



POLICY

RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION

Adoption date:	June 2021
Review date:	Dec 2022
Policy Owner:	Executive Headteacher

We aspire for all to achieve their God-given academic and personal potential, so that they can make a positive impact in the world. **Learning for life with Jesus** is at the centre of what we do, underpinned by our distinctively Christian values ensuring we are wholly inclusive.

Our values are: **thankfulness, fairness, forgiveness, trust and celebration.**

We aim for our values to impact how our children view and contribute to our community, our country and the wider world.

Our Academy will demonstrate our values by:

Thankfulness- We aim to be thankful to God for the education and opportunities we receive, and to be thankful to one another for every valuable contribution that is made.

Fairness – We aim to be fair where we value every person, made in the image of God, regardless of age, gender, ability, sexual orientation, background or religion.

Forgiveness – We aim to reflect God's love and grace as revealed in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, never settling for less than going 'the extra mile' in caring for others.

Trust – We aim to trust in God and provide a safe and secure environment in which we can trust one another so that everyone feels valued and is able to share their opinions and grow in confidence.

Celebration – Learning in God's truth and love, we take pride in success and celebrate what we achieve together academically and creatively.

Our Academy's approach to Relationship, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) follows that of the Church of England Education Office in that it seeks to be faith-sensitive and inclusive. All principles outlined in the policy are underpinned by Biblical truth.

At St Thomas' Church of England Academy, everyone will be treated with dignity and **fairness** as all people who are made in the image of God and are loved equally by God.

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 Academy seeks to ensure that the RSHE 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 RSHE within a moral (but not moralistic) framework.

RSHE in St Thomas' Church of England Academy 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 marriage (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, **fairness, trust** and respect.

Defining Relationships Education

Relationships Education is learning about how to:

- be **thankful** of existing relationships;
- form new, **trusting** and healthy friendships; and
- enjoy strong and **trusting** relationships with good boundaries, online and in person.

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

In St Thomas', any content that might be regarded as sex education (learning about human body parts, growth, puberty and gestation) will be taught through the science curriculum. Parents do not have the right to excuse their children from this aspect of the curriculum.

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.

St Thomas' Academy, we have decided that it is important to include 'Why my body is changing' and 'What is reproduction?' to educate the children in our community for adulthood (and for secondary school) in their last year(s) of primary school.

Defining health education

Health education is learning about physical health and mental wellbeing so that pupils can make wise choices to ensure their own flourishing and the flourishing of others.¹

The RSHE Curriculum

At St Thomas' Church of England Academy we teach the topics and content which are the requirements for RSHE from the Department for Education [click [here](#)]. See appendices 1.

How will RSHE be taught in our Academy?

RSHE will be delivered professionally and as an identifiable part of PSHE. It will be led, resourced and reported to parents in the same way as any other subject. There will be a planned programme delivered in a carefully sequenced way.

RSHE will be delivered in a way that affords and **celebrates** dignity, 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 Academy community. RSHE 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.

RSHE 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.

RSHE will promote healthy resilient relationships set in the context of character and virtue development that sits within the Academy's Christian Vision and Values. Such values include **thankfulness, fairness, forgiveness, trust** and **celebration**.

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 the member of staff planning and delivering the lesson.

At St Thomas' Church of England Academy, RSHE is taught by confident trained staff and only some elements will be taught by outside agencies (such as First Aid or

¹ See *Mental Health and Wellbeing: Towards a Whole Academy Approach* (March 2018)

