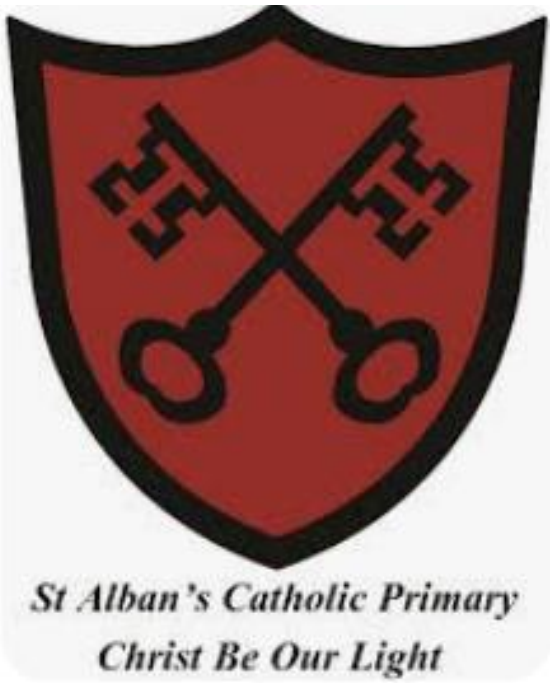
RSE Policy

St. Alban's Catholic Primary School



Approved by: Lia Campos

Date: July 2025

Next review due by: July 2026

Context

This policy is informed by Amoris Laetitia (Pope Francis 2016), guidance from The Catholic Bishop's Conference (Learning to Love March 2017) and the Diocese of East Anglia document, Guidance and Principles for Relationship and Sex Education, issued (January 2018).

Our policy for 'Relationship and Sex Education' has been written in conjunction with the DfE guidance for schools (DfES 0116/2000).

Mission Statement

Our school mission statement:

'Through God's grace, a community growing in knowledge and understanding' and teaching of the Catholic Church underpins teaching and learning within our school. Relationships and Sex Education is part of the RE, personal, social and health education (PSHE), PE and Science curriculum in our school.

When we inform our pupils about relationship issues, we do this with regard to teachings of the Catholic Church, morality and individual responsibility and in a way that allows children to ask and explore spiritual, social and moral questions. The DfE guidance states that relationship education is about 'understanding the importance of marriage for family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care'. At St Alban's Catholic Primary school we value this statement and endeavour to encourage our pupils to understand and respect its importance.

Aims and Objectives

As a school community we recognise that parents have the prime responsibility for teaching their children about Relationships and Sex Education. We will therefore, supplement and support our parents with appropriate programmes of study for all our pupils.

We aim to:

· Make the children feel loved, cared for and secure in surroundings where Catholic values are practised and where courtesy, respect and consideration for others are of paramount importance;

· Develop a sensible, responsible, factual, basis of knowledge founded on love and the teaching of the Catholic Church;

· Guide their understanding that healthy relationships are God's gift to us and should be enjoyed and never abused.

Within our relationship education we teach our pupils about:

· Looking after and maintaining a healthy body; · Respecting their bodies;

· The importance of family life;

· Building positive relationships with others, involving trust and respect;

· Moral questions; · Respecting the views of other people. In the Science curriculum the pupils at our school learn:

· That animals, including humans, move, feed, grow, use their senses and reproduce;

· To recognise and compare the main external parts of the bodies of humans;

· That humans and animals can produce offspring and these grow into adults;

· Describe the basic needs of animals, including humans, for survival;

· Describe the importance of humans for exercise, eating the rights amounts of different types of food and hygiene;

· Describe the changes as humans develop to old age including puberty

· To recognise similarities and differences between themselves and others and treat others with sensitivity

Relationship and Sex Education Curriculum

We teach about the uniqueness of the Human Being and relationships through different aspects of the curriculum. While we carry out the main relationship education in our PSHE curriculum, we also cover relationships in other areas of the curriculum. In particular, Science, PE and RE, which we believe contribute significantly to children's knowledge and understanding of their own bodies and how they are changing and developing. We always encourage our pupils to voice their opinions and discuss any issues they may have with other pupils and adults in the room.

The Relationships and Sex Education curriculum will follow the model scheme of work developed by the CES (June 2019) adapted where necessary to reflect the specific needs of the school. We use a relationship education programme called 'Life to the Full Plus', from Ten:Ten, from Reception to Year 6 alongside RE. This has been carefully written and has involved much collaboration between numbers of people over several years. The programme is intended to support teachers and parents in Catholic schools to enable the holistic growth of children. This is a programme which has been approved by the Diocese of East Anglia for use in our schools.

Teaching and Learning

Class teachers are responsible for the teaching and learning of Relationships and Sex education supported by the RE leader and RSE Leader. The majority of lessons will take place within the usual class organisation. It is recommended that the teaching of the sex education element of the programme takes place in the summer term of Y5 and 6 although schools may organise the curriculum to meet its needs.

Staff will be sensitive to the needs of differing pupils, levels of maturity and personal circumstances. We will ensure equality (Equalities Act 2010) irrespective of disability, SEND; race, nationality, ethnic origin; gender; religion or sexual orientation.

The role of parents

We recognise that parents have the prime responsibility for teaching RSE to their children. As a school, we will work in partnership with parents to support them in their responsibility to teach their children about Relationships and Sex Education:

· Inform parents about the school's relationship education policy and practice;

· Provide a workshop for parents to view materials and ask questions

· Answer any questions that parents may have about the relationship education of their child;

· Take seriously any issue that parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy, or about the arrangements for relationship education in the school;

· Inform parents about the best practice known with regard to relationship education, so that the teaching in school supports the key messages that parents and carers are giving to children at home.

We believe that, through this mutual exchange of knowledge and information, children will benefit from being given consistent messages about their changing bodies and their increasing responsibilities. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from all or part of sex education as delivered within RSE. However, children cannot be withdrawn from those aspects of the curriculum covered by the Science National Curriculum, or from Relationships and Health Education. If a parent wishes their child to be withdrawn from sex education

lessons, they should discuss this with the headteacher and make it clear which aspects of the programme they do not wish their child to participate in. The school will always comply with the wishes of parents in this regard.

The role of other members in the community

We encourage other valued members of the community to work with us to provide advice and support to the children with due regard to health education. In particular, our Parish Priest and members of the Local Health Authority, such as the school nurse and other health professionals, give us valuable support with our relationship education programme.

The school will make every effort to ensure visitors, materials and content is consistent with the teaching of the Catholic Church.

Confidentiality

Teachers conduct relationship education lessons in a sensitive manner and in confidence. However, if a child refers to being involved (or being likely to be involved in) sexual activity, then the teacher will take the reference seriously and deal with it as a matter of child protection. Teachers will respond in a similar way if a child indicates that they have been victims of other forms of abuse. They will not try to investigate, but will immediately inform the named person for child protection issues about their concerns. The headteacher will then deal with the matter in consultation with health care professionals (see also our policy on Child Protection).

The role of the headteacher

It is the responsibility of the headteacher to ensure that both staff and parents are informed about our Relationships and Sex Education policy and that the policy is implemented effectively. It is also the headteacher's responsibility to ensure that members of staff are given sufficient training, so that they can teach about relationships effectively and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity, in accordance with Catholic teaching. The headteacher liaises with external agencies regarding the school Relationships and Sex Education programme and ensures that all adults who work with our children on these issues are aware of the school policy and work within its framework (see CES guidance on external agencies). The headteacher monitors this policy on a regular basis and reports to governors, when requested, on the effectiveness of the policy.

Assessment, monitoring and Review

Relationship education has three main elements:

· Attitudes and values;

· Personal and social skills;

· Knowledge and understanding.

These areas will be monitored by the class teacher and any notes made, will be in the class teachers short term planning. As a school we assess Relationships and Sex Education through pupil self-assessment, peer-group assessment and teacher assessment (see also our PSHE policy). It is the responsibility of the RE leader to monitor Relationships and Sex Education and provide feedback, if necessary, to the class teachers. A member of governing body will monitor RSE teaching and learning annually through discussions with members of staff; pupil perception interviews and parental feedback. The responsible governor will report to the full governing body annually with evaluations and recommendations for development.

This policy will be reviewed on a 2-year cycle, led by the RE and PHSE subject leaders in consultation with governors, staff and parents. If the policy appears to need modification, then the RE and PHSE subject leaders will report its findings and recommendations to the full governing body. Any changes will then be referred to the Diocese for ratification.

Please note that the CES state that we cannot change this policy therefore we have been unable to write this policy in conjunction with parents. This policy has however been shared with our parents and is published on our school website.