



Relationships and Sex Education Policy

Warton Nethersole's Vision and Values



All of our policies are written and implemented with our Christian vision and values at the heart of all decisions made. Our vision and values have been created by the staff, governors and children with the aim of supporting and developing everyone on their personal and collective journeys at Warton Nethersole's CofE Primary School. We place high importance on our vision and our values being reflected clearly in every policy and more importantly in the application of each policy and procedure in daily school life.

This policy is based on the model policy provided by BDMAT

BDMAT Vision and Values

The Birmingham Diocesan Multi-Academy Trust (BDMAT) recognises that the future for schools lies in formal collaborations; schools working together, in partnership to offer life in all its fullness for the young people who attend them. Church schools have a very distinctive purpose: Education is taught in an environment where there is a set of values and ways of behaving that stem from, and express, the Christian foundation of the school. Our schools are about providing an education within a Christian framework for children of the local community of any faith or none; Our Trust seeks to provide a place where church schools and non-church schools who support our philosophy can continue to provide high quality education, knowing that their distinctive ethos will be protected into the future.

When determining this policy, a number of documents were referenced including:

Valuing All God's Children

Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/education-and-schools/education-publications>

Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education; Department for Education statutory guidance for governing bodies, proprietors, head teachers, principals, senior leadership teams and teachers and Physical Health and Mental Well Being.

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<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education>

BDMAT mission:

To provide high quality education within a Christian framework that allows all pupils to reach their full potential through experiencing a broad and balanced curriculum whilst ensuring staff have a good life / work balance and are fulfilled in their roles.

BDMAT values:

We have adopted the values of the Church of England, as articulated in the document 'Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good' which sets out the vision for education that the Church of England believes should be seen in all schools, and not just those of a Christian foundation. As a result, the values apply equally to our church schools and our non-church schools.

The BDMAT key values are:

- **Hope** – through our Christian faith, we have hope that there can always be a positive outcome
- **Honesty** – we are honest with all inside and outside our organisation, whilst being sensitive to how we deliver these messages
- **Integrity** – we have strong principles rooted in our Christian mission that lead our actions and decisions
- **Helpfulness** – we work in co-operation and partnership with all staff and stakeholders
- **Respect** – we respect all those that we come across
- **Dignity and compassion** – we treat all those within and outside our organisation with dignity, irrespective of the circumstances, and we show everyone compassion for the difficulties that they are experiencing
- **Wisdom** – The decisions we take are wise; they are based on informed discussions and evidence and we aim to ensure we achieve the best outcomes for all without compromising our values

This policy should be read in conjunction with:

Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education; Department for Education statutory guidance for governing bodies, proprietors, head teachers, principals, senior leadership teams and teachers and Physical Health and Mental Well Being.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education>

To embrace the challenges of creating a happy and successful adult life, pupils need knowledge that will enable them to make informed decisions about their wellbeing, health and relationships and to build their self-efficacy. Our pupils can put this knowledge into

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practice as they develop the capacity to make sound decisions when facing risks, challenges and complex contexts. Everyone faces difficult situations in their lives. These subjects can support our pupils to develop resilience, to know how and when to ask for help, and to know where to access support.

High quality, evidence-based and age appropriate teaching of these subjects can help prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life. This can also help schools to promote the spiritual, moral, social, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils both at school and in society.

Relationships and Health Education (RHE) is a fundamental part of our Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE) curriculum for pupils in our school. It is embedded in our PSHE curriculum and our aim is to equip children with the skills and understanding to become healthy, secure, independent and responsible members of society. Our school uses Jigsaw PSHE to support our curriculum. Jigsaw brings together PSHE Education, emotional literacy, social skills and spiritual development in a comprehensive scheme of learning. Teaching strategies are varied and are mindful of preferred learning styles and the need for differentiation. Jigsaw is designed as a whole school approach, with all year groups working on the same theme (Puzzle) at the same time. This enables each Puzzle to start with an introductory assembly, generating a whole school focus for adults and children alike.

The Puzzles are:

- 1 - Being me in my world
- 2 - Celebrating Difference
- 3 - Dreams and Goals
- 4 - Healthy Me
- 5 - Relationships
- 6 - Changing Me

Through all aspects of the RHE curriculum we promote spiritual, moral, social and cultural education, whilst considering the mental and physical development of pupils at school.

We prepare our pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences in later life and encourage them to use developing social skills and knowledge to identify risk to make safe decisions for them.

RHE has an integral part to play in building pupils' mental wellbeing and their understanding of themselves as part of a family, community and wider society. As our pupils grow, they will understand their rights as global citizens and the responsibility that this brings.

From September 2020 it is a legal requirement to teach Relationships and Health Education in primary school and parents do not have a legal right to withdraw their child(ren) from teaching on these subjects.

In addition to the requirements of the National Curriculum in Science, the school teaches Sex Education in years 4, 5 and 6 and information about the contents these specific lessons and your right to withdraw your child from them can be found below.

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Policy Development and Consultation

The policy has been developed through consultation with BDMAT Executive Team, our school's stakeholders, which include parents, governors, staff and pupils and has paid due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty and issues relating to National Health Targets, and safeguarding of pupils including Child Sexual Exploitation, Female Genital Mutilation and Homophobia.

To ensure that consultation was thorough and meaningful we consulted with parents by inviting them to join our consultation in multiple newsletters and then providing a Zoom discussion with question and answer follow up. Parents who couldn't attend the Zoom but expressed an interest were invited to see paper copies of the policy and information regarding the teaching input and structure and were invited to feedback.

As a result of the consultation it became clear that there were 3 strands that parents wanted the new policy to address:

-How children will be supported in asking questions and how these will be addressed safely and appropriately

-How the organisation, curriculum and planning will ensure that teaching does not move beyond the content for the year group

-How the new curriculum will ensure that safety, puberty and sex education will begin at a younger age than the previous curriculum but in a way that is age specific

Relationships and Health Education

At Warton, understanding the way in which relationships develop and grow over time from childhood through to adult relationships is part of lifelong learning. Part of this is about understanding the importance of relationships and the values, qualities and responsibilities in friendships, families, and loving relationships and how to develop an understanding of safety in the online environment. It promotes self-respect, confidence, respect & responsibility toward others, emphasising the importance of marriage, loving relationships, safety, love and care. Health Education includes the teaching of puberty and the changes that occur as pupils move into adolescence. The lessons will be based on teaching children facts in an age appropriate way to support children to flourish and grow.

Relationships and Health Education does not include teaching about sex (and the school's policy on that subject is explained further below).

Aims and Objectives of this policy and the relationships education curriculum:

- To provide clear guidance for parents, staff and governors in relation to programme progression and delivery;
- For pupils to develop the understanding of relationships and that they need to be built and maintained gradually;
- Relationship Education provides a foundation for further work at secondary school;
- To help young people to respect themselves and others;
- To support pupils through their physical, emotional and moral development;
- To develop skills and understanding to enable pupils to make healthy, responsible choices about their health and well-being including personal hygiene;

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- To help pupils understand the significance of marriage and stable relationships and its importance for family life;
 - *Care will be taken to ensure that there is no stigmatisation of children based on their home circumstances***
- To help pupils move more confidently and responsibly into and through adolescence;
- To help pupils to understand a range of views and beliefs about relationships;
- To help pupils to understand issues of media influence and mixed messages that may contradict and conflict with own beliefs

Sex Education

The school believes that in order to further the aims and objectives outlined above it is necessary to provide children with sex education lessons in addition to the lessons that are mandatory under the national curriculum for science. The school's sex education programme is taught in years 4, 5 and 6 and information will be sent to parents in advance of the lessons taking place. Parents can notify the school that they would like to withdraw their child from these specific lessons. There will also be the opportunity for parents of children in this/these year group(s) to view the teaching materials that will be used.

The tables below (from Jigsaw) outline which elements are taught within the Puberty and Human Reproduction strand with the 'sex education' elements highlighted in red type. The elements in red are the sections that parents could choose to withdraw their children from. Teachers will not move beyond the year group content for each year group and this unit will be taught in year group based classes rather than mixed age classes.

Puberty and Human Reproduction in Jigsaw 3-11		
FS	Growing Up	How we have changed since we were babies
Y1	My changing body	Understanding that growing and changing is natural and happens to everybody at different rates
	Boys' and girls' bodies	Appreciating the parts of the body that make us different and using the correct names for them
Y2	The changing me	Where am I on the journey from young to old, and what changes can I be proud of?
	Boys and girls	Differences between boys and girls – how do we feel about them? Which parts of me are private?
Y3	Outside body changes	How our bodies need to change so they can make babies when we grow up – outside changes and how we feel about them
	Inside body changes	How our bodies need to change so they can make babies when we grow up – inside changes and how we feel about them (animations used – shorter version Female and Male Reproductive Systems)

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Y4	Having a baby	The choice to have a baby, the parts of men and women that make babies and – in simple terms – how this happens (animations used – the Female Reproductive System)
	Girls and puberty	How a girl's body changes so that she can have a baby when she's an adult – including menstruation (animations used – the Female Reproductive System)
Y5	Puberty for girls	Physical changes and feelings about them – importance of looking after yourself (animations used – the Female Reproductive System)
	Puberty for boys	Developing understanding of changes for both sexes – reassurance and exploring feelings (animations used – the Male Reproductive System)
	Conception	Understanding the place of sexual intercourse in a relationship and how it can lead to conception and the wonder of a new life (animations used – the Female and Male Reproductive Systems)
Y6	Puberty	Consolidating understanding of physical and emotional changes and how they affect us (animations used – the Female and Male Reproductive Systems)
	Girl talk / boy talk	A chance to ask questions and reflect (single sex) (animations used – the Female and Male Reproductive Systems)
	Conception to birth	The story of pregnancy and birth (animations used – the Female and Male Reproductive Systems)

Organisation and Methods of Teaching

Planning and delivery of Jigsaw

- The programme will be taught by class teachers with supporting staff to ensure that both pupils and staff are protected;
- The programme will be taught in year groups not mixed age classes
- Pupils will be taught about the changes related to their own and the opposite sex, how to manage the changes and where to get help at home and school;
- Girls will be made aware of who can provide support, where menstruation provision is kept and where the appropriate disposal bins are situated; and
- Resources we use are appropriate for each year group and enhance the learning.

Overview of Mandatory requirements

The table below gives an outline of key areas and where they are taught, however, most aspects are reinforced multiple times and in multiple units across the whole year.

Year Group	Relationships Education			Health Education		
	Relationships	Safety on and Offline	Families	Mental Well being	Health Prevention	Changing Bodies
N	Summer 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Throughout	Spring 2	Summer 2
R	Summer 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Throughout	Spring 2	Summer 2
1	Summer 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Throughout	Spring 2	Summer 2
2	Summer 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Throughout	Spring 2	Summer 2
3	Summer 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Throughout	Spring 2	Summer 2
4	Summer 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Throughout	Spring 2	Summer 2
5	Summer 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Throughout	Spring 2	Summer 2
6	Summer 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Throughout	Spring 2	Summer 2

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Areas of Responsibility:

Head Teacher and Governors

- Ensure the framework is followed and monitored;
- Ensure that this policy is made available to parents;
- Teaching Staff:
 - Implement this policy with the guidance of senior leaders in the school;
 - Ensure that the policy is followed in applied practice;
 - Liaise with the governors on the teaching of RHE and (Sex Education) in school as required;
- Ensure that the staff are adequately trained to support delivery in ALL aspects of the RSE 2020 guidance;
- Liaise with parents and feedback any concerns, following the school's usual procedures; and
- Respond to the needs of pupils, following the school's usual procedures.

Specific Issues

Confidentiality

Pupils will be informed that as with any other safeguarding issue, confidentiality cannot always be assured and the school will follow the usual procedures for keeping children safe and protected from harm (please refer to school's safeguarding procedures).

Changing Facilities for Physical Education; Upper Key Stage 2

In our school we ensure that pupils are offered privacy when changing for physical education. Separate spaces will be offered to boys and girls to maintain privacy and self-esteem if children are required to change in school.

Use of External Providers

External providers should be made aware of the school's policies and procedures prior to planned delivery. They will be expected to follow the school's programme and all delivery with pupils will be evaluated.

Answering Difficult Questions

If a pupil asks a difficult question during a whole class session, staff will be expected to answer honestly and factually.

- Where possible, pupils will be encouraged to use the question box approach which can be used as a distancing technique to prevent over exposure of concepts outside of the learning objectives. The class teacher is responsible for dealing with all content within 24 hours of lesson delivery;
- Pupils' questions will be answered according to their level of maturity and understanding, with support from parents;

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- Pupils' questions will only be answered by the class teacher if it is covered in the curriculum within that year group or a year group prior to the age of the children – other questions will be discussed with parents for answering at home
- The programme will be designed to focus on boys as much as girls and activities will be planned to ensure both are actively involved, matching their learning styles;
- Teachers will focus heavily on the importance of healthy relationships; and
- Responses to questions answered need to follow the school's policy. Any concerns raised should be discussed with a senior leader or DSL, depending on the concern.

Working with Parents

The school has established a strong working partnership with parents through consultation and support. The school recognises that parents are key educators and maintain a vital role in providing education about relationships and growing up, and therefore aims to support parents in this role. On an annual basis parents will be specifically informed about the discrete lessons on sex education and provided with the opportunity to view resources and discuss the teaching content before any delivery takes place. Parents will be consulted when this Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education Policy is reviewed. Details of the specific lessons and teaching materials can be made available on request. Parents can raise questions on this policy in writing, by phone or by making an appointment with the Head Teacher.

Parent Withdrawal

Parents have a right to withdraw their child from sex education lesson(s) that are additional to that covered in science but not from Relationships and Health Education lessons.

Where a pupil is withdrawn from sex education, the class teacher will ensure that the pupil receives alternative appropriate education, which may include the child working on an alternative project. In some cases, parents may be asked to come into school and supervise their child on an alternative project, but this would be discussed on an individual basis.

Any complaints will be addressed through the school's complaints procedure.

Provision for Menstruation

Sanitary disposal units are situated in the girls toilets. Sanitary products can be found in the school office and any member of staff can be approached for support in accessing them.

Other related documents & policies

- Education Act 2002
- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018
- Equality Act 2010
- Science Curriculum KS1 & KS2
- Children and Social Work Act 2017

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- Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education (England) Regulations 2019
- OFSTED School Inspection Handbook 2019
- Relationship & Health Education Statutory Guidance 2019 (DfE)
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

Equal Opportunities/Inclusivity

The school's Relationships and Health [and sex] Education Policy and programme will reflect the ethos of the school, by providing a secure, non-judgemental environment in which to learn, in accordance with any protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010.

Monitoring and Evaluation

This policy will be managed by the Head Teacher and an appointed governor will be responsible to ensure that the programme is evaluated and impact reported to the governing board. The policy will be reviewed annually.

Dissemination of The Policy A summary of this policy will appear in the school prospectus and on the website. Parents will be supplied with a full copy on request. The policy will be communicated to all staff and governors.

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