Relationships & Sex Education Procedure

2026-2029

Reviewed by: Headteacher

Member of the school Senior Leadership Team

Date: September 2026

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This procedure was created with the St John & St Francis Church School and governors. The views of parents were considered when writing this Procedure.

BATH & WELLS
Multi Academy Trust
'That they may have life, life in all its fullness' John 10:10



1. Aims

At St John and St Francis Church School we are committed to promoting a safe and healthy lifestyle for our pupils, teaching the skills and knowledge needed to lead happy, healthy lives that are built on the foundations of strong and successful relationships.

Relationships and Sex Education is not regarded as a subject in its own right, but it is part of a carefully planned element in our PSHE curriculum. We believe that effective Relationships and Sex Education needs to be taught in an atmosphere of trust, responsibility and respect where sensitive issues can be discussed without embarrassment or threat. Our school values of friendship, kindness, perseverance, forgiveness, peace and thankfulness help us to ensure we create such an environment.

The aims of Personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE) which includes Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) at our school are to:

- Provide a framework in which sensitive discussions can take place
- Educate and promote positive relationships
- Help our pupils to become healthy and fulfilled individuals
- Ensure our pupils can communicate effectively and work with others
- Prepare our pupils for puberty, and give them an understanding of sexual development and the importance of health and hygiene
- Help pupils develop feelings of self-respect, confidence and empathy
- Create a positive culture around issues of sexuality and relationships
- Teach pupils the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies

2. Statutory requirements

It is now a statutory requirement for primary schools to deliver Relationships Education and Health Education, and the Department for Education (DfE) recommends primary schools to deliver Sex Education in years 5 and/or 6, in line with content about conception and birth, which forms part of the national curriculum for science.

Health Education is also statutory in all schools .

We a St John and St Francis school acknowledge that under the Education Act 2002/Academies Act 2010 all schools must provide a balanced and broadly-based curriculum and wish to have a procedure that not only covers the statutory content but covers all aspects of our Personal, Social, Health Economic (PSHE) education provision.

3. Procedure development

This procedure was written by Emily Wells and developed in consultation with parents, teachers and other school staff, governors and the pupils at St John and St Francis school. We have listened and responded to all views to help strengthen the procedure, ensuring that it meets the needs of all of our pupils. It has been approved by the school's governing body.

4. Definition

Our PSHE education, including statutory Relationships and Health education, and non-statutory sex education, as recommended by the DfE, provides a framework though which key skills, attributes and knowledge can be developed and applied. This promotes positive behaviour, good mental health and wellbeing, resilience and achievement, helping children to stay safe online, develop healthy and safe relationships, making sense of media messages, challenging extreme views and having the skills and attributes to negotiate and assert themselves now and in the future.

The school's PSHE provision supports the school's aims of developing confident citizens and successful learners who are creative, resourceful and able to identify and solve problems. The social and emotional development of pupils is embedded throughout the entire school's curriculum and culture. The school has a powerful combination of a planned thematic PSHE program, built around a spiral curriculum of recurring themes, designed to:

1. Give pupils the knowledge and develop the self-esteem, confidence and self-awareness to make informed choices and decisions;

2. Encourage and support the development of social skills and social awareness;

3. Enable pupils to make sense of their own personal and social experiences;

4. Promote responsible attitudes towards the maintenance of good physical and mental health, supported by a safe and healthy lifestyle;

5. Enable effective interpersonal relationships and develop a caring attitude towards others;

6. Encourage a caring attitude towards and responsibility for the environment;

7. Help our pupils understand and manage their feelings, build resilience and be independent, curious problem solvers;

8. Understand how society works and the laws, rights and responsibilities involved.

We know there is a proven link between pupils' health and wellbeing, and their academic progress. Crucial skills and positive attitudes developed through comprehensive Personal, Social, Health and Economic education are critical to ensuring children are effective learners.

5. Curriculum and Delivery

We provide RSE within our PSHE education which is taught by class teachers through a spiral programme from Reception to Year 6 based on the SCARF PSHE scheme of work. Biological aspects of RSE are taught within the science curriculum, and other aspects are included in religious education (RE).

The Early Years Foundation Stage

In the Early Years Foundation Stage, PSHE education is about making connections; it's strongly linked to child-led activities, including play. PSHE is taught through activities that are part of topics, as well as on an individual basis to develop personal skills such as dressing, feeding and toileting. Positive experiences are built through daily opportunities, to share and enjoy a range of different activities. Children are given the opportunity to engage in social activities, as members of a small group or occasionally during whole-school activities.

KS1 and KS2

The SCARF programme divides the year into 6 themed units:

1. Me and My Relationships: includes content on feelings, emotions, conflict resolution and friendships;

2. Valuing Difference: a focus on respectful relationships and British values;

3. Keeping Myself Safe: looking at keeping ourselves healthy and safe

4. Rights and Responsibilities: learning about money, living the wider world and the environment;

5. Being My Best: developing skills in keeping healthy, developing a growth mindset (resilience), goal-setting and achievement;

6. Growing and Changing: finding out about the human body, the changes that take place from birth to old age and being safe.

Children are encouraged to engage in activities that promote an understanding of themselves as growing and changing individuals, and as members of a wider community, based on their own first-hand experiences. These activities also encourage pupils to understand how their choices and behaviours can affect others. They are encouraged to play and learn alongside – then collaboratively with – their peers. They may use their personal and social skills to develop or extend these activities. Children are also given the opportunity to make choices about their health and environment and are encouraged to develop a caring attitude towards others.

Within National Curriculum Science in Y2, the children learn that animals, including humans, have offspring that grow into adults. They should be introduced to the concepts of reproduction and growth, but not how reproduction occurs. In Y5, children are taught about the life cycles of humans and animals, including reproduction. They also learn about the changes that happen in humans from birth to old age. This includes learning what happens in puberty.

It is important that the transition phase before moving to secondary school supports pupils' ongoing emotional and physical development effectively. The DfE recommends that all primary schools should have a sex education programme, tailored to the age and the physical and emotional maturity of the pupils. Within our non-statutory sex education that takes place in Y5 and Y6, children will learn about how a baby is conceived, whether through sexual intercourse or IVF. This information builds on content they have previously learnt in the programme about relationships, puberty changes and reproduction; it lays the foundations for their ongoing Relationships and Sex Education in their secondary phase.

6. Roles and responsibilities

6.1 The governing board

The Board of Trustees will approve the RSE procedure, and hold the Head of School to account for its implementation.

6.2 The Head of School

The Head of School is responsible for ensuring that PSHE and RSE is taught consistently across the school, and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from non-statutory/non-science components of RSE (see section 8).

6.3 Staff

Class teachers are responsible for:

- Delivering RSE in a sensitive way
- Modelling positive attitudes to RSE
- Monitoring progress
- Responding to the needs of individual pupils
- Responding appropriately to pupils whose parents wish them to be withdrawn from the non-statutory/non-science components of RSE

Staff do not have the right to opt out of teaching RSE. However, any staff who have concerns about teaching RSE are encouraged to discuss this with the Headteacher.

6.4 Pupils

Pupils are expected to engage fully in RSE and, when discussing issues related to RSE, treat others with respect and sensitivity.

7. Parents' right to withdraw

Parents have the right to request that their child be withdrawn from some or all of the non-statutory Sex Education our school teaches but not Relationships or Health Education. They do not have a right to withdraw their children from those aspects of Sex Education that are taught in the statutory National

Curriculum Science and Health Education. Parents are invited to view our resources and discuss any concerns with our staff.

Before granting a request to withdraw a child/ren, the head teacher will invite the parent to discuss the request with them to ensure that their wishes are understood and to clarify the nature and purpose of the curriculum. The head teacher will discuss with the parent the benefits of receiving this important education and any detrimental effects that withdrawal might have on their child. This could include any social and emotional effects of being excluded, as well as the likelihood of the child hearing their peers' version of what was said in the classes, rather than what was directly said by the teacher (although the detrimental effects may be mitigated if the parent proposes to deliver sex education to their child at home instead). The school is responsible for ensuring that should a child be withdrawn, they receive appropriate, purposeful education during the period of withdrawal.

Parents should be given every opportunity to understand the purpose and content of Relationships Education and Sex Education. Good communication and opportunities for parents to understand and ask questions about our school's approach help increase confidence in the curriculum.

It is statutory for our school to show parents examples of the resources we plan to use. We will provide opportunities for parents to view examples through class/year group meetings either face to face or virtually. Ongoing communication with parents about what is planned to be taught and when, will be provided through termly letters home. We advise parents to view the resources in order to support them in carrying out their responsibilities relating to providing RSE at home. It is valuable for a child's development to learn about its own families values in regards to relationships and sex alongside the information they receive at school.

Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing using the form found in Appendix 2 of this procedure and addressed to the headteacher.

Alternative work will be given to pupils who are withdrawn from sex education.

8. Training

Staff are trained on the delivery of RSE as part of their induction and it is included in our continuing professional development calendar.

The headteacher will also invite visitors from outside the school, such as school nurses or sexual health professionals, to provide support and training to staff teaching RSE.

9. Monitoring arrangements

The delivery of RSE is monitored by Emily Wells, PSHE Lead, through the Book Study approach incorporating book monitoring, evaluating planning and through pupil discussions.

Pupils' development in RSE is monitored by class teachers as part of our internal assessment systems.

This procedure will be reviewed every three years by Emily Wells, PSHE lead. At every review, the procedure will be approved by the governing body.

10. Sources of Further Information

This procedure has drawn on:

- Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education Guidance, Department for Education (July 2019)
- Creating a PSHE education procedure for your school, The PSHE Association (September 2018)
- Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) for the 21st Century, Brook, Sex Education Forum and PSHE Association - Supplementary advice to the Sex and Relationship Education Guidance DfEE (0116/2000) (2011)

- DfE ‘Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education Guidance’ (July 2025)
- PSHE Association ‘Writing and updating your school’s Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) Procedure’ (October 2025)
- DfE ‘Keeping Children Safe in Education’ (September 2025)
- Ofsted Education Inspection Framework (November 2025)

Appendix 1: Long Term Plan and Curriculum map

Year/Half-termly unit titles	1 Me and my Relationships	2 Valuing Difference	3 Keeping Safe	4 Rights and Respect	5 Being my Best	6 Growing and Changing
EYFS	What makes me special People close to me Getting help	Similarities & difference Celebrating difference Showing kindness	Keeping my body safe Safe secrets & touches People who help to keep us safe	Looking after things: friends, environment, money	Keeping by body healthy – food, exercise, sleep Growth Mindset	Cycles Life stages Girls & boys – similarities & difference
Y1	Feelings Getting help Classroom rules Special people Being a good friend	Recognising, valuing & celebrating difference Developing respect & accepting others Bullying & getting help	How our feelings can keep us safe – inc. online safety Safe & unsafe touches Medicine Safety Sleep	Taking care of things: Myself My money My environment	Growth Mindset Healthy eating Hygiene & health Cooperation	Getting help Becoming independent My body parts Taking care of self & others
Y2	Bullying & teasing Our school rules about bullying Being a good friend Feelings/self-regulation	Being kind & helping others Celebrating difference People who help us Listening Skills	Safe & unsafe secrets Appropriate touch Medicine safety	Cooperation Self-regulation Online safety Looking after money – saving & spending	Growth Mindset Looking after my body Hygiene & health Exercise & sleep	Life cycles Dealing with loss Being supportive Growing & changing Privacy
Y3	Cooperation Online rules & restrictions Online behaviours Friendship (respectful relationships) Coping with loss	Recognising & respecting diversity Being respectful & tolerant My community Bullying, inc. online	Managing risk Decision-making skills Drugs & their risks Staying safe online Digital literacy	Helping & being helped Looking after the environment Managing money Developing critical thinking	Keeping myself healthy & well Celebrating & developing my skills Developing empathy	Changing bodies & puberty Keeping safe Safe & unsafe secrets Relationships, inc. online

Y4	Healthy relationships Listening to feelings Bullying Assertive skills	Recognising & celebrating difference (inc. religions & cultural difference) Understanding & challenging stereotypes	Managing risk inc. online Understanding the norms of drug use (cigarette & alcohol use) Influences Online safety & behaviours	Making a difference (different ways of helping others or the environment) Media influence & digital literacy Decisions about spending money	Having choices & making decisions about my health Taking care of my environment My skills & interests	Body changes during puberty Managing difficult feelings Relationships inc. marriage
Y5	Feelings Friendship skills, inc. compromise Assertive skills Cooperation Recognising emotional needs	Recognising & celebrating difference, inc. religions & cultural Critical digital awareness Online Bullying & self esteem	Online safety Bullying inc. online Norms around use of legal drugs (tobacco, alcohol) Decision-making skills	My health rights, respect & duties Making a difference Decisions about lending, borrowing & spending Media manipulation Artificial Intelligence	Growing independence & taking ownership Keeping myself healthy Media awareness & safety My community	Managing difficult feelings Managing change How my feelings help keeping safe Getting help
Y6	Assertiveness Cooperation Safe/unsafe touches Positive relationships	Recognising & celebrating difference Recognising & reflecting on prejudice-based bullying Bystander behaviour Gender stereotyping	Understanding emotional needs Staying safe online Digital footprint Drugs: norms & risks (inc. the law)	Understanding media bias Digital critical thinking Caring: communities & the environment Earning & saving money Understanding democracy	Aspirations Managing risk Looking after wellbeing Digital literacy & critical thinking skills	Coping with changes Keeping safe inc. online AI/ deep fakes Body Image Sex education Self-esteem

PSHE (Inc RSE) curriculum map

Please follow the link for each year group's updated (September 2026) **Medium Term Planning**

Appendix 2: Parent form: withdrawal from sex education within RSE

TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENTS			
Name of child		Class	
Name of parent		Date	
Reason for withdrawing from sex education within relationships and sex education			
Any other information you would like the school to consider			
Parent signature			

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE SCHOOL	
Agreed actions from discussion with parents	