



RELATIONSHIPS & SEX EDUCATION POLICY

2024

Our Mission Statement

Our Lady of Grace RC Primary School recognises that each member of our community is unique and made in the image and likeness of God. Our School will encourage each member:

Through **WORK**, to develop his or her potential

Through **WORSHIP**, to learn to know and love God and His world

Through **WITNESS**, to proclaim to all the peace, joy and glory of God

As Catholics we live our faith through all aspects of our lives. Our Mission Statement underpins our thinking when implementing this procedure



DEFINITION

The DfE guidance states that “children and young people need to know how to be safe and healthy, and how to manage their academic, personal and social lives in a positive way”. It is about the development of the pupil’s knowledge and understanding of her or him as a sexual being, about what it means to be fully human, called to live in right relationships with self and others and being enabled to make moral decisions in conscience. In primary schools the focus should be on “teaching the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships, with particular reference to friendships, family relationships, and relationships with other children and with adults.” This would include the topics of families and the people of who care for me, caring friendships, respectful relationships, online relationships and being safe.

STATUTORY CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS

We are legally required to teach those aspects of RSE which are statutory parts of National Curriculum Science.

Click link for further details.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-curriculum-in-england-science-programmes-of-study/national-curriculum-in-england-science-programmes-of-study>

In all schools, when teaching these subjects, the religious background of all pupils must be considered when planning teaching, so that the topics that are included in the core content in this guidance are appropriately handled. Schools must ensure they comply with the relevant provisions of the Equality Act 2010 under which religion or belief are amongst the protected characteristics.

Catholic schools are required to deliver relationships and sex education (RSE) in accordance with the teaching of the Church. Our approach is compatible with the guidance issued by the Department for Education.

WHAT IS COMPULSORY?

When sex education is taught at school parents have the right to withdraw from these lessons. Sex education is not compulsory at primary school. Whilst some primary schools choose to teach sex education (which goes beyond the existing national curriculum for science) we have elected not to.

Relationships Education at primary level puts in place the building blocks needed for positive and safe relationships of all kinds. This will start with family and friends, how to treat each other with kindness, and recognising the difference between online and offline friendships.

Our RSE curriculum is designed to help children from all backgrounds build positive and safe relationships, and to thrive in modern Britain. The religious character of our school is reflected in our teaching.



There is no right to withdraw from Relationships Education at school as these are important life learning lessons for a child's development and safety.

PARENT PORTAL

During consultation for this policy parents/guardians were able to access an RSE programme called "Life to the Full." The programme can be explored using the log in details below.

Parent Portal: <https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/parent-portal/>
User name: ol-grace-m25
Password: pink-flamingo

WHAT WILL BE TAUGHT AND BY WHOM?

We will use the majority of the "Life to the Full" programme by Ten Ten Resources. Life to the Full has been approved by the Governing Body and our Diocese. The scheme of work is very child friendly and can be adapted to suit our needs as a school.

The school will use most of the lesson content on the "Life to the Full" programme. The delivery of content will be made accessible to all pupils including those with SEND. The sessions are repeated over a two-year period as children change and grow; their level of engagement will increase as they develop their social, moral, cultural and spiritual awareness and understanding.

The children's class teachers are responsible for managing the teaching and learning of the Life to the Full Programme to their pupils. If they require assistance from a teaching assistant or special support assistant then they must ensure that their colleague has accessed the appropriate training resources.

PARENTS AS THE FIRST TEACHERS

Governors and staff intend that the modules covered in school should help parents in their irreplaceable role. Parents are the first teachers of their children. Parents know, understand and love their children. They are in the best position to judge what each child requires to know in the delicate area of relationships.

FIELDING QUESTIONS ON TOPICS NOT COVERED IN THE AGREED CURRICULUM

Questions from pupils in relation to content that is restricted to older children and relates to topics in primary sex education that the school doesn't cover, or relates to sex education from which the pupil has been withdrawn, need to be handled sensitively. Teacher discretion is to be used on how they are best responded to. Teachers are to ensure that the feelings of the child asking the questions are carefully considered. Under no circumstances should any non-curriculum knowledge or age inappropriate information be shared. The response could be as simple as saying 'We do not cover that topic in Primary School.' It may be appropriate to direct the child to speak to their parents or telephone the parent to inform them that a question has been asked.



LIFE TO THE FULL PROGRAMME KEY DECISIONS

There are three modules in each year group each with the same theme but at the age-appropriate level.

Module One is taught in the second half of the Autumn Term.

Module Two is taught over the Spring Term.

Module Three is taught over the Summer Term.



Module One: Created and Loved by God explores the individual. Rooted in the teaching that we are created by God out of love and for love, it helps children to develop an understanding of the importance of valuing themselves as the basis for personal relationships.

Module Two: Created to Love Others explores the individual's relationship with others. Building on the understanding that we have been created out of love and for love, this Module explores how we take this calling into our family, friendships and relationships, and teaches strategies for developing healthy relationships and keeping safe.

Module Three: Created to Live in Community explores the individual's relationship with the wider world. Here we explore how human beings are relational by nature and are called to love others in the wider community through service, through dialogue and through working for the Common Good.



OPTIONAL UNITS

There are optional units in the Life to the Full Programme which Our Lady of Grace school will **NOT** deliver. These are:

YEAR ONE & TWO

Module 1 – Unit 2, Session 2

- Girls & Boys

YEARS THREE & FOUR

Module 1 – Unit 2, Sessions 3,4 & 5

- What is Puberty?
- Changing Bodies
- Boy/Girl Discussion Groups

Module 1 – Unit 4, Session 1

- Life Cycles

YEARS FIVE & SIX

Module 1 – Unit 2, Sessions 2 & 3

- Girls' Bodies
- Boys' Bodies

Module 1 – Unit 3, Session 4

- Seeing Stuff Online

Module 1 – Unit 4, Sessions 1, 2 & 3

- Making Babies (Part 1)
- Making Babies (Part 2)
- Menstruation

In Year Five in the Summer Term, the class teachers will liaise closely with the School Nurse who will deliver separate boys and girls talks on Puberty, Changing Bodies and Menstruation.



MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REVIEW

Monitoring of RSE in school will be carried out by members of the Senior Leadership Team and discussed with the Parish Priest and the Governing Body Curriculum Committee. This policy has been produced in consultation with parents, governors and senior leaders. It will be kept under regular review with staff. The Headteacher takes overall delegated responsibility for the implementation of this policy and will liaise with the Parish Priest and Governing Body on any proposed changes. Any future changes considered will be in consultation with the parents and appropriate agencies.

QUESTIONS

If you have any concerns or questions about the RSE programme please email the school office with subject heading RSE PROGRAMME at olog@bury.gov.uk with your query.

PUBLICATION

This policy will be published on the school website. A paper copy is available from the school office.

Date for next review by Governing Body Summer Term 2025