



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  
EDUCATION OFFICE



## Faith Positive Relationships, Sex and Health Education

Rowan Ferguson, Deputy Chief Education Officer  
(Policy)

## What changes from 1 September 2020?

- Relationships Education is mandatory for primary schools – and parents *do not* have a right to withdraw their child
- Relationships and Sex Education is mandatory in secondary schools (including academies) – parents do have a right to withdraw their child from sex education
- Health education is mandatory for primary and secondary schools
- There is a greater emphasis on equalities legislation

## What stays the same?

- A written policy is still required
- Schools must still develop and review that policy in consultation with parents
- The policy should still reflect the community the school serves

## Workshop Activity

- What are the potential flashpoints?
- What potential strategies could defuse these?

## Religion or belief – a protected characteristic

- A good understanding of pupils' faith backgrounds and positive relationships between the school and local faith communities help to create a constructive context for the teaching of these subjects.
- In all schools, when teaching these subjects, the religious background of all pupils must be taken into account 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.
- All schools may teach about faith perspectives. In particular, schools with a religious character may teach the distinctive faith perspective on relationships, and balanced debate may take place about issues that are seen as contentious. For example, the school may wish to reflect on faith teachings about certain topics as well as how their faith institutions may support people in matters of relationships and sex.

## Church of England Vision for Education

- An inclusive vision that could apply in any school
- Educating for
  - Dignity and Respect
  - Community and Living Well Together
  - Wisdom
  - Hope and Aspiration

## RSHE in Church of England Schools

- All pupils have a right to an education which enables them to flourish and is set in a classroom culture where differences of lifestyle and opinion are given dignity.
- We encourage all schools to approach RSHE in a faith sensitive and inclusive way. Such an approach should seek to understand and appreciate differences within and across the teachings of the faith and other communities the school serves.

## Interview

- Other faith perspectives on educating for Dignity and Respect; Community and Living Well Together; Wisdom; Hope and Aspiration in the context of RSHE

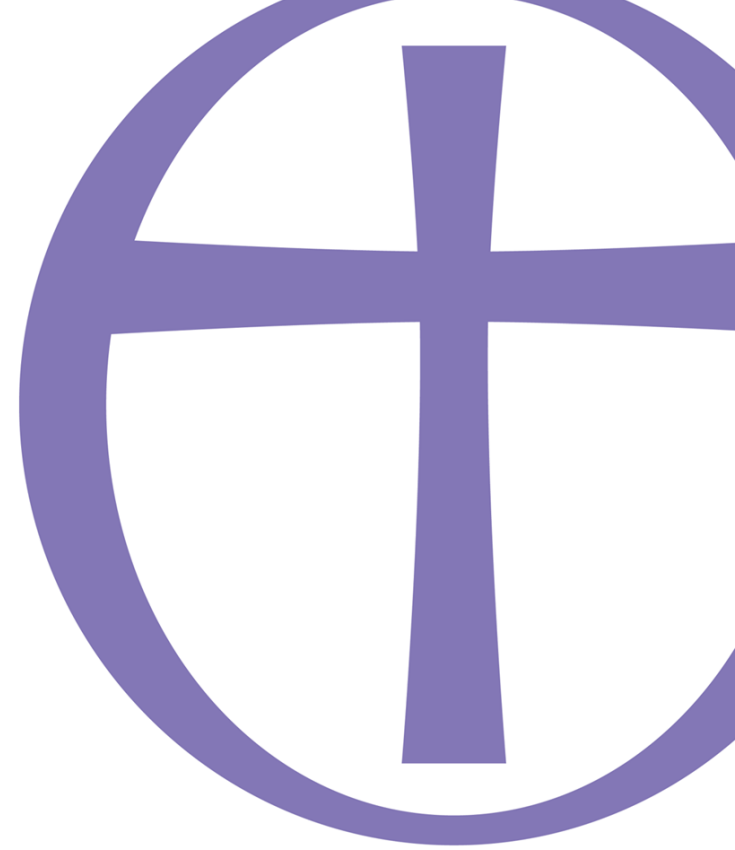


## Workshop Activity

- Consideration of how to apply educating for Dignity and Respect; Community and Living Well Together; Wisdom; Hope and Aspiration in your local community context



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