St. ANTHONY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY

In the Diocese of Northampton

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"The glory of God is
a human being fully alive"

Relationship Health Education (RHE) Policy

2022

Last Reviewed: October 2022

To be reviewed: September 2023 by the Local Academy Committee

St Anthony's Catholic Primary School & Nursery has a commitment to safeguarding, and the welfare and wellbeing of children.

St Thomas Catholic Academies Trust; Registered Company Number: 9660515
Registered office: St Joseph's Catholic High School, Shaggy Calf Lane, Slough, Berkshire, SL2 5HW



Introduction

The Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education, and Health Education (England) Regulations 2019 are made under sections 34 and 35 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017, and provide that pupils receiving primary education must be taught Relationships Education; pupils receiving secondary education must be taught RSE and that all primary and secondary pupils must be taught Health Education.

It is our moral duty to provide relationships education to all pupils, as per section 34 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017.

Rationale and Definition of RHE

In-line with the statutory guidance on RSE, the primary focus for the teaching implemented within schools from EYFS to the end of KS2 is to ensure that the 'fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships' are nurtured. The focus is based on 'family relationships, friendships and relationships with other children and adults'.

This is fostered through developing basic skills, for example: turn taking, consideration, kindness, respect, truthfulness and the understanding of personal space and privacy.

Pupils should be given the opportunity to express their understanding of a nurturing environment and develop their understanding of healthy friendships. It is essential that they are also given the opportunity to explore keeping themselves safe.

Pupils must be given the opportunity to cultivate resilience, self-worth, self-belief and self-respect, as well as courage, trustworthiness and integrity. The curriculum must be designed around offering pupils the opportunity to explore these concepts and develop these virtues.

The curriculum is designed with the intention of growing happy, well -rounded young people who have the building blocks to live fulfilled lives. Our Catholic identity ensures that children know that they are loved and cherished, that they are uniquely special and made in the image of God. We encourage and celebrate difference and each child's unique talents. In line with the teachings of the Church on relationships, family life, marriage and sex, we promote an ethos of love, care and acceptance of others, taught through the lens of the Gospel values.

Catholic education teaches children about the dignity of human life, the importance of caring for others and for respecting oneself. Keeping safe is a key priority, both in relationships with friends and family, and online. Through a variety of themes, children are taught and supported to understand: managing emotions, making choices, respecting others, recognising risky behaviours and accepting oneself. Pupils are taught how to be healthy, both physically and emotionally, in a way that is appropriate for their developmental level.

School Mission

At the heart of everything we do at St. Anthony's Catholic Primary School and Nursery are the Gospel values of love, respect, compassion and trust.

We pride ourselves on being a school at the heart of the community, working in partnership with our pupils, families and our parish, rooted in God-given Catholic virtues and values.

Our Mission Statement

'Learning, growing and living with Jesus'

This is the foundation on which everything is built and underpins our curriculum, policies, procedures and practices.

Our Vision

We are an inspirational school: We are *inspired*, we *aim to inspire* and we *seek to be inspirational* in the following ways;

LEARNING

- We are *inspired* and empowered by the teachings of Jesus.
- We *aim to inspire* a passion for life-long learning.
- We *seek to be inspirational* by embracing curiosity, creativity and challenge.

GROWING

- We are *inspired* in the knowledge that we are unique and created in the image of God.
- We *aim to inspire* by showing love, respect and kindness.
- We *seek to be inspirational* by living Christ-centred, faith-filled lives.

LIVING

- We are *inspired* by our commitment and service to God.
- We *aim to inspire* by welcoming and celebrating diversity, culture and inclusion.
- We *seek to be inspirational* through active global citizenship.

RHE Intent

At St. Anthony's Catholic Primary School and Nursery, we are inspired by the teachings of Jesus and the Gospel values. Inspired by these teachings, we foster positive relationships through 'love your neighbour as yourself' (Mark 12:31).

We encourage kindness and respect to ourselves and to each other, to help every child grow and flourish. This underpins everything that we do at St. Anthony's.

We believe that every person is made in the Image of God and should be encouraged to be the best possible version of themselves.

We inspire through our belief that everyone is uniquely special and important in God's creation. We are children of God and are called to grow in love for Him, through the person of Jesus Christ and to spread the Good News through our thoughts, actions and words.

It is our responsibility to prepare our pupils for the next stage in their emotional and physical development, by ensuring that they develop the necessary skills to deal with the demands of modern society and the world that we live in. It is our moral responsibility to develop our children to be socially responsible, participating members of society, filled with confidence to take their next steps towards secondary school and beyond.

The DFE guidance defines RHE as "lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of marriage and family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality and sexual health". The DFE identifies three main elements: "attitudes and values, personal and social skills, and knowledge and understanding".

The learning that the children gain from RHE will be to make safe, moral decisions about their relationships with family, friends and others, as well as with themselves.

RHE Implementation

The guidance outlines individual virtues that should be cultivated through the RHE curriculum. Our Catholic identity supports the active learning and nurturing of these virtues, for example being 'active citizens' and therefore stewards of God, and offering voluntary service to others, like our service to our school, church, parish and community.

Each theme begins with a statement of the virtues which are necessary to living well in relationship with others and these virtues should underpin the teaching but also should emerge as a consequence of it. Our programme enshrines Catholic values relating to the importance of stable relationships, marriage and family life. It also promotes those virtues, which are essential in responding to God's call to love others with a proper respect for their dignity and the dignity of the human body.

At the heart of the Christian life is the Trinity: Father, Son and Spirit in communion, united in a loving relationship and embracing all people and all creation. As a consequence of the Christian belief that we are made in the image and likeness of God, gender and sexuality are seen as God's gift, reflect God's beauty, and share in the divine creativity. Relationships and Health Education, therefore, will be placed firmly within the context of a relationship as it is there that sexuality grows and develops.

The Curriculum will be delivered covering the following elements, as outlined by the Guidance:

- Families and people who care for me
- Caring friendships
- Respectful relationships
- Online relationships
- Being safe

These RHE areas will be delivered through a variety of learning methods and subject areas. Depending upon the content, some elements will be delivered through Religious Education and an adapted version of 'Journey in Love', some through our PSHE (Personal, Social, Health Education) scheme – called SCARF (Safety, Caring, Achievement, Relationships, Friends), some through our Science scheme and some through other curriculum units and areas, including assemblies, worship and our Rights Respecting Agenda. We believe firmly that knowledge should be linked together to educate the whole child and to develop schemata, therefore children will be taught how this content fits in with their wider learning and their wider physical and emotional development. The underpinning message throughout will be of human love and the virtues that are enshrined in the Church's teaching on human love.

As part of our PSHE Curriculum, we teach a unit of work throughout the primary phase called 'Journey in Love'. Sex education is taught through this unit to support learning and understanding within a Catholic context. Sex education is taught in Year 6, and the resources are made available for parents to view prior to the lessons being delivered. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from this aspect of the RHE curriculum as it is not compulsory at the Primary phase; the Guidance suggests that this should be at the discretion of the school. Any parents who wish to withdraw their child should make an appointment to discuss this with the Head Teacher in advance of the lessons. The scheme is adapted to ensure that it is compliant with our Statutory Duties and Responsibilities.

Equal Opportunities and Inclusion

At St. Anthony's we celebrate difference and pride ourselves on being an inspirational school that is inclusive of all. RHE learning must therefore be taught in a variety of ways and at all levels, to accommodate the different abilities and needs of children. Children with Special Educational Needs will need adapted resources and provision, to ensure that all children can access the curriculum.

We are aware that some pupils are more vulnerable to exploitation, bullying and other issues due to the nature of their Special Educational Need or Disability. Relationships Health Education can also be particularly important subjects

for some pupils; for example, those with Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs or learning disabilities. Such factors are taken into consideration in designing and teaching these subjects.

Difficult and Controversial Questions

All RHE content will be taught sensitively with the use of age-appropriate resources. Children are naturally curious and may have questions that are difficult to answer in a whole-class setting. Teachers will avoid giving their own opinions or judgements and will answer questions about the statutory content of the RHE curriculum in a factual way. It may not be appropriate to answer all questions, and parents will be kept informed if their child has asked a question that may require further discussion. We meet with parents annually, to ensure that they are well-informed about what their child will be learning. We aim to work with parents and to keep them well-informed. This will take the form of inviting parents into school to view the lesson information and to ask any key questions, in advance of the lessons being taught. Parents will be notified that it is their statutory right to withdraw their child for certain elements of the curriculum, however we will encourage them to allow children to learn the content at school with their peers, to enable them to ask questions in a safe, informed environment.

Pupils are best educated, protected from harm and exploitation by discussing such issues openly within the context of the Relationships and Health Education programme. The use of ground rules in the classroom will help to create a supportive climate for discussion.

Policy Impact and Review

Impact

To monitor the impact and effectiveness of the programme of study, observations and 'book looks' will take place. The impact will be that pupils leave the primary phase as socially-rounded individuals, emotionally and physically ready for the next stage in their development.

Review

The following groups will be consulted as part of producing this policy: -

- Staff
- Governing Body
- Parents
- Diocesan Education Service

The policy will be circulated to all members of the Local Academy Committee and all members of staff. A full copy of the policy is available on the school website and paper copies can be provided.

The Diocesan Director of Education/Director of RE will be sent a copy of the school's RHE Policy and it is the duty of the Academy Committee to ensure that this is kept up to date.