

Relationship, Sex and Health Education Policy

Berkley C of E VA First School

Our vision and values

We are a small school, with big ideas, adopting a creative approach to ensure that every child is supported in order to flourish and thrive; to see and develop their true potential.

Our vision and ethos of the school is based on the sermon of the mount, Matthew 5:14-16; "You are the light that gives light to the world. In the same way, let your light shine before others, live so that they may see your good works."

We are children of the community and guided by Faith.

Aims

Our school's approach to 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:

"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)

In Berkley School, everyone will be treated with dignity as all people 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 school 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 Berkley School 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.

As a First School

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Defining Relationships Education

Relationships Education is learning about how to:

be appreciative of existing relationships

form new healthy friendships

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.

Defining Sex Education for Primary Schools

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 at appropriate year groups. Parents do not have the right to withdraw from this aspect of the curriculum.

Following The National Curriculum guidelines which state that the Sex Education of the children in our community in preparation for adulthood should be carried out in their last year of primary school (year 6), as a first school we do not have year 6 within our 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.

The RSHE Curriculum

In Berkley First School we teach RSHE within our PSHE SCARF units. It is led, resourced and reported to parents in the same way as any other subject. The programme of work is therefore 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

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.

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RSHE will be monitored and evaluated

This will follow the same monitoring and evaluation processes used throughout the school for other subjects.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed: Summer 2024

This policy should be read in conjunction with The Equalities Act 2010

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/equality-act-2010-guidance>