



Relationship, Health, Sex Education (RHSE) Policy

(To be read in conjunction with the three appendices – appendix 1: Health education knowledge overview, Appendix 2: relationship education knowledge overview and appendix 3 sex education knowledge overview.

High Ham Church of England Primary School

At High Ham our 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. It is underpinned by two key Biblical passages and to reflect the [whole school values and ethos](#):

“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 High Ham we ensure that everyone will be treated with dignity as all people who are made in the image of God and are loved equally by God. We believe 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.

We seek to ensure that our 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 at High Ham 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 and respect.

What is 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), friendships and relationships with peers and adults.

What is sex education?

Sex education involves learning 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.

At High Ham, we have decided that it is important to include reproduction (learning how babies can be made and the emotions that people experience when they are ready for close intimacy) to educate the children in our community for adulthood (and for secondary school) in their last two years of primary school.

Do I have the right to withdrawal my child from sex education?

Yes, parents do have the right to excuse their children from this aspect of RSHE and can do so by making concerns known and applying in writing to the Headteacher. When sex education is taught in years 5/6 notice of the lessons planned will be shared with you. The school will invite any enquiring parents or legal guardians to talk through concerns. An explanation of the rationale for RSHE 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 or health education.

We will document this process to ensure a record is kept.

What is 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

What does the RSHE Curriculum look like for the whole school?

At High Ham we have taken the [requirements for RSHE from the Department for Education](#) Church of England '[Goodness and Mercy](#)' resources to plan our approach.

By the end of each key stage the children will have the relevant knowledge and understanding which will be taught in a spiral curriculum, where knowledge and understanding will be revisited each year and their learning extended as well as reinforced. Where possible each class teacher will link to their science and PSHE curriculum.

Appendix 1: Health education knowledge overview

Appendix 2: Relationships education knowledge overview

Appendix 3: Sex education knowledge overview

Teachers will draw from a range of resources when planning for their lessons but they will also include work from the [Church of England](#). The progression outcome statements at the end of each appendices will help teachers to prepare for their end of year assessments and also give them a guide to what comes next and be able to develop the learning of those who are ready.

How will RSHE be taught in our school?

RSHE will be delivered professionally and as an identifiable part of PSHE (Personal, Social, Health Education). 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 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. 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 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 the use of appropriate teaching resources as well as adult support.

At High Ham RSHE is taught by confident trained staff and only some elements will be taught by outside agencies (such as First Aid or aspects about puberty). 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.²

How will RHSE 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. Examples of work will also be visible through twitter:

[#HighHamRHSE](#)

RHSE Policy Review

This policy has been produced by consultation with all stakeholders and originated from the Headteacher attending the Diocesan training. All stakeholders have been consulted by various methods:

Staff: The HT has offered all staff the opportunity to read and contribute to the policy and scheme of work.

Governors: The working party of SIAMS governor's have been consulted on the school policy and agreed the Church of England approach was the way forward for High Ham.

Parents: A draft policy was shared with parents and feedback was sought before coming up with a final copy which was added to the website.

Pupil Voice: The Assistant Head has consulted with children to find out what they would like to learn about and find useful.

In summary this policy has been produced in consultation with parents and 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: Two years (unless change in guidance)

It is due to be reviewed again in: November 2022

It was approved by FGB: December 2020

Notes:

- This policy should be read in conjunction with The Equalities Act 2010 <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/equality-act-2010-guidance>
- Reference also needs to be made to our safeguarding policy and practice.