



Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) in Our Catholic Schools

Objectives:

- To explore why RSE is important.
- To share the statutory requirement of RSE coming into place in September 2020.
- To explain what the statutory changes are to RSE provision.
- To share the Curriculum and supporting documents from the Catholic Education Service.
- To explain the timeline of implementation in our school.

Vision for RSE in Westminster Catholic Schools:

It is our vision for Relationship and Sex Education in Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Westminster that pupils would learn how to foster healthy relationships and friendships in light of the wisdom of the Church.

Pupils will flourish when they truly understand their innate human dignity, love and appreciation of themselves, including respect for their bodies, and the way they were made by God.

Pupils will learn to make sensible and informed decisions in a changing cultural climate, focussing on the virtues, such as patience and chastity, that ultimately lead to true happiness.

Sacred Scripture is key to this vision and the message Jesus gave us to love God, self, neighbour and our common home.

RSE in our schools must always remain faithful to the teaching of the Church, recognising the diversity of pupils' situations. We aim to be sensitive to each individual, ensuring that their physical and emotional well-being and their safety are of paramount importance.

Why RSE is important in our Primary Schools?

Relationships Education will put in place the building blocks needed for positive and safe relationships, including with family, friends and online.

Your child will be taught what a relationship is, what friendship is, what family means and who can support them.

In an age-appropriate way, your child's school will cover how to treat each other with kindness, consideration and respect.

By the end of primary school, pupils will have been taught content on:

- families and people who care for me
- caring friendships
- respectful relationships
- online relationships
- being safe

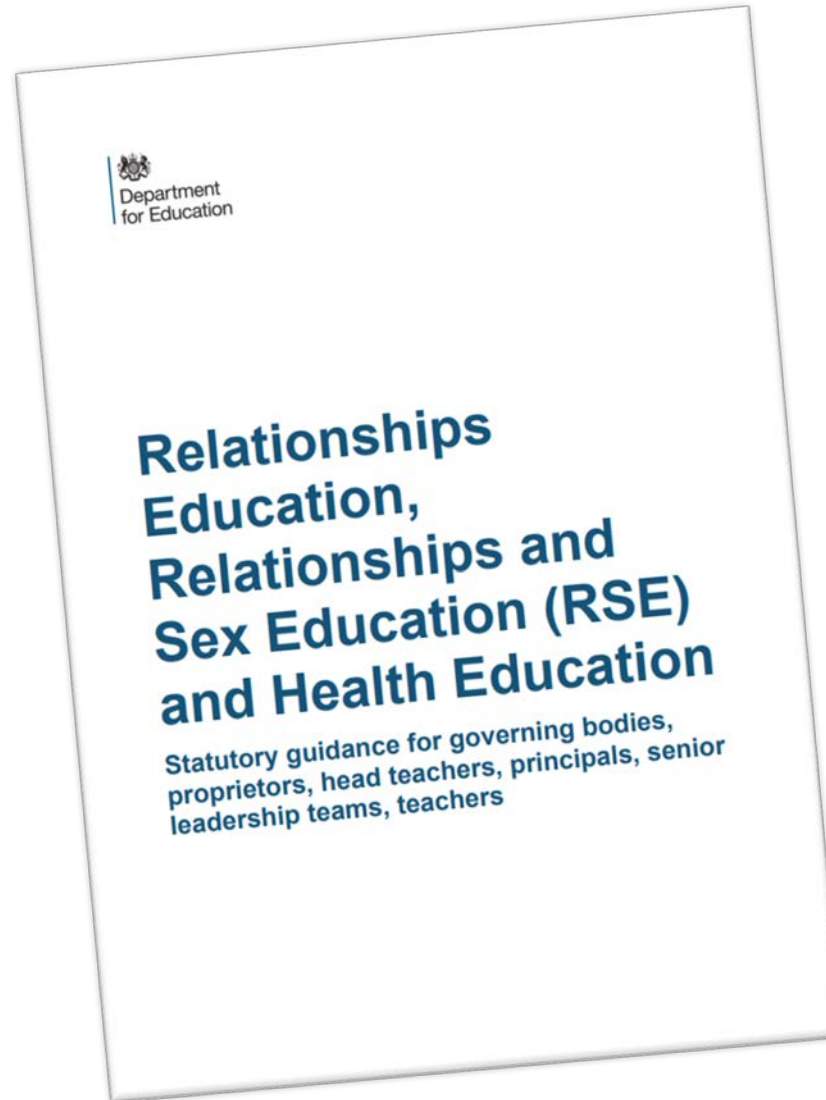
You can find further details by searching '**relationships, sex and health education**' on GOV.UK.

What we can offer through RSE:

- Understanding their value and the value of others.
- Instilling confidence and self-esteem.
- Reliable, correct information in a safe learning environment
- Knowing how to keep safe.
- Helping with peer pressure.
- Learning how to make sensible and informed decisions in a changing cultural climate.
- Understanding the positive impact of loving God, self, neighbour and our common home.



Statutory RSE



[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/805781/Relationships Education Relationships and Sex Education RSE and Health Education.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/805781/Relationships_Education_Relationships_and_Sex_Education_RSE_and_Health_Education.pdf)

Primary Health Education :

Health Education aims to give your child the information they need to make good decisions about their own health and wellbeing, to recognise issues in themselves and others, and to seek support as early as possible when issues arise.

You can find further details by searching '**relationships, sex and health education**' on GOV.UK.

By the end of primary school, pupils will have been taught content on:

- mental wellbeing
- internet safety and harms
- physical health and fitness
- healthy eating
- facts and risks associated with drugs, alcohol and tobacco
- health and prevention
- basic first aid
- changing adolescent body

(The science curriculum in all primary schools also includes content on human development, including reproduction, which there is no right to withdraw from.)

Our Deanery curriculum:

Is organised within 3 themes:

- Created and loved by God
- Created to love others
- Created to live in community

Created
and loved
by God

The Christian imperative to love self, made in the image and likeness of God, shows an understanding of the importance of valuing and understanding oneself as the basis for personal relationships.

- Education in virtue
- Religious understanding of the human person: loving myself.
- Me, my body and my health
- Emotional wellbeing and attitudes
- Life cycles and fertility

Created to
live in
community

Human beings are relational by nature and live in the wider community. Through our exchange with others, our mutual service and through dialogue, we attempt to proclaim and extend the Kingdom of God for the good of individuals and the good of society.

- Education in virtue
- Religious understanding of the importance human communities
- Living in the wider world

Education in Virtue:

Each theme begins with a statement of the virtues which are necessary to living well in relationship with others and these virtues **should underpin the teaching of habits which are learned from experiencing them but also should emerge as a consequence of it.**

Virtues are, and are gained through imitation, the same virtues being **modelled by those who teach.**

They express the qualities of character that schools **should seek to develop in their pupils,** through their exemplification by the whole community of which the pupils are a part.

These virtues reflect our Christian tradition but they are also, of course, fundamental human virtues which are universally shared.

Partnership with parents:

Parents:

- Primary educators of their children
- Unique knowledge of your children
- Ability to have regular conversations
- Impart our shared values
- Teach along side the school
- RSE most effective when reinforced at home and elsewhere.

Some:

- Parents find it difficult or lack confidence
- Homes are unable to provide this
- Children prefer these conversations outside the home

DfE- Parents rights:

The important lessons you teach your child about healthy relationships, looking after themselves and staying safe, are respected and valued under this new curriculum.

Teaching at school will complement and reinforce the lessons you teach your child as they grow up.

Your child's school is required to consult with you when developing and renewing their policies on Relationships Education. These policies must be published online and be available to anybody free of charge.

You can express your opinion, and this will help your child's school decide how and when to cover the content of the statutory guidance. It may also help them decide whether to teach additional non-statutory content.

Schools are required to ensure their teaching reflects the age and religious background of their pupils.

DfE - Right to withdraw your child- Primary:

You cannot withdraw your child from Relationships Education because it is important that all children receive this content, covering topics such as friendships and how to stay safe.

Your child's primary school can choose to teach Sex Education. If you'd like to know more about this, we recommend speaking to the school to understand what will be taught and when. If you do not want your child to take part in some or all of the lessons on Sex Education, you can ask that they are withdrawn. At primary level, the head teacher must grant this request.

The science curriculum in all maintained schools also includes content on human development, including reproduction, which there is no right to withdraw from.