CLAYTON ST JOHN CofE PRIMARY

PSHE (including statutory Relationships, Sex & Health Education) Policy

Ratified by Governors:	Spring 2026	Signed Head Teacher: Mrs G Emsley Full Governing Body
Next Review Date:	Autumn 2026 (or earlier considering new statutory guidance coming into force September 2026)	

Safeguarding Statement of Intent

At Clayton St John CofE Primary we respect and value all children and are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all our pupils so they can learn, in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. We believe every pupil should be able to participate in all school activities in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from harm. This is the responsibility of every adult employed by, or invited to deliver services at Clayton St John CofE. We recognise our responsibility to safeguard all who access the school and promote the welfare of all our pupils by protecting them from physical, sexual or emotional abuse, neglect and bullying. We also work to ensure that our pupils are aware of Online Safety and who to talk to if they feel vulnerable or scared.

Vision Statement

"Growing Together in God's Love"

Our Vision

At Clayton St John CofE Primary we pride ourselves on developing a positive ethos built on the foundations of the Christian faith. This ethos is based on the following Values and principles that, as stakeholders, we all aim to uphold:



1. Safeguarding Statement of Intent

At Clayton St John CofE Primary, we respect and value all children and are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment so pupils can learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. We believe every pupil should be able to participate in all school activities in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from harm. All staff and visitors have a responsibility to safeguard pupils, including promoting their welfare online. This policy should be read alongside our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and is underpinned by Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2025 (statutory from 1 September 2025).

2. Vision and Values

"Growing Together in God's Love." Our PSHE and RSHE provision supports pupils to flourish spiritually, morally, socially and culturally, in line with our Christian values of Respect, Resilience, Encouragement, Security, Pride, Empathy, Collaboration and Trust. It nurtures character, wellbeing, responsible citizenship and prepares children for life in modern Britain.

3. Policy Purpose and Scope
This policy sets out our approach to PSHE, including statutory Relationships Education and Health Education at primary, and the non-statutory elements of sex education appropriate to our age phase. It applies to all pupils, staff, parents/carers, governors, volunteers and external contributors. It complements policies on Safeguarding, Behaviour, Online Safety, Equality, SEND, Anti-bullying, Visitor Code of Conduct, and Curriculum.

4. Statutory Framework and Compliance
Our curriculum and policy are aligned to current statutory and advisory requirements. We will transition to the Department for Education's updated RSHE statutory guidance (July 2025) by September 2026 (schools must have regard to this guidance under s.80A Education Act 2002 and s.403 Education Act 1996). Until then, we continue to deliver RSHE in line with the 2019 guidance while preparing for the 2026 changes.

We also have regard to:

- Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2025.
- Prevent Duty Guidance (2023, in force from 31 Dec 2023).
- Equality Act 2010 and DfE advice for schools / Public Sector Equality Duty.
- SEN and disability duties (Children and Families Act 2014) and DfE governance guidance (2025).
- Political impartiality in schools (DfE guidance).
- PSHE Association Programme of Study (KS1–5) as a planning framework signposted by DfE.

Note on the RSHE update (2025 → for introduction Sept 2026): The revised guidance strengthens content on respectful relationships (including tackling misogyny/VAWG), online risks (misinformation/disinformation, deepfakes, toxic influencers), suicide prevention (secondary phase), and personal safety (roads/rail/water). Primary Relationships Education and Health Education remain statutory; schools retain discretion over any additional sex education taught in primary. We will reflect these updates proportionately for our primary context and communicate changes with parents.

5. Definitions
- PSHE education: Personal, Social, Health and Economic education—our whole-school curriculum strand developing knowledge, skills and attributes to keep pupils healthy, safe and prepared for life and work.
- RSHE: The statutory elements—Relationships Education (primary) and Health Education (primary & secondary).
- Sex education (primary): Any content beyond the National Curriculum science relating to human conception and birth. This is non-statutory at primary; see §12 for withdrawal rights.

6. Roles and Responsibilities
- Governing Board: Approves the PSHE/RSHE policy; ensures compliance with statutory duties (RSHE, KCSIE, Equality, Prevent); monitors impact, including for pupils with SEND.
- Head of School: Ensures implementation; provides resources, training and time; oversees parental consultation and publication requirements.
- PSHE/RSHE Lead: Designs a sequenced curriculum; oversees assessment; quality assures teaching; ensures safe learning environments and up-to-date resources; leads staff CPD; publishes curriculum information on the website. Aligns provision with PSHE Association frameworks.

- Teachers and Support Staff: Deliver high-quality, age-appropriate lessons; model respectful relationships; follow safeguarding procedures and KCSIE Part 1.
- External contributors: Used to enhance (not replace) teacher-led provision and must follow our safeguarding, visitor, impartiality and quality standards; sessions are pre-approved and supervised by school staff.

7. Curriculum Intent

Our curriculum builds knowledge and skills over time across three core themes (PSHE Association): Health & Wellbeing, Relationships, and Living in the Wider World (including economic wellbeing/citizenship). It promotes British values, character, resilience and safe, responsible engagement online and offline. We teach about difference and diversity in line with the Equality Act and our Christian ethos.

8. Curriculum Implementation

8.1 Planning

- Weekly timetabled PSHE/RSHE lessons (minimum 1 hour), supplemented by cross-curricular links (RE, Science, Computing), assemblies, themed days/weeks and enrichment.
- Long-term maps and medium-term plans follow the PSHE Association Programme of Study and signpost where statutory RSHE content is met.
- Curriculum is responsive to local safeguarding risks (including Prevent) and pupil need.

8.2 Safe and Effective Pedagogy

- We establish and revisit class agreements; use distancing techniques; provide opportunities for reflection; handle questions sensitively and age-appropriately; and signpost support.
- Teaching about political issues or contested topics follows DfE impartiality guidance—presenting balanced views and avoiding promotion of partisan views; we challenge prejudice, misinformation and extreme ideologies.

8.3 Online Safety and Media Literacy

Teaching addresses online safety (privacy, cyberbullying, screen time, critical evaluation of content, misinformation/disinformation, AI deepfakes, influencers) in line with updated RSHE and KCSIE online risks.

8.4 Prevent and Radicalisation

We integrate Prevent awareness—critical thinking, respectful debate, and understanding risk factors—within PSHE/RSHE and safeguarding, proportionate to our local context.

8.5 Inclusivity and SEND

Content, delivery and resources are adapted to meet diverse needs (SEND/EAL/PP) and reflect a variety of family structures. We ensure accessibility and make reasonable adjustments as required.

9. Curriculum Content (Primary)

9.1 Relationships Education (statutory)

Includes: families and people who care for me; caring friendships; respectful relationships; online relationships; being safe (including permission-seeking/giving and privacy). Emphasis on kindness, empathy, boundaries, reporting concerns, and tackling sexist/misogynistic attitudes from an early age.

9.2 Health Education (statutory)

Includes: mental wellbeing; internet safety and harms; physical health and fitness; healthy eating; drugs, alcohol and tobacco (age-appropriate); health and prevention; basic first aid; changing adolescent body (puberty). We also include age-appropriate personal safety (roads/rail/water) as highlighted in the 2025 update.

9.3 Living in the Wider World (non-statutory PSHE)

Includes: belonging to communities; media literacy and digital resilience; money and economic wellbeing; careers/aspiration; respecting the environment and responsible citizenship.

9.4 Sex Education (non-statutory at primary)

Beyond science, we may provide additional learning to prepare pupils for the transition to secondary (e.g., how babies are conceived and born), ensuring it is age-appropriate and reflects our ethos. Parents will be consulted beforehand and retain the right to request withdrawal from sex education (not Relationships or Health Education). See §12.

10. Assessment, Recording and Reporting

We use baseline and end-point activities, pupil self/peer assessment and teacher judgement to assess learning against clear outcomes. Evidence may include class 'big books', pupil voice, and observation notes. Outcomes inform planning and are reported through curriculum summaries and parent meetings. The PSHE Lead monitors attainment and progress, including of vulnerable groups.

11. Safeguarding, Disclosures and Sensitive Issues

Staff follow KCSIE and school safeguarding procedures when concerns arise, including regarding online harms, sexual harassment/violence (child-on-child), mental health, and radicalisation risks. Immediate risks are escalated to the DSL. External visitors do not handle disclosures; staff remain present and retain responsibility for teaching and safeguarding.

12. Working with Parents/Carers and the Right to Withdraw

- Publish our RSHE policy and curriculum overview on the website and share resources on request.
- Consult parents on policy updates in line with the 2025 guidance and before introducing significant changes.
- Respect the right of parents to request withdrawal of their child from sex education in primary (any content beyond National Curriculum science). Headteacher meets parents to discuss the request; pupils will receive appropriate, alternative learning. There is no right to withdraw from Relationships Education or Health Education.

13. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

We actively promote equality, challenge discrimination and harassment, and foster good relations in line with the Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED). Teaching is sensitive to pupils' backgrounds and protected characteristics. We publish our equality information and objectives and consider equality impacts when reviewing RSHE content.

14. Use of External Agencies and Resources

All materials and visitors are quality-assured against statutory guidance, safeguarding, impartiality and age-appropriateness. External contributors enhance but do not replace teacher-led provision; school staff remain present and lead follow-up. We are transparent with parents about materials used.

15. Managing Controversial or Sensitive Content
Where topics could be political or controversial, staff follow DfE impartiality guidance: present balanced viewpoints, avoid endorsing partisan positions, and ensure content is factual and age-appropriate. We explicitly teach critical thinking, respectful dialogue and how to recognise and report harmful content (including misinformation/disinformation).

16. Staff Training and Support
We provide regular CPD on RSHE pedagogy, safeguarding (KCSIE Part 1 annually), Prevent, equality and inclusion, and handling sensitive questions. Training will be updated to reflect the 2025 RSHE changes in preparation for September 2026 implementation.

17. Monitoring, Review and Evaluation
The PSHE/RSHE Lead and SLT conduct termly monitoring (planning scrutiny, lesson visits, pupil voice, work sampling). Governors receive an annual impact report. We review this policy annually, or sooner if statutory guidance changes. We will audit our curriculum against the PSHE Association Programme of Study and the 2025 RSHE guidance to ensure readiness for September 2026.

18. Linked Policies and Documents
- Safeguarding & Child Protection (KCSIE 2025)
- Behaviour and Anti-bullying
- Online Safety
- Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (Equality Act 2010/PSED)
- SEND Information Report (Children & Families Act 2014)
- Science Curriculum (National Curriculum)
- Prevent Duty
- Visitor/External Speakers Code of Conduct
- Complaints Procedure

19. Appendix A – Summary of Key Legal/Statutory Duties
- RSHE: Relationships Education (primary) & Health Education—statutory; schools must have regard to DfE guidance (2019; updated July 2025 for introduction Sept 2026).
- KCSIE: Statutory safeguarding guidance for schools/colleges (2025).
- Prevent Duty: Statutory guidance for specified authorities (2023; in force 31 Dec 2023).
- Equality Act 2010 & PSED: Duties to eliminate discrimination, advance equality and foster good relations.
- Political impartiality: Guidance on teaching political issues and using external agencies.

20. Appendix B – Curriculum Map (outline)
A high-level overview indicating where statutory RSHE requirements are met across Years R–6, including puberty, online safety, friendships, respectful relationships, being safe, first aid, drugs/tobacco education (age-appropriate), economic wellbeing, media literacy and personal safety (roads/rail/water). Detailed medium-term plans are held by the PSHE Lead and published on the website.

21. Appendix C – Parental Consultation and Withdrawal Process (Primary)

1. Publish policy and annual curriculum overview on website; notify parents.
2. Offer information sessions and access to resources on request.
3. For any non-statutory sex education content, notify parents at least one half-term in advance.
4. Parents may request withdrawal in writing; Head meets parents to discuss aims, content and alternative provision; decision recorded and confirmed in writing; review points scheduled.

22. Appendix D – External Visitors Protocol

- Due diligence (safeguarding, content quality, impartiality, alignment with RSHE guidance).
- Agreed lesson plan and resources shared in advance; teacher present and leads safeguarding.
- No collection of pupil data by visitors; no promotion of services/organisations; adherence to school Visitor Code of Conduct.