

Written by:	P Foley
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Relationships and Sex Education Policy (from 2021)



Archbishop Ilsley Catholic School Relationships and Sex Education Policy (from 2021)

‘We do not focus on what we are but who we are as distinct persons created in the image of God’

1. Our mission

At Archbishop Ilsley Catholic School, we promote personal wellbeing and development through a comprehensive Character Education programme which fosters the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school. It is our mission, as a Catholic school, to provide a holistic education that seeks to develop the whole person thus preparing young people for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

Relationships and sex education (RSHE) is delivered as part of the Character Education programme and aims to provide pupils with the knowledge, understanding, attitudes and skills to live safe, healthy and productive lives so that they can flourish and meet their full potential. Our delivery of RSHE is a fundamental part of what we do to safeguard our young people.

At Archbishop Ilsley, we are fully committed to equality and our curriculum is built upon the foundation of tolerance, love, respect and mutual understanding. We are respectful to all religious points of view. Our inclusive ethos is underpinned by the shared principle of: *We do not focus on ‘what we are’ but ‘who we are’*. Our faith-based education works in unison with our RSHE programme to promote this through all aspects of teaching and learning.

Our teaching of RSHE is underpinned by our school ethos and values; all lessons are delivered in a safe learning environment where sensitive discussions can take place and pupils are supported to develop feelings of self-respect, confidence and empathy. RSHE aims to create a positive culture around issues of sexuality and relationships within a faith-based context.

2. Statutory requirements

Revised statutory guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) states that from September 2020, all schools must deliver RSHE to pupils.

As a Catholic School, Archbishop Ilsley is required to deliver RSHE in accordance with the teaching of the Church. This approach is compatible with the guidance issued by the DfE.

2a. Requirements of legislation and directives from the Bishops’ Conference

‘The principal purpose of Catholic education is the formation of disciples of Jesus Christ. This is expressed in the Church’s Declaration on Catholic Education, which states: “A Christian education ... has as its principal purpose this goal: that the baptized, while they are gradually introduced to the knowledge of the mystery of salvation, become ever more aware of the gift of faith they have received and that they learn in addition how to worship God the Father ... especially in liturgical action and be conformed in their personal lives according to the new man created in justice and holiness of truth; ... also that they develop ... to the mature measure of the fullness of Christ ... and strive for the growth of the Mystical Body; ... that they are aware of their calling, they learn not only how to bear witness to the hope that is in them ... but also how to help in the Christian formation of the world that takes place when natural powers viewed in the full consideration of man redeemed by Christ contribute to the good of the whole society.”

'In today's digital age, and the dangers associated with it, the provision of high quality Catholic RSHE (Relationship, Sex and Health Education) curriculum is an essential part of our response to keep children safe. Parents are, and will always remain, the primary natural educators of their children. Catholic schools support parents in the exercise of their responsibilities in this role and they are increasingly at the forefront of dealing with the challenges which many young people face. (Bishop of Leeds, Chairman of the Catholic Education Service)'

At Archbishop Illsey Catholic School we teach RSHE as outlined in this policy.

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from aspects of sex education which are not part of the Science curriculum. If parents wish to remove their child from aspects of sex education they must arrange an appointment with the Head teacher.

3. Policy Development

This policy has been developed in consultation with staff, pupils, parents and governors. The development of this policy has undergone the following steps:

- Review- the Deputy Headteacher collated all relevant local and national guidance. They consulted with the Headteacher on matters relating to Catholic Education and the Deputy Headteacher for guidance relating to Safeguarding and Keeping Children Safe in Education.
- Training- staff responsible for developing the RSHE curriculum have attended relevant training and have used this to inform the planning and development of the curriculum.
- Parent consultation- parents received written consultation and were invited to a virtual parent meeting on Thursday 27th May 2021, prior to roll out of the programme in September 2021. Parent consultations will take place annually to account for new intakes and new admissions to school.
- Pupil voice- we investigated what pupils would like from their Character Education and RSHE lessons and have used this feedback to inform the planning the curriculum
- Teaching staff- regular meetings and CPD have been calendared throughout the year
- Ratification- once amendments were made the policy was shared with governors and ratified
- Website updated with the policy and stakeholders notified
- The policy is a working document and will be reviewed formally every 6 months

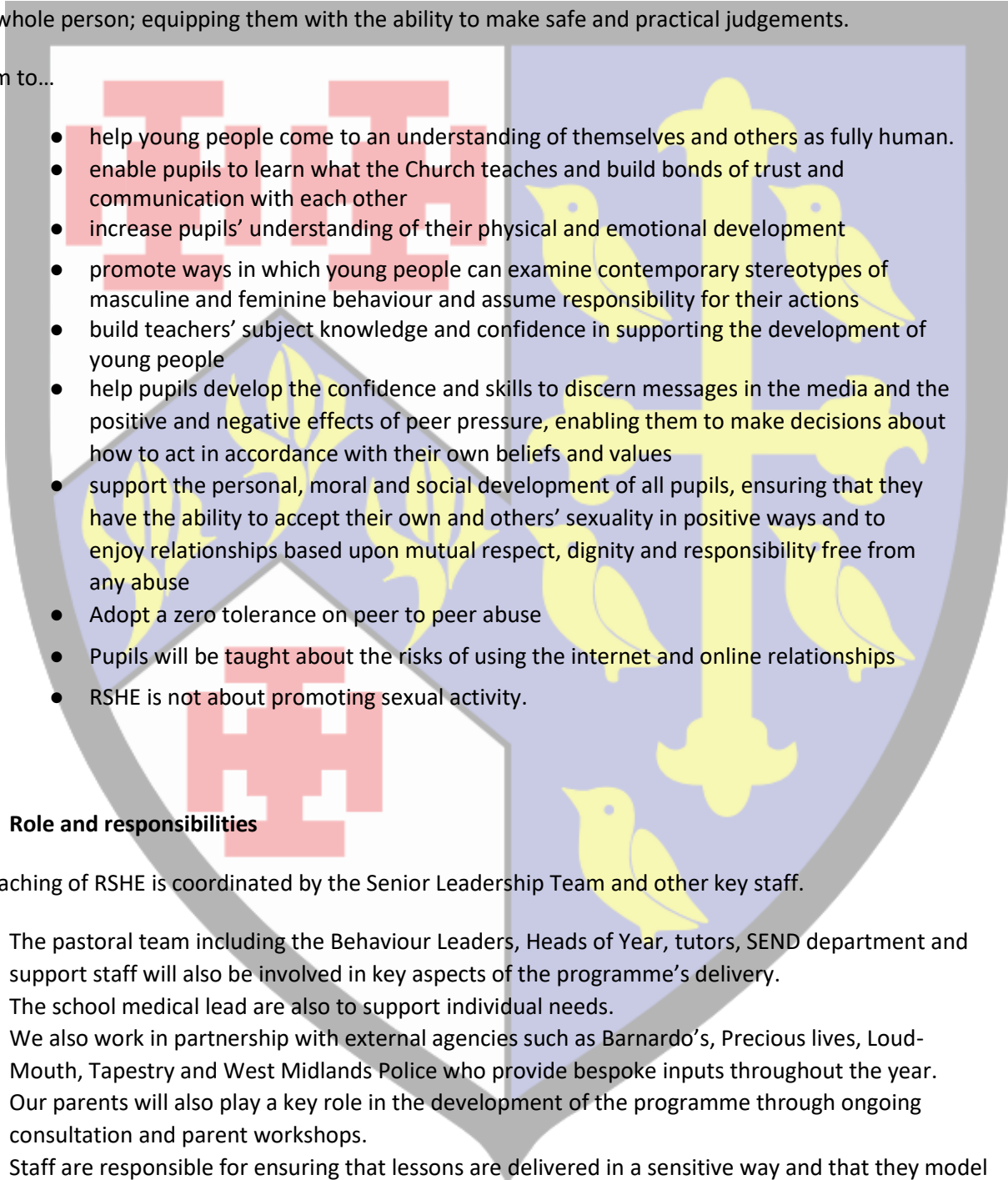
4. Definition

RSHE is about the emotional, social and cultural development of pupils, and it involves learning about relationships, sexual health, sexuality, healthy lifestyles, diversity and personal identity.

At Archbishop Ilsey Catholic School RSHE will involve sharing information, and exploring issues and values in a safe and respectful learning environment. The curriculum will be delivered within a faith-based context. Love and mutual respect will be at the core of all lessons.

As a Catholic school we aim to provide young people with a positive view of human sexuality and dignity of the whole person; equipping them with the ability to make safe and practical judgements.

We aim to...

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- help young people come to an understanding of themselves and others as fully human.
 - enable pupils to learn what the Church teaches and build bonds of trust and communication with each other
 - increase pupils' understanding of their physical and emotional development
 - promote ways in which young people can examine contemporary stereotypes of masculine and feminine behaviour and assume responsibility for their actions
 - build teachers' subject knowledge and confidence in supporting the development of young people
 - help pupils develop the confidence and skills to discern messages in the media and the positive and negative effects of peer pressure, enabling them to make decisions about how to act in accordance with their own beliefs and values
 - support the personal, moral and social development of all pupils, ensuring that they have the ability to accept their own and others' sexuality in positive ways and to enjoy relationships based upon mutual respect, dignity and responsibility free from any abuse
 - Adopt a zero tolerance on peer to peer abuse
 - Pupils will be taught about the risks of using the internet and online relationships
 - RSHE is not about promoting sexual activity.

5. Role and responsibilities

The teaching of RSHE is coordinated by the Senior Leadership Team and other key staff.

- The pastoral team including the Behaviour Leaders, Heads of Year, tutors, SEND department and support staff will also be involved in key aspects of the programme's delivery.
- The school medical lead are also to support individual needs.
- We also work in partnership with external agencies such as Barnardo's, Precious lives, Loud-Mouth, Tapestry and West Midlands Police who provide bespoke inputs throughout the year.
- Our parents will also play a key role in the development of the programme through ongoing consultation and parent workshops.
- Staff are responsible for ensuring that lessons are delivered in a sensitive way and that they model positive attitudes towards RSHE. Staff must monitor pupils as outlined in the marking and assessment policy set out in Appendix 3. Staff should respond to the needs of individual pupils.
- Staff do not have the right to opt out of teaching RSHE. Any staff who have concerns are encouraged to speak to the member of SLT with responsibility for RSHE lessons or the Head teacher. Colleagues would then receive support to equip them with necessary skills and confidence to teach RSHE.

- Pupils are expected to engage fully in RSE and, when discussing issues related to RSHE, treat others with respect and sensitivity. Class rules and expectations are delivered and made clear

6. The Curriculum

- Our school takes the teaching of RSHE seriously and has ensured that it is an integrated as part of our broad and balanced curriculum.
- RSHE focuses on providing pupils with the information needed to develop healthy, nurturing relationships including:
 - Families
 - Friendships
 - Online and media
 - Intimate and sexual relationships- including staying safe, consent, the law and sexual health

These areas of learning are taught within the context of family life taking care to ensure that there is no stigmatisation of children based on their home circumstances (families can include single parent families, LGBT parents, families headed by grandparents, adoptive parents, foster parents/carers amongst other structures) along with reflecting sensitively that some children may have a different structure of support around them (for example: looked after children or young carers).

Leaders have worked closely with the RE and Science department to carefully map topics that are shared across the curriculum.

Our curriculum is pupil centred. We will ensure that it meets the needs of our pupils by taking into account our school and local context, parental views and the information we receive from the pastoral team.

The programme is planned by the Deputy Head teacher who is an experienced teacher of RE and PSHE. We use the *PSHE Association and Life to the full 'Ten: Ten'* resources to aid in the planning and delivery of RSHE lessons.

The RSHE curriculum has been designed to be sensitive to the needs of the individual pupil. Staff recognise that each class will have pupils from different backgrounds, beliefs and experiences. Staff are supported by the Head of Citizen Development and members of the SLT team, if they have any concerns or need support delivering sensitive content.

RSHE is an integral part of pupil growth and development and cannot be neglected if our school is to fulfill its statutory obligation.

a. Intent

The curriculum aims to...

- be holistic – encompassing all aspects of the pupil – mind/body/soul so as to engender growth in self-respect and self-worth, recognising that each of us is created in the image of God
- be integrated into the curriculum
- explore the meaning and values of life, and give appreciation of the values of family life
- emphasise the Christian belief in the Sanctity of Human Life
- be taught with a close partnership between school and home

- enable pupils to have an understanding that love is central and the basis of meaningful relationships
- enable pupils to have some understanding of themselves, their own bodies, their emotional development
- encourage pupils to be aware of their attitudes and values and have a sense of responsibility for themselves
- enable pupils to reflect on their own relationships and recognise the qualities that help relationships to grow and develop positively
- have some understanding of and to give sensitive consideration to the beliefs, values and culture of others
- provide a forum where pupils can share their concerns and offer a climate of support where they know they will be listened to sensitively
- teach facts and correct misinformation
- enable pupils to recognise the importance of the choices they make and that they are responsible for the decisions they take.
- help with careful consideration of family planning
- help pupils resist peer, social and media pressures where necessary
- help pupils develop their critical faculties and be aware of the values conveyed by the media in relation to self-image and sexuality
- operate a zero tolerance to child on child abuse
- promote the 'Rights of the Child'
- ensure that pupils understand what is meant by 'safe' and 'appropriate relationships'
- ensure that pupils know what to do if they have a concern or are at risk

b. Monitoring and evaluation

Regular meetings and CPD opportunities are calendared throughout the year.

- The curriculum has been developed through training provided by the Local Authority and Tudor Grange Academy. A full list of the training completed is set in Appendix 2.
- Resources are planned and stored on SharePoint to ensure that pupils are receiving consistent and high-quality inputs. Staff are expected to differentiate their lessons to ensure that they are suitable for the ability and needs of the class they teach.
- A curriculum audit has been completed to identify links between other curriculum areas such as Science, RE, PE and humanities.
- RSHE will be monitored as part of the whole schools Quality Assurance through learning walks, book trawls and pupils voice.

c. Assessment

Pupils will be assessed through teacher and self-assessment.

An ipsative assessment model will be used, enabling pupils to measure their performance against their own starting points. We will be adapting the Personal Learning and Thinking Skills which were introduced to school through the Next Generation citizenship project. The PSD assessment policy is set out in *Appendix 3*.

d. Equal opportunities

Issues relating to equal opportunities will be discussed and developed as appropriate and in the teaching of safe and healthy relationships.

e. SEND

Pupils with special educational needs will be considered in the planning and delivery of the curriculum. Teachers will need to assess whether:

- Resources/ activities need to be adapted to meet the needs of the pupil
- More/ less time is needed for a given topic
- Knowledge/ skills may need to be revisited in different contexts
- A pupil is at the right developmental stage to be taught a topic, despite their age

7. Safeguarding

Staff are aware that the teaching of RSHE may lead to the disclosure of a child protection issue. Staff must consult with the designated safeguard Lead (D Corrigan) or the Head teacher (C Clinton).

Any external agencies which support the delivery of RSHE must be approved by P Foley

Pupils must be supervised by staff at all times when taking part in a workshop or assembly provided by an external agency.

C. Clinton

Mr Ciaran Clinton
Headteacher

Christina K.F.

Mrs Christina Francis
Chair of Governors