

## **Relationships & Sex Education (RSE) Policy:**

### **Grade Ruan Church of England School**



Our school's approach to Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) follows that of the Church of England Education Office in that it seeks to be faith-sensitive and inclusive. It is underpinned by two key Biblical passages:

*"So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them"*

*(Genesis 2:7)*

*"I have come in order that you might have life - life in all its fullness"*

*(John 10:10)*

At Grade Ruan CE School, everyone will be treated with dignity as all people who are made in the image of God and are loved equally by God as we strive to live our lives by our school vision:

*'Setting sail on life's journey with an anchor to keep us safe, sails to let us fly and God to calm the storms along the way.'*

All pupils have a right to an education which enables them to flourish and is set in a learning community where differences of lifestyle and opinion (within that which is permissible under UK law) are treated with dignity and respect; where bullying of all kinds is eliminated; and where they are free to be themselves and fulfil their potential without fear.

Our school seeks to ensure that the RSE curriculum protects, informs and nurtures all pupils. It clearly differentiates between factual teaching (biology, medicine, the law, marriage, different types of families and the composition of society) and moral teaching about relationships and values, recognising that the distinction can be easily blurred and that there needs to be discernment about the manner in which this is taught. We teach RSE within a moral (but not moralistic) framework.

RSE in Grade Ruan Church of England School is about what constitutes wellbeing and loving care for ourselves (physical and mental health education), how we show loving care for others (relationships education) and, when at an appropriate age and stage in life, how we show loving care to those we choose to be intimate with, including within loving partnerships (sex education).

It is also about the spiritual and moral aspects of healthy, loving and nurturing relationships within a context of a Christian vision for the purpose of life.

Pupils will consider how to ensure that they treat themselves and others, at all times and in all contexts, with dignity and respect.

### **Defining Relationships Education**

Relationships Education is learning about how to:

- be appreciative of existing relationships;
- form new healthy friendships; and
- enjoy strong positive, caring, relationships with good boundaries, online and in person.

This will particularly refer to family relationships (including marriage/partnerships), friendships and relationships with peers and adults.

### **Defining sex education**

Sex education is about reproduction: learning how babies can be made and the emotions that people experience when they are ready for close intimacy.

The national curriculum for science includes content about human body parts, growth, puberty and gestation. Parents do not have the right to withdraw from this aspect of the curriculum.

In this school, we have decided that it is important to include a RSE curriculum to educate the children in our community and prepare them for adulthood.

### **The right to withdrawal from sex education**

Parents do have the right to excuse their children from this aspect of RSE and can do so by making concerns known and applying in writing to the Headteacher. The school will invite any enquiring parents or legal guardians to talk through concerns. An explanation of the rationale for RSE will be given; an opportunity will be offered to review the intended materials and to consider the impact of not receiving sex education with peers.

Withdrawing a child from sex education remains a statutory right as a parent or legal guardian. If a pupil is excused from sex education it is the school's responsibility to ensure that the pupil receives appropriate, purposeful education during the period of withdrawal. There is no right to withdraw from relationships education.

The school will document this process to ensure a record is kept.

### **The RSE Curriculum**

At Grade Ruan Church of England School, we teach RSE and through the PSHE Association via three core concepts: Health & Wellbeing, Relationships and Living in the Wider World.

These are the requirements for RSE from the Department for Education [click [here](#)]

### **How will RSE be taught in our school?**

RSE will be delivered as an identifiable part of PSHE. It will be led, resourced and reported to parents in the same way as any other subject. We plan from the PSHE Association which ensures we have a planned programme delivered in a carefully sequenced way. We use the Goodness and Mercy materials and a programme called 'One Decision' to deliver the lessons. We will ensure there are opportunities for our parents to be informed of the content of the curriculum and the resources used, before it is delivered in the classroom.

RSE will be delivered in a way that affords dignity and shows respect to all who make up our diverse community. It will not discriminate against any of the protected characteristics in the Equality Act and will be sensitive to the faith and beliefs of those in the wider school community. RSE will seek to explain fairly the tenets and varying interpretations of religious communities on matters of sex and relationships and teach these viewpoints with respect. It will value the importance of faithfulness as the underpinning and backdrop for relationships. It will encourage

pupils to develop the skills needed to disagree without being disagreeable, to appreciate the lived experience of other people and to live well together.

RSE will seek to build resilience in our pupils to help them form healthy relationships, to keep themselves safe and resist the harmful influence of the excesses of media in all its forms.

RSE will promote healthy resilient relationships set in the context of character and virtue development that sits within the schools Christian Vision and Values.

Values such as such as honesty, integrity, self-control, courage, humility, kindness, forgiveness, generosity and a sense of justice

All staff teaching this sensitive and important subject will have received training. This training will be regularly reviewed and revisited.

Pupils with SEND will have had the content made accessible to them by their teachers.

At Grade Ruan Church of England School, we feel it is important that pupils have confidence in the teacher and that a 'safe space' is created where pupils feel confident and can ask age-appropriate questions.

### **RSE will be monitored and evaluated**

This will follow the same monitoring and evaluation processes used throughout the school for other subjects i.e. pupil conferencing, work reviews, learning walks etc.

### **Policy Review**

This policy will be reviewed in consultation with parents. It must, however, be recognised that the law specifies that what is taught and how it is taught is ultimately a decision for the school.

This policy will be reviewed every:                    three years or in light of new guidance

It is due to be reviewed again on:                    September 2024

This policy should be read in conjunction with The Equalities Act 2010

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/equality-act-2010-guidance>