



SEX & RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION POLICY

Reviewed: March 2023

Next reviewed: March 2024

Our Vision as a Church of England school is to deliver a caring, stimulating and enjoyable experience for all our pupils, during which pupils are expected to do their best at all times and to live out our Christian values by treating others as they would like to be treated. John 10:10 states (Good News Bible) "I have come in order that you might have life--life in all its fullness" and our vision aligns with this in that through our broad and balanced curriculum offer pupils should leave our school with: strong basic skills of communication, self-management and team-working skills, be able to access the next stage of learning, be useful and caring citizens of our country with pride and awareness of our collective values and with special memories of their time at our school.

Our Mission Statement is "to learn with care, fun, faith and respect".

Ethos Statement

Recognising its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church at parish and diocesan level.

The school 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 meaning and significance of faith and promotes Christian values through the experiences it offers to all its pupils.

The children will gain skills, knowledge, and understanding enabling them to experience success and to realise their potential in a safe and caring environment. The children will be taught those values and attitudes which will strengthen their respect for themselves and others, enabling them to take their place in society with confidence. The way people behave towards one another plays a vital role in achieving this aim.

With reference to:

- The Church of England Christian Vision – “Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good”
- Valuing All God’s Children
- Relationships, Sex and Health Education | The Church of England
- Relationships and Sex Education (RSE Feb 2020)

Introduction

This policy is written in line with the UPDATED 2022 DfE guidance **Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education Document Sex and Relationships Education Guidance February 2020**. The Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education, and Health Education (England) Regulations 2020 are made under sections 34 and 35 of the **Children and Social Work Act 2017**, provide that pupils receiving primary education must be taught Relationships Education, pupils receiving secondary education must be taught RSE and that all primary and secondary pupils must be taught Health Education.

Our policy also reflects our Christian values and ethos and has been written with reference to the Church of England document “Valuing All God’s Children”.

In our school, sex and relationships education has “the key building blocks of healthy, respectful relationships, focusing on family and friendships, in all contexts, including online” DfE 2020. We agree that “teaching about mental wellbeing is central to these subjects, in particular, helping to foster pupil wellbeing and develop resilience and character that we know are fundamental to pupils being happy, successful and productive members of society” DfE 2020. Our teaching and the children’s learning also build on our vision of “life in all its’ fullness” – children will live a full life if they are able to build and maintain successful relationships. This education will sit alongside the essential understanding of how to be and remain healthy. Sex and relationships education is part of the wider personal, social and health education curriculum in our school. In line with “Valuing All God’s Children” we do not use sex and relationships education as a means of promoting any form of sexual orientation and we do not tolerate any homophobic language nor any stereotyping. We are aware under the Equality Act (2010) that all family structures and all lifestyles including LGBTQ are protected and we ensure that our teaching does not discriminate. For example, when talking about families we will ensure that children know that all families have different compositions.

The “Sex Education” Curriculum

In our school what we define as “Sex Education” is the Year 5 National Curriculum Science content. Whilst we do not have to have a separate policy for this topic, as we do not go beyond the Science Curriculum, we appreciate that families do understand this content as “sex education” and so we inform them of our curriculum in this way.

We consulted widely with all parents about content in 2019 and the majority view was that they are happy that this content is appropriate information for this age group. This content will be taught in the summer term of Year 5 and Year 6 as we have mixed age classes, wherever possible. Parents will be informed if this has to be changed. Children will learn about:

- the physical development of their bodies as they grow into adults (puberty);
- the way humans reproduce
- sexual intercourse and conception

Following the Jigsaw PHSE scheme children will learn about other aspects of relationships e.g. different types of family, parts of their body, including the correct biological words for their private parts and the growth of

babies in the womb in earlier year groups. Parents will have the overview for each term as part of our curriculum newsletter.

In combination with our PSHE health education, the children will also learn to have respect for their own bodies and develop high self-esteem with a positive body image, understand the importance of sexual reproduction as part of a committed, long-term, and loving relationship; the importance of family life, including different family structures; respect for the views of other people; sexual abuse and what they should do if they are worried about any sexual matters.

Context

We teach sex education i.e. human reproduction and puberty through specific Science teaching in Year 5 and Year 6 . While sex and relationship education in Year 5/6 means that we give children information about sexual behaviour, we do this with an awareness of the Christian values which underpin all our work in school. The relationships aspect of SRE taught in Year 5/6 will be a continuance of the general learning about self, character, friendships, families and develop further into relationships with others, in particular loving and committed relationships in line with our Christian foundation.

Organisation

We teach sex and relationships education through different aspects of the curriculum. While we carry out the main sex and relationships education teaching in our Science, personal, social and health education (PSHE) curriculum, we also teach some sex and relationships education through other subject areas (for example PE), where we feel that they contribute significantly to a child's knowledge and understanding of his or her own body, and how it is changing and developing. We use specialist teachers and medical personnel to support our teaching.

Throughout our school in PSHE we teach children about relationships, and we encourage children to discuss issues. In earlier Science teaching we teach about the parts of the body and how these work. In Year 5/6 we explain to them what will happen to their bodies during puberty. For example, the school nurse will tell the boys that their voices will change during puberty and explain to the girls about menstruation. We encourage the children to ask for help if they need it. Boys and girls learn about what happens to each other in puberty and the implications of these changes. Children are given additional time with the school nurse to discuss more personal issues in smaller groups.

When discussing the sexual reproduction of humans, a specialist consultant works alongside the class teacher. She will bring useful biological models and enable boys and girls to ask pertinent questions in smaller groups. The children will complete a booklet to take home and share with parents – this booklet is emailed out in advance to parents so they are aware of what will be discussed. This underlines our desire for family involvement in these matters and for families to have full knowledge of what their child is learning.

In science lessons in both key stages, we teach children to understand how their bodies function.

In Key Stage 1 we teach children about how animals, including humans, move, feed, grow and use their senses. We also teach them about the main parts of the body. We teach the children how animals can produce offspring and these grow into adults. Children learn to appreciate the differences between people and how to show respect for each other.

In Key Stage 2, following the Jigsaw Scheme, we teach about life processes and the main stages of the human life cycle in greater depth.

We always teach this with due regard for the emotional development and any additional needs or circumstances of the children.

We inform all parents and carers of children in Year 5/6 specifically about this particular programme of lessons, to explain what the issues are and how they are taught, and to see the materials the school uses in its teaching.

The role of parents

The school is well aware that the primary role in children's sex and relationships education lies with parents and carers. We wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents of children at our school through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation. In promoting this objective, we:

- Consult with parents about content and policy,
- inform parents about the school's sex and relationships education policy and practice;
- answer any questions that parents may have about the sex and relationships education of their child;
- take seriously any issue that parents may raise with teachers or governors about this policy or the arrangements for sex and relationships education in the school;
- inform parents about the best practice known with regard to sex and relationships education, so that the teaching in school supports the key messages that parents and carers give to children at home. We believe that, through this mutual exchange of knowledge and information, children will benefit from being given consistent messages about their changing body and their increasing responsibilities.

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from the sex education programme that we teach in our school, but not the Year 5 statutory Science teaching on puberty and human reproduction. If a parent wishes their child to be withdrawn, they should discuss this with the head teacher, and make it clear which aspects of the programme they do not wish their child to participate in.

The role of other members of the community

We encourage other valued members of the community to work with us to provide advice and support to the children with regard to health education. In particular, a local secondary school Science department and the school nurse gives us valuable support with our sex and relationships education programme.

Confidentiality

Teachers conduct sex and relationships education lessons in a sensitive manner and in confidence. However, if a child makes a reference to being involved, or likely to be involved in sexual activity, then the teacher will take the matter seriously and deal with it as a matter of safeguarding and child protection. Teachers will respond in a similar way if a child indicates that they may have been a victim of abuse. If the teacher has concerns, they will draw their concerns to the attention of the DSL. The DSL will then deal with the matter as laid out in the child protection and safeguarding policy, following Agency Procedures. (See also Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.)

The role of the head teacher

It is the responsibility of the head teacher to ensure that both staff and parents are informed about our sex and relationships education policy and that the policy is implemented effectively. It is also the head teacher's responsibility to ensure that members of staff are given sufficient support, so that they can teach effectively and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity.

Monitoring and review

The Curriculum Committee of the governing body reviews our sex and relationships education policy on an annual basis. This committee reports its findings and recommendations to the full governing body, as necessary, if the policy needs modification. The Curriculum Committee gives serious consideration to any comments from parents about the sex and relationships education programme, and makes a record of all such comments.

Related policies

It may be useful to read these policies in conjunction with the Y5/6 Sex and Relationships Education Policy.

Safeguarding and Child Protection

Anti-bullying Policy

Curriculum Policy

Equal Opportunities Policy