

# ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL



ACHIEVEMENT RESPECT COMMUNITY VALOUR

Sex and Relationships Education Policy

Approval date: June 2017

Review date: June 2019

## Definition

Sex and Relationship education is lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of respectful, stable, loving and caring relationships for family life and the promotion of marriage as a part of this.

Appropriate and responsible Sex and Relationship Education is an important element in the work of schools in preparing children for adult life.

Sex & Relationship Education must be provided in such a manner as to encourage pupils to have due regard to moral considerations and the value of family life. It is the responsibility of the Governing Body to ensure this.

## Legal framework for Sex and Relationship Education

The Education Act 1996 consolidated all previous legislation, and key points related to SRE are:

- The sex education elements of the National Curriculum Science Order are mandatory for all pupils of primary and secondary school age. These cover anatomy, puberty, biological aspects of sexual reproduction and use of hormones to control and promote fertility.
- All schools must provide, and make available for inspection, an up-to-date policy describing the content and organisation of SRE outside of national curriculum science. This is the school governors' responsibility.

The Learning and Skills Act 2000 requires that:

- Young people learn about the nature of marriage and its importance for family life and bringing up children.
- Young people are protected from teaching and materials which are inappropriate, having regard to the age and the religious and cultural background of the pupils concerned.
- School governing bodies have regard for the guidance.
- Parents have the right to withdraw their child from all or part of SRE provided outside national curriculum science.

## Rationale

Our Sex and Relationships Education is taught within the clear moral framework of the Christian Faith. SRE is a shared responsibility between home and school and forms part of our PSHE curriculum and Science curriculum. Pupils' personal, social, health and emotional development are all promoted through our supportive Christian ethos, where all are respected and valued. Forming healthy and positive relationships underpins our school value of 'Community'.

At primary level, particular care and sensitivity is needed in matching teaching to the maturity of the pupils involved, which may not always be indicated by chronological age. It is the responsibility of the Class Teacher to ensure that Sex and Relationship Education is taught at a level that is appropriate to their particular class.

## Objectives

- To complement and support the work of parents and carers
- To prepare pupils to cope with the physical and emotional challenges of growing up

- To give pupils an elementary understanding of human reproduction
- To support the personal and social development of all pupils
- To offer balanced and factual information appropriate to the age and maturity of the pupils acknowledging the moral and ethical issues involved
- To enable pupils to accept variation in rates of growth and development (physical, emotional, social)
- To provide constant reassurance that change is part of the life cycle and to give help in adjusting to these changes
- To recognise the value of loving and caring relationships
- To be able to form and maintain appropriate relationships
- To ensure that pupils are prepared for puberty
- To develop confidence in talking, listening and thinking about feelings and relationships, and respect the differences between people
- For pupils to be able to name parts of the body and understand how their bodies work
- To consider the importance of family life
- To counteract misunderstanding of how the body functions.

### Management

The teaching of SRE will be monitored by the PSHE leader, monitoring SRE curriculum coverage, appropriate resources and delivery. This in turn is monitored by the Senior Leadership and Safeguarding team.

### Working with parents

We appreciate the sensitivity and concerns which some parents may feel towards SRE and therefore, parents may meet with the class teacher(s) to view and discuss the materials we use for the curriculum.

We believe that, in order for the children to achieve the desired objectives, a positive and united relationship must continue to exist between home and school and we would encourage discussion about this area of the curriculum at home.

We give our assurances that we will:

- Inform parents/carers about the school's SRE policy and practice
- Inform parents/carers before key topics are delivered
- Answer any questions that parents/carers may have about SRE of their child
- Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their children from that part of the SRE programme that is delivered through PSHE (though not from those elements taught through Science). Parents / carers who wish to withdraw their children from this aspect of SRE should discuss this with the Headteacher.

### Delivery

SRE is based on a spiral curriculum from Reception to Year 6. Lessons about puberty and conception are delivered to the children in Year 4, 5 and 6, although other SRE and PSHE issues are covered in the previous years (appropriate to children's age and stage of development) to fully equip the children with the skills and attitudes necessary for them to benefit effectively from sex education.

Most of the teaching of SRE will be done by the class teacher, as s/he will have established a working relationship with the class. A set of ground rules will be established to help teachers create a safe environment in which they do not feel embarrassed or anxious about unintended or unexpected questions

or comments from pupils: no one (teacher or pupil) will have to answer a personal question; no one will be forced to take part in a discussion; only the correct names for body parts will be used; and meanings of words will be explained in a sensible and factual way.

### Curriculum content

SRE will be based on inclusive Christian principles and values, emphasising respect, compassion, loving care and forgiveness. SRE will be sensitive to the circumstances of all children and be mindful of the variety of expressions of family life in our culture, yet it will also uphold the Christian values regarding relationships and marriage. Issues regarding human sexuality will be addressed sensitively.

Sex and Relationships education up until Year 3 will be taught through other subjects (e.g. Science, PSHE, PE, RE) where we feel that the curriculum contributes significantly to a pupil's knowledge and understanding of their own body and how it is changing and developing.

The objectives covered are:

#### Foundation Stage:

- To understand why hygiene is important.
- To consider the routines and patterns of a typical day.
- To recognise that all families are different.

#### Years 1, 2 and 3:

- To understand that the differences between boys and girls.
- To understand the importance of personal hygiene.
- To respect personal space.
- To further develop an understanding of different types of family.

As children begin to approach puberty, stand alone Sex and Relationship education sessions are introduced. The lessons will broadly have these learning objectives although consideration of the classes' needs and maturity levels mean that these may be slightly modified by the class teacher.

#### Year 4 – Growing Up

Lesson 1 – Growing and Changing. Learning objective: To explore the human lifecycle. The children will be able to describe the main stages of the human lifecycle and describe the body changes that happen when a child grows up.

Lesson 2 – Body Changes and Reproduction. Learning objective: To identify some basic facts about puberty, reproduction and pregnancy. They will know that during puberty the body changes from a child into a young adult; understand why the body changes during puberty and identify some basic facts about pregnancy.

Lesson 3 – What is Puberty? Learning objective: To learn about the physical changes associated with puberty. They will learn about the physical and emotional changes that happen in puberty and know that each person experiences puberty differently.

#### Year 5 – Puberty

Lesson 1 – Talking About Puberty. Learning objective: To explore the emotional and physical changes occurring in puberty. The children will be able to explain the main physical and emotional changes that happen during puberty and ask questions about puberty with confidence.

Lesson 2 – Male and Female Changes. Learning objective: To understand that male and female puberty changes in more detail. They will understand how puberty affects the body and emotions. The children will be able to describe how to manage physical and emotional changes. This may be taught in separate gender lessons.

Lesson 3 –Puberty and Hygiene. Learning objective: To explore the impact of puberty on the body and the importance of physical hygiene; to explore ways to get support during puberty.

#### Year 6 – Puberty and Reproduction

Lesson 1 – Puberty and Reproduction. Learning objective: To consider puberty and reproduction. The children will be able to describe how and why the body changes during puberty in preparation for reproduction; talk about puberty and reproduction with confidence.

Lesson 2 –Understanding Relationships. Learning objective: To consider physical & emotional behaviour in relationships. The children will discuss different types of adult relationships with confidence and become more aware of what form of touching is appropriate.

Lesson 3 – Conception and Pregnancy. Learning objective: To explore the process of conception and pregnancy. They children will know basic facts about pregnancy and conception and realise decisions that have to be made before having a baby.

Lesson 4 – Communication in Relationships. Learning objective: To explore positive and negative ways of communicating in a relationship. The children will consider when it is appropriate to share personal/private information in a relationship and know how and where to get support if an online relationship goes wrong.

Resources:

The school uses The Christopher Winter Project resources from ‘Teaching SRE with Confidence in Primary Schools’. This is a PSHE Association Quality Assured Resource.

These resources are supplemented by the Channel 4 – Living and Growing DVD.

#### Confidentiality

Teachers will conduct SRE lessons in a sensitive manner and with consideration for the need for confidentiality. However, should issues of disclosure regarding inappropriate sexual behaviour/ activity arise, the teacher will take the matter seriously and deal with it as a matter of child protection. In such cases, procedures as laid down in the school’s safeguarding and Child Protection policy will be followed.

#### Sensitive Issues

No teacher delivering the school’s sex and relationships education programme will be expected to deal with sensitive issues beyond those outlined in the curriculum content. If any teacher feels unable to deliver all or part of the sex and relationship education programme, another appropriate member of staff will teach it. If pupils ask questions or seek information about sensitive matters, teachers should use their professional judgement over the response in these matters, possibly after consultation with colleagues.

Adults should be especially aware of issues regarding safeguarding and confidentiality, including the relevant policies.

#### Monitoring and Review

The Governing body reviews the SRE policy every two years and, where necessary, updates the policy statement. Through curriculum monitoring visits, the content and delivery of the SRE programme is monitored and reported to the Full Governing Body.