



St Michael's Easthampstead C of E (VA) Primary School

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Dear Parents/ Carers,

At St Michael's Easthampstead, we are committed to ensuring that every child receives a high-quality education that enables them to flourish academically, socially, emotionally and spiritually.

As part of this commitment, we are reviewing our Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSE) Policy, alongside our wider Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) Education curriculum, in preparation for the implementation of the updated Department for Education guidance for the 2026/27 academic year. We value the views of parents and carers and would like to invite you to take part in our consultation.

Why are we consulting?

The Department for Education expects schools to consult with parents and carers whenever they review their Relationships and Sex Education policy. This consultation provides an opportunity for you to understand what is taught, why it is taught and how it is delivered, and to share your views before the policy is finalised.

What is RSE?

Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSE) helps children develop the knowledge, understanding and skills they need to stay safe, healthy and happy. It supports children to:

- build positive, respectful relationships;
- understand how to keep themselves safe both online and offline;
- manage their emotions and mental wellbeing;
- develop healthy lifestyles; and
- prepare for life in modern Britain.

What will children learn?

RSE is taught in an age-appropriate and carefully sequenced way through our PSHE curriculum, alongside learning in Science, Computing, Religious Education and wider school life. We use the well renowned Kapow curriculum and it's resources for both PSHE and RSE.

Relationships Education

Children learn about:

- Families and people who care for them
- Caring friendships
- Respectful relationships
- Online relationships
- Being safe and understanding boundaries

Health Education

Children learn about:

- Mental wellbeing
- Physical health and healthy lifestyles

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- Personal hygiene
- Online wellbeing
- Puberty and the changing body
- Personal safety
- Basic first aid

Additional PSHE Learning

Children also learn about:

- Economic wellbeing and financial education
- Aspirations and careers
- Citizenship and life in modern Britain
- Personal safety and decision making

What about Sex Education?

In primary schools, Relationships Education and Health Education are statutory. However, Sex Education beyond the National Curriculum for Science remains non-statutory.

Our proposed policy is that non-statutory Sex Education will be taught only in Year 6, in line with Department for Education recommendations. This helps prepare pupils for adolescence, secondary school and the physical and emotional changes they will experience. The programme will include age-appropriate learning about:

- conception and fertilisation;
- pregnancy and foetal development; and
- birth.

These lessons will be taught sensitively and professionally by school staff using medically accurate, age-appropriate resources. Before these lessons are delivered, Year 6 parents and carers will be invited to attend a dedicated RSE information session. During this meeting we will explain exactly what will be taught, the teaching approaches used and the resources that will support learning, and there will be an opportunity to ask questions.

Parents and carers have the right to request that their child is withdrawn from the non-statutory Sex Education lessons. Children **cannot** be withdrawn from:

- statutory Relationships Education;
- statutory Health Education; or
- the National Curriculum Science programme, including learning about human development and puberty.

How does our Christian ethos shape RSE?

As a Church of England school, our approach to RSE is rooted in our Christian vision and values. Our curriculum promotes dignity, respect, kindness, compassion, honesty and responsibility, recognising that every person is uniquely created and loved by God. Our approach:

- promotes respect for every individual;
- encourages healthy, positive and respectful relationships;
- reflects our Christian values whilst respecting the beliefs and backgrounds of all families;
- teaches about family life and diversity with sensitivity and care; and
- follows the Church of England's Faith-Sensitive Relationships, Sex and Health Education Charter.

How are lessons kept safe?

All RSE lessons:

- are taught by school staff;
- use age-appropriate, factual and medically accurate information;
- follow agreed classroom expectations and ground rules;

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- are delivered in line with the school's safeguarding procedures.

If a safeguarding concern arises during learning, staff will follow the school's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

How are children with SEND supported?

All pupils are entitled to access RSE in a way that is appropriate, understandable and supportive. Where needed, learning will be adapted through strategies such as:

- visual supports;
- simplified language;
- pre-teaching of key vocabulary and concepts;
- small-group support; and
- carefully structured and appropriately paced learning activities.

How can parents view the policy and resources?

The draft RSE Policy accompanies this consultation. Parents and carers are welcome to request access to curriculum resources or discuss any aspect of the programme by contacting the school to make an appointment, and we regularly run drop-in sessions as we did earlier this academic year. The specific resources used for the Year 6 Sex Education unit will also be shared, as we did earlier this year, before those lessons are taught.

How to share your views

We would be grateful for your feedback. Please send any comments, questions or feedback to:
secretary@stmicheast.co.uk

Consultation closes on: Friday 28 August 2026.

Following the consultation period, feedback will be carefully considered by senior leaders and governors before the policy is finalised, ratified and published. As the consultation concludes shortly before the start of the new academic year, the draft policy may be used on an interim basis whilst feedback is reviewed and the final policy is approved. Whilst consultation feedback helps shape our approach, schools are legally required to teach the statutory elements of Relationships Education and Health Education. Thank you for taking the time to work with us in supporting our children to become confident, respectful, healthy and responsible young people who are well prepared for the next stage of their education and for life beyond primary school.

Yours sincerely,

Mr S Riordan
Headteacher