



ST PHILIP'S SCHOOL

RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION (RSE) POLICY

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Introduction

Parents are the first and most important educators of their children¹ and St Philip's School works in partnership with them'.² While relationships and sex education (RSE) is primarily a matter for parents to impart privately in the home, certain aspects are delegated by them to their children's everyday education in school and in this context it is important that the School lays out the scope of such education to parents.

The School acknowledges that RSE is part of the mission of Catholic schools to educate the whole person and that it should be carried out as part of the holistic education which seeks to form as well as inform young people in preparation for adult life.

The School believes in the unique dignity of the human person and its approach to RSE is rooted in the Catholic Church's teaching of the human person and presented in a positive framework of Christian ideals.

Aims

1. To be faithful to the teachings and values of the Catholic Church while acknowledging the realities of the contemporary world in which children and adults grow and live.
2. To involve and respect parents in provision of RSE in recognition of their role as primary educators of their children.
3. To promote the unique dignity of and respect for the human person, regardless of their own and their family's context.

This policy and its related schemes of work have been developed with regard to the following:

¹ See para 23, [Vatican guidelines for education within the family](#), Holy See

² See [Guidance on Sex and Relationships Education](#), Diocese of Westminster.

- [UK Government guidance on teaching online safety in schools](#)
- [Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024](#)
- [UK Government guidance on good PSHE education in schools](#)
- [UK Government guidance on RSE in schools](#)
- [Catholic Education Service guidance on RSE in schools](#)

Scope

RSE is a component of the School’s Personal, Social, Health, and Economic education (PSHE) programme, and of the curricula in Science and Religious Studies. For example, pupils study the changing adolescent body in Form 5 Science lessons as per the National Curriculum and intimate relationships in Form 8 RS lessons as part of the RS Syllabus B of the Independent School’s Examination Board.

Relationships education is focused on the study of family life and the role of the individual as a responsible member of a wider community.

RSE in Forms 7 and 8 builds on a formative education in relationships – and the role of the individual in wider society – from Reception to Form 6. RSE in the later years is based on the study of family life and the role of responsible individuals towards their own communities and wider society in general. They are taught about the value of friendship and the complementary nature of the sexes.

The School seeks to provide appropriate education for all boys in Forms 7 and 8 to complements the biological teaching in Science lessons. All education at the School is offered in an atmosphere of mutual trust and respect in preparation for further age-appropriate education that pupils will experience at their schools from Year 9.

By the end of Form 6	By the end of Form 8
Relationships education	Relationships and sex education
Families & people who care for me Caring friendships Respectful relationships Online relationships Being safe Mental wellbeing Internet safety & harms Physical health & fitness	Respectful relationships including friendships Online and (social) media Intimate relationships & human reproduction Consent The law

<p>Healthy eating</p> <p>Drugs, alcohol & tobacco</p> <p>Health & prevention</p> <p>Basic first aid</p> <p>Changing adolescent body</p>	
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Through RSE and the values of the School in general, the School aims to provide its pupils with a platform to develop positive attitudes and patterns of behaviour, and to equip them with the tools needed to make wise and appropriate decisions in respect to sexuality and personal relationships.

Statutory curriculum requirements

In addition to the statutory requirements for RSE, we are legally required to teach those aspects of RSE that are statutory parts of National Curriculum Science. A summary of the coverage of the RSE curriculum is set out in Appendix A.

RSE in the context of a Catholic education

The School’s approach to RSE is rooted in the Catholic Church’s teaching of the human person made in the image of God, and presented in a positive framework of Christian ideals that uphold fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law and individual liberty. It seeks to promote tolerance of and respect for people whose beliefs and faiths differ even on occasions of profound disagreement.

Alongside inspections from Ofsted, the School is subject inspection from the Diocese of Westminster under the requirements of the Canon 806 and the Framework for Diocesan Inspection (2015). These inspections are carried out under section 48 of the Schools Standards and Frameworks Act (1998), and advise the Archbishop on the religious life of Catholic Schools and the quality of their religious education.

Sensitivity and the tackling of difficult questions

Given the considerable ease of access to information online – including but not limited to the Internet and social media platforms – the School recognises that it is vital to provide a safe environment for pupils to take to seek answers to their questions.

Differing personal and family circumstances, and varying levels of maturity mean that the teaching of RSE must be approached with particular sensitivity. Ground rules will be formed with the involvement and consent of the pupils, and will be made clear in all

lessons in order to create and protect a supportive and respectful arena for discussion and study.

Some questions may raise issues that are not appropriate for classroom discussion. Examples might be questions or comments that: suggest an unusual interest in or knowledge of inappropriate subject matter; hint at abuse; are tendentious; are personal. They will be followed up appropriately and sensitively outside the classroom in consultation with the Designated Safeguarding Lead and parents, if required.

The modesty of the pupils must be respected at all times – all triviality or vulgarity with regard to sex and relationships should be avoided.

RSE and equality law

The School has regard to the Equality Act 2010 and strives to do the best for all of the pupils in its care. The School aims to provide age-appropriate information concerning the nine protected characteristics laid out in the Equality Act.

Respectful disagreement

The European Convention on Human Rights (Protocol 1, Article 2) forbids any school to “pursue an aim of indoctrination that might be considered as not respecting parents’ religious and philosophical convictions.” Guidance issued by the Court states that “[the Article] applies to all subjects and not only religious education. Sexual education and ethics thus fall within the scope of Article 2 of Protocol 1.”

British values do not require any school to promote particular beliefs or lifestyle choices. Regarding the nine protected characteristics of the Equalities Act, the School seeks to inform the pupils in an age-appropriate way without requiring a particular outcome and advocates respectful disagreement between those that share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

External support

The School uses external agencies to widen its access to resources. Visiting speakers are a valuable addition to the delivery of the RSE curriculum, including Childnet, the Metropolitan Police, Carney’s Community Centre and Dr Arik Sigman.

In the case of Childnet and Dr Sigman, the programme is enhanced with the provision of workshops for parents on the subjects of: online safety; the management of screen time; and dealing with adolescents, including a talk on “What parents need to know about boys, pornography and what it does to an adolescent mind”.

Parents and the right to withdraw

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the Sex Education element of RSE except in the case of elements which are required to be taught in schools by the National Curriculum science orders. Should parents wish to withdraw their children they are asked to notify the school by contacting the Deputy Head.

Page 17 of the DfE guidance provides further details on the right to be excused from sex education (commonly referred to as ‘the right to withdraw’).

APPENDIX A

	MICHAELMAS		LENT		SUMMER	
RECEPTN	Building friendships RE	Reasons for rules LW Remembrance Day BV	Understanding sport RE	Online safety HW/RE Life of St George BV	Teamwork - RE St Philip's Day RE	Leadership – RE/LW
FORM 1	Building friendships RE	Reasons for rules LW Remembrance Day BV	Understanding sport RE	Online safety HW/RE Life of St George BV	Teamwork - RE St Philip's Day RE	Leadership – RE/LW
FORM 2	Building friendships RE	Reasons for rules LW Remembrance Day BV	Understanding sport RE	Online safety HW/RE Life of St George BV	Teamwork - RE St Philip's Day RE	Leadership – RE/LW
FORM 3	Building friendships RE	Reasons for rules LW Remembrance Day BV	Understanding sport RE	Online safety HW/RE Life of St George BV	Teamwork - RE St Philip's Day RE	Leadership – RE/LW
FORM 4	Benefit of sport HW The Creed: individual human dignity RE	Winning and losing RE Remembrance Day BV	Teammates: family RE	Teammates: school RE Life of St George BV	Protecting nature LW St Philip's Day RE	Responsibility RE/LW Being dutiful LW

FORM 5	Appreciating community LW 40 Martyrs BV Feudalism RE/BV Cain & Abel RE/BV	Honour and integrity RE/LW Remembrance Day BV	Joy of healthy competition RE The Marriage of Jacob and Rachel RE	Heroes: role models RE Life of St George BV	Self-improvement HW St Philip's Day RE	Sportsmanship RE Puberty <i>Sci</i> HW
FORM 6	Appreciating difference RE/LW	Acceptance of others RE Remembrance Day BV	Leadership: self-respect RE King David and qualities of kingship RE Met Police visit HW/BV	Honour and integrity RE Life of St George BV	Complementary nature of the sexes RE St Philip's Day RE	Freedom and autonomy RE
FORM 7	Valuing friends RE Feudalism RE/BV The Beatitudes BV	Valuing family RE Remembrance Day BV Magna Carta: leadership and democracy RE/BV	Peer pressure RE The Prodigal Son – Forgiveness – BV/RE	Integrity and respect RE Life of St George BV The Story of Zaccheaus RE Holy Week: Sacrifice - BV	Puberty and adolescence <i>Sci</i> RSE St Philip's Day RE The Blessed Virgin Mary RE Genesis 3: following your conscience RE	Nutrition and health HW

FORM 8	Autonomy and independence RE/LW	Personal dignity RE Remembrance Day - BV Confirmation: 7 Gifts of the Holy Spirit - RSE	Family values RE The Sacraments: Marriage RSE	Nurturing friendship RE Life of St George - BV Charity – greatest social commandment – RSE Life & Death: abortion and euthanasia - RSE	Puberty and privacy RSE The law: our body and our rights RSE St Philip’s Day RE The Sacraments: Holy Orders & chastity - RSE	Self-respect and self-care SRE/HW Arik Sigman talk: pornography and adolescence RSE
KEY	<p>RE – Relationships education</p> <p>RSE – Relationships and sex education</p> <p>LW – Living in the wider world: economic wellbeing and being a responsible citizen.</p> <p>HW – Health and wellbeing</p> <p>BV – British Values</p>					