



The Federation of the Church Schools of  
Shalfleet and Freshwater & Yarmouth

*Together for a Brighter Future*

# **RELATIONSHIPS & SEX EDUCATION A STATEMENT OF POLICY**

<b>Approved by</b>	<b>TG &amp; CW</b>
<b>Portfolio</b>	<b>Standards</b>
<b>Approved on</b>	<b>Summer 26</b>
<b>Review date</b>	<b>Summer 27</b>
<b>Review Cycle</b>	<b>1 Year</b>

## 1. Rationale and Christian Ethos

As a Federation of Church of England schools, our policy is set within our Christian values, emphasising the importance of marriage, family, and stable relationships. Christians are called to love God and to love others as God loves us.

Safeguarding is our first priority. RSHE provides an understanding that caring environments are essential for a positive self-image and that individuals are responsible for their own bodies and minds. This policy aligns with the Diocesan vision to be "Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good," focusing on wisdom, hope, community, and dignity.

- **Dignity and Respect:** We believe all people are of equal value to God and should be treated with Christian integrity.
- **Pastoral Principles:** We apply the "Pastoral Principles for Living Well Together," ensuring our schools are inclusive communities where everyone can flourish regardless of family arrangement, belief, or orientation.
- **The Golden Rule:** Relationships education is anchored in Jesus' teaching to love our neighbours, focusing on kindness, honesty, and forgiveness.

## 2. Statutory Framework

This policy meets the requirements of the Relationships Education, RSE, and Health Education (England) Regulations 2019 and the updated July 2025 Statutory Guidance. It fulfils the legal duty to provide Relationships Education and Health Education in primary schools.

### Policy Development and Parental Engagement

The Federation is committed to meaningful engagement and transparency with parents.

- **Consultation:** We proactively consult parents when developing or reviewing this policy.
- **Materials:** All RSHE curriculum materials are available for parents to view upon request.
- **Updates:** Parents will be informed of any shifts in content that respond to emerging local needs.

## 3. Curriculum Delivery and Content

The Federation provides a well-sequenced curriculum that is age-appropriate and sensitive to the needs of our pupils. The following topics are mandated by the July 2025 Government Guidance:

### Relationships Education (Primary)

Focuses on the fundamental building blocks of positive relationships:

- **Families and People Who Care for Me:** Understanding that stable, caring relationships are at the heart of happy families, while respecting that families may look different from one's own. This includes understanding that marriage and civil partnerships represent a lifelong, legally recognised commitment.
- **Caring Friendships:** Identifying the characteristics of healthy friendships, such as honesty, kindness, and managing conflict.
- **Respectful Relationships:** Learning how to be safe and respectful in digital spaces. Focuses on the building blocks of all positive relationships, including the importance of self-respect, boundaries, and challenging stereotypes.
- **Online Safety:** Applying the same principles of respect to online interactions and critically evaluating online sources.
- **Being Safe:** Recognising boundaries, privacy, and how to report concerns or abuse. Includes recognising physical and sexual abuse. Pupils are taught the correct vocabulary for body parts—such as **vulva, vagina, penis, and testicles**—as a vital safeguarding tool.

## Health Education (Primary)

- **Mental Wellbeing:** Identifying feelings, building resilience, and understanding that loneliness or sadness are normal human experiences.
- **Physical Health:** Learning about the importance of sleep (and its link to mood), dental hygiene, the facts around vaccination and the human life cycle (including puberty).
- **Personal Safety (New for 2026):** Explicit teaching on hazards and risks around roads, railways, and water.

## 4. Sex Education (Non-Statutory) and the Right to Withdraw

In line with our original policy and Diocese guidance, we provide a programme that recognises self-esteem as the foundation of RSE. The Federation distinguishes clearly between Relationships Education (compulsory) and Sex Education.

- **Science Curriculum (Non-Withdrawable):** All pupils must learn about the human life cycle, including puberty and reproduction in plants and animals.
- **Provision:** Following DfE recommendations, we recommend teach sex education in Years 5 and/or 6, focusing on human reproduction and birth. In Year 6, we teach about human reproduction and birth (conception, intercourse, and how pregnancy occurs).
- **Right to Withdraw:**
- **Materials:** All RSHE curriculum materials are available for parents to view.
- Parents have the right to request their child be withdrawn from any sex education that is *not* part of the National Curriculum for Science.
  - Requests should be made to the Headteacher, who will discuss the request with parents to clarify the nature and benefits of the curriculum.
  - **Note:** There is no right to withdraw from Relationships Education, Health Education, or Science topics related to puberty and reproduction.

## 5. Dealing with Specific Topics

- **Terminology:** As a safeguarding tool, children are taught the correct names for external body parts (e.g., vulva, vagina, penis, testicles) by Year 2.
- **LGBTQ+:** In accordance with the Equality Act 2010, we educate children about diversity within society. We ensure all pupils feel validated and that our resources do not promote one lifestyle over another but reflect the reality of modern Britain.
- **Confidentiality:** Teachers must make the limitations of confidentiality clear. Disclosures that suggest a child is at risk will follow the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.
- **Contraception:** In line with the original policy, giving specific contraception advice to pupils under 16 without parental consent is inappropriate for primary school staff.

## 6. Delivery and Safeguarding

- **Staff Training:** RSHE will be delivered by trained school staff who can create a safe, supportive environment.
- **Safe Environment:** Teachers will set clear ground rules for discussions and use correct terminology for body parts to support safeguarding.
- **Managing Questions:** Teachers will handle difficult questions sensitively. Questions that go beyond the primary curriculum may be referred to parents.

- **External Providers:** While specialists can enhance delivery, the Federation remains responsible for all content. We will check all external resources for accuracy and bias, ensuring they are consistent with Diocesan and Government guidance.

## 7. SEND and Inclusion

Our curriculum is designed to be accessible to all. We follow the "**Flourishing for All**" (April 2025) guidance to prevent bullying related to race, faith, disability, or orientation, ensuring every child feels validated.

- **Inclusion (SEND):** Content will be made accessible to all pupils, with adjustments made for those with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities.

## 8. Monitoring and Review

The Governing Body is responsible for monitoring the implementation of this policy. This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it remains in line with statutory guidance and the needs of our pupils.

**Approved by:** Federation Governing Body

**Date:** Summer 2026

**Review Date:** Summer 2027

## Key Updates Summary

- **Safety:** Added explicit mentions of road, rail, and water safety as per the 2025 DfE update.
- **Transparency:** Included the requirement to make all teaching materials available to parents.
- **Toilets:** Aligned with the guidance to maintain separate-sex spaces for facilities and, where necessary, for sensitive discussions.
- **Diocesan Alignment:** Strengthened the "Dignity and Respect" section to reflect the Joint Board of Education's 2026 guidance.