



# St. Luke's CEVA Primary School

We are a Christian school that serves a diverse community and works in partnership with parents to develop the whole child.



## Primary: Relationships Sex and Health Education (RSHE) Policy

Person responsible for RSHE in school - Fiona Norcross

Signature of Headteacher: 

Signature of Chair of Governors:

Date ratified by Governors: October 2020

When the policy will be reviewed: September 2021

Boroughwide consultation taken place concerning the implementation of the 2020 guidance in RSHE - see Appendix 1

School consultation taking place 2020-21 concerning the implementation of the 2020 guidance in RSHE - see Appendix 2

### Who we are:

#### We are a Christian school

St. Luke's aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the significance of faith and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils. St. Luke's strives to impart wisdom<sup>1</sup>,

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<sup>1</sup> Proverbs 4: 6 - 7

knowledge and skills; to inspire hope<sup>2</sup>; to instil respect<sup>3</sup> for all and to invest in community<sup>4</sup>. St. Luke's is mindful of issues regarding safeguarding, the prevention of bullying and the inclusion of those with special educational needs and protected characteristics, it seeks to promote a positive sense of self-worth for all.

### [That serves a diverse community](#)

As well as developing a vibrant and attractive sense of our Christian identity, St. Luke's also seeks to serve and extend a warm welcome and hospitality to those of different faiths or none who wish to journey with us.<sup>5</sup> This invitation applies to both the pupils and their families, as well as those who work within the school on a daily basis, or visit with us on occasion. We believe that all people should be treated with respect and dignity regardless of difference, as all people are made in the image of God and the Bible exhorts us to love our neighbours as ourselves.<sup>6</sup> St. Luke's seeks to be an inclusive school in the fullest sense of the word.

### [And works in partnership with parents](#)

We believe that children flourish first and foremost within the family,<sup>7</sup> so with this in mind the school seeks to work in partnership with parents/carers to promote pupils development, mental health, wellbeing and safety. As a school we seek to provide easy access points for parents, whether that be through chatting with senior staff on the school gate, meeting with teachers, themed coffee mornings and workshops, assemblies or during more formal meetings. It is hoped that such opportunities will facilitate communication and allow not only for the celebration of success, but also for concerns to be dealt with quickly and easily, thus avoiding escalation; this approach also encourages a sense of family and community within school, something which is of great value to us.

## **Policy statement - Aims and objectives of RSHE**

It is the intention of St. Luke's CEVA to teach high quality, age appropriate, pupil-sensitive, evidence-based RSHE, that demonstrates a respect for the law and all communities that call Newham home. It is expected that RSHE in St. Luke's will help pupils to learn about themselves and the world they live in, giving them the skills, understanding and information they need for life. This will help them to stay safe and to flourish, not just in childhood, but into adulthood and for the rest of their lives. This is why RSHE is such an important part of the curriculum.

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<sup>2</sup> Romans 15:13

<sup>3</sup> Luke 6:31

<sup>4</sup> 1 John 4: 11

<sup>5</sup> Leviticus 19:34; Hebrews 13:2; 1 Peter 4:9

<sup>6</sup> Mark 12:30 - 31

<sup>7</sup> Ephesians 6:1 - 4

## **Statutory content: RSHE**

By law primary schools are required to teach relationships and health education, alongside national curriculum science and within the context of safeguarding. Here at St. Luke's we acknowledge that parents/carers are a child's first and most effective teacher and so will ensure that we have annual meetings with parents or carers to present our RSHE curriculum as well as hear from parents/carers about any concerns or questions they have. We are clear that our aim is to educate pupils about these important subjects alongside parents and carers.

### **National Curriculum Science**

At key stages 1 and 2, the national curriculum for science includes teaching about the main external parts of the body and the changes to the human body as it grows from birth to old age, including puberty, and sexual and asexual reproduction in mammals and plants.

**There continues to be no right to withdraw from national curriculum science.**

### **Health Education (Physical Health and Mental Wellbeing)**

The aim of Health Education is to give pupils the information that they need to make good decisions about their physical and mental health and wellbeing. Pupils' will recognise what is normal and what is an issue in themselves and others, and how to seek support at the earliest stage from appropriate sources.

Puberty, including menstruation, will be covered in Health Education and should, as far as possible, be addressed before children begin puberty.

**There is no right to withdraw from Health Education.**

### **Relationships Education**

The focus in primary schools should be on teaching the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships, with family members, other children and adults. Lessons will be evidence based, age and culturally appropriate, based in the law and sensitive to the needs of pupils.

**There is no right to withdraw from Relationships Education**

### **Safeguarding**

Safeguarding is an important aspect of all of the lessons taught as part of RSHE in our school. Our safeguarding policy will be applied to and supported by all aspects of RSHE and any disclosures or issues arising as part of RSHE, will be dealt with in line with our safeguarding policy.

## Non-statutory RSHE

Sex Education that goes beyond national curriculum science

The Government and local advisors strongly recommend, after consultation with parents/carers, to teach Sex Education beyond that taught within the science curriculum. St. Luke's will be teaching a basic understanding about 'how a baby is conceived and is born in Y6, following on from the national science curriculum, which teaches about sexual reproduction in mammals in year 5. Sex education at St. Luke's will centre around human reproduction and will be taught by trained senior staff in an age appropriate and sensitive way and we believe will help to ready children for their move to secondary school.

### The right of parents/carers to withdraw their children from non-statutory RSHE

Parents/carers have a right to withdraw their children from non-statutory RSHE, i.e. 'how a human baby is conceived and is born', following a meeting with a member of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) to discuss their concerns. The school will document this process.

### Equality

- The school will comply with the relevant requirements of the Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equalities Duty (2014): schools must not unlawfully discriminate against pupils or allow children to be bullied because of their age, sex, race, disability, religion or belief, gender reassignment, pregnancy or maternity, marriage or civil partnership, or sexual orientation (Protected Characteristics)
- The delivery of the content of RSHE will be made accessible to all pupils, including those with SEND.
- Our school celebrates difference and diversity. The bullying of anyone for any reason is not acceptable. It is expected that our relationships education curriculum will lead to a stronger sense of community, mutual respect and give pupils a sense of responsibility. This will help, to keep St. Luke's a safe, inclusive and caring place for all, upholding the core christian values and ethos of the school.

### Monitoring evaluation and assessment.

- To ensure that the teaching and learning in RSHE in our school is of the highest standard, it will be monitored by our RSHE curriculum leader our DH Miss Norcross
- The school will identify pupils' prior knowledge using KWL grids
- The school will assess pupils' learning and progress through teacher assessment
- The school will evidence pupils' learning and progress by recorded teacher documentation

### Resources

The school will draw from a number of educational resources... For example: Jigsaw, the Diocese of Chelmsford CoE, material from the Big Think Community and appropriate PSHE books.

It is the role of the RSHE subject leader to ensure that resources are appropriate and up to date for the school's use in teaching RSHE

## RSHE curriculum lead teacher

Any queries about this policy should be addressed to Miss Norcross or the Headteacher

*Developed from materials shared with Jo Sell from Tower Hamlets LA and used with permission*

*Approved by: Newham LA; Newham SACRE, NAPNH and NASH*

## Appendix 1

### Information about how and why RSHE will be taught at St. Luke's CEVA Primary School

#### Why are we teaching RSHE?

- Because it is the right thing to do. Our children are growing up in an increasingly complex world with new opportunities, but also new challenges. We as a school want our pupils to flourish in the world they find themselves in and work hard throughout all curriculum areas to give our pupils the skills and knowledge they need to do that. RSHE teaching is an important part of equipping our pupils for life in 21<sup>st</sup> century Britain, enabling them to embrace diversity, make the most of technology; understand the importance of, and develop the skills which lead to them being able to sustain healthy and strong relationships.
- Relationships and health education is a statutory requirement for all primary schools in England. The government, Ofsted and local advisors recommend that sex education (how a baby is conceived and born) is also taught in primary school.
- At St. Luke's CEVA Primary School we have decided to teach sex education, 'how babies are conceived and born' in an age appropriate manner and under the professional judgement of the SLT, because young people tell us that the school is a trusted place where they would like to learn RSHE. (Sell 2019). Also, a recent consultation of secondary school students in Newham has seen 63% of year 10s say that they think that pupils should learn how a baby is made and born at primary school age. We believe that by teaching this topic here, it will help to equip our pupils for the transition to secondary school where they may learn about sex from less reliable sources such as friends or older children in the playground. The decision to teach sex education will be shared via a consultation with parents/carers and governors and their guidance and advice taken into consideration.

**The teaching of RSHE at St. Luke's CEVA Primary School is informed by the law, national RSHE guidance and the national curriculum set out by the DfE as well as, the school ethos and policies already developed. Below is a list of some of the documents that have been taken into consideration when preparing this policy.**

- Statutory Guidance on RSHE 2019  
*Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education Statutory Guidance for governing bodies, proprietors, head teachers, principals, senior leadership teams, teachers*

- Equality Act 2010 and The Public Sector Equality Duty 2014
- School ethos and educational aims.
- The teaching of RSHE at St. Luke's CEVA Primary School is delivered within and influenced by related school policies:
  - Behaviour policy
  - Antibullying policy
  - Equality policy or statement
  - Safeguarding policy

## Frequently asked questions:

### How will we ensure lessons are taught sensitively?

- Puberty and menstruation and human reproduction and birth are seen as sensitive topics to teach in RSHE and therefore we will put in special measures to make sure that pupils feel at ease when talking about these topics:
- Single sex classes for some lessons so that children feel less self-conscious and students may be more relaxed and feel able to ask questions
- Use of anonymous question boxes
- Same sex teachers for single sex groups

### When will RSHE will be taught?

- We will teach RSHE all year round as part of class time.
- The teaching of sex education will always take place towards the last third of June each year, before the children go to secondary schools.

### How will we ensure communication with parents/carers?

- St. Luke's CEVA Primary School will always work with parents/carers and want to communicate what is going on in RSHE. Our aim is to offer a meeting every year in Spring 2 or Summer 1 every year to explain what will happen in the sex education part of the RSHE curriculum, so that parents/carers can, if they wish, talk to their children ahead of lessons. This will allow parents/carers to be ready for any questions that their child may have concerning what they have learnt in school.
- Whenever sex education (how a baby is made and born), outside of the national curriculum for science, is being taught, we will notify parents/carers ahead of the lesson so that parents/carers are aware of what is being taught and in which week. Our intention is to make these lessons as sensitive to the background of all our pupils as possible and our hope is that they will all remain in the lesson so that they learn facts from a trusted teacher rather than second-hand in the playground. However, the school respects the right of parents/carers to remove their children from sex education if they wish. Parents/carers who wish to remove their children from sex education need to inform the school in writing, following a meeting with someone from the SLT to discuss concerns, alternative provision can be made for the child. This process will be documented.

## Who will be teaching RSHE?

- For the Y6 part of the sex education curriculum Mr. Hipperson or another member of SLT will teach the boys and Ms Norcross or another member of SLT the girls.
- For all other parts of the curriculum the class teacher will deliver the lessons.

## What training will staff be given?

- Staff receive training every year around RHSE during the school INSET programme. Also at the moment there is boroughwide training available to schools for staff and in the summer term 2020 our school lead RSHE teacher Miss Norcross attended training that has allowed her to train others delivering R(S)HE in their school.

## What materials will be used to deliver RSHE?

- In St. Luke's CEVA Primary School we have chosen to use a variety of materials to deliver RSHE, from whichever source we think is best suited to our pupils. We do however use Jigsaw and Big Think materials predominately for much of our teaching of R(S)HE.

## Scheme of work

Attached to this policy is a long-term plan or general scheme of work.

It is good that parents/carers are aware of what is being taught when, so that they can teach their children at home before the learning takes place or talk with their children afterwards. Knowing what their children are learning at school can offer parents/carers a chance to talk to their children about relationships and sex in a more open way if they choose.

It is the aim of St. Lukes CEVA Primary School to provide all our pupils with high quality, pupil sensitive, evidence based and age appropriate RSHE that is sensitive to our pupils background and needs. If there are any questions about what we teach and why then please contact the Head or Deputy ASAP.

*Approved by: Newham LA; Newham SACRE, NAPNH and NASH*