



The 1996 Education Act places responsibility for the school's policy on RSE in the hands of governors. Governors therefore must be aware of their responsibilities for the policy and provision of RSE in their schools and comply with statutory requirements. (*See section on 'Statutory requirements'*). Whilst recognising their responsibility for determining general policy, it is important that the governors acknowledge the responsibility of the headteacher and staff to use their professional expertise in delivering the curriculum in accordance with that policy. It is the responsibility of the governing body to check that the content and organisation of RSE complies with the policy set by them. It is also essential that governors involve parents and carers in developing and reviewing their policy, as outlined above.

Governors will:

- draw up an up-to-date and fit-for-purpose RSE policy, in consultation with parents, carers and teachers;
- ensure that the policy is available to parents and carers;
- ensure that parents and carers know of their right to withdraw their children and young people;
- ensure that the policy is in accordance with other whole school policies, e.g., SEND, the ethos of the school as well as Catholic teaching;
- ensure that the policy provides proper and adequate coverage of relevant National Curriculum Science topics and the setting of RSE within Personal Social Health Education (PSHE);
- ensure that RSE provision is included in the school's annual self-evaluation and that necessary improvements to it are included in the school development plan.

The headteacher takes overall delegated responsibility for the implementation of the RSE policy and its integration into the school's curriculum and Catholic life. The headteacher will also liaise with the governing body, parents and carers, the diocese, the Local Education Authority where appropriate, those responsible for academies and academy chains and any other appropriate agencies.

Headteachers have a particular duty to respect and support the primary role of parents in this field. They should make alternative arrangements if parents express the right to withdraw children and young people from RSE (Section 405 of the Education Act 1996) and provide material for parents to help the children and young people with their learning. The head teacher should ensure that there is a statement in the school prospectus on RSE and that the details of the RSE curriculum are included on the school website. The duty to publish details of the RSE programme on the school website is mandatory.