



St Mary's C of E (VA) Primary School

To be a caring, inclusive, Christian environment, nurturing a life-long love of learning where we can work together to learn, to grow, to serve. We are proud to support the whole community and by collaborating will enable all children and adults within it to live fully whilst 'shining brighter and brighter' Proverbs 4:18.

St Mary's is an inclusive school where we believe that all people are of equal value, irrespective of their ethnicity, culture, religion, gender, ability or sexual identity. We recognise and respect their differences.

Relationships and Sex Education Policy

This policy is GDPR compliant.

Date of issue: June 2015

Last reviewed/adopted: March 2019 (Ethos Committee)

Next review date: Summer 2020

Signed: _____

Date: _____

INTRODUCTION

This policy is written following guidance published by SIAS (Herts) March 2002, and replaces our Sex Education Policy 2012. It was produced as a result of consultation with staff, governors, parents and the Diocese.

RELATIONSHIPS TO OTHER POLICIES

Sex education forms an integral part of the curriculum policy and relates to child protection. This policy should be read in conjunction with other safeguarding policies: Anti-Bullying, Child Protection, Drug. It should also be read in conjunction with the Religious Education Policy. This policy was written using information in the SIAS (Herts) March 2002 Guidance and RSE Guidance (DfES 2002), which recommends that SRE is supported by the school's broad PSHE and Citizenship curriculum and is inclusive of all pupils. It also forms part of our Healthy Schools Provision.

DEFINITION OF RELATIONSHIP AND SEX EDUCATION

Relationships and sex education ("RSE") is life-long learning about physical, moral and emotional development, embedded in a context that enhances the self-worth and confidence of each individual and encourages mutually respectful relationships and empathy for others.

AIMS OF OUR RSE POLICY

Our whole school aim is to provide a safe and stimulating environment for learning in which all members of our school community are able to develop a sense of self-worth and responsibility, fulfilling their potential within a caring Christian community.

In our Relationships and Sex Education we aim to work in partnership with parents/carers to:

- Enable pupils to gain appropriate knowledge and understanding about relationships, emotions, sex, sexuality and sexual health;
- Promote the development of positive attitudes to sexual health and well-being;
- Extend pupil's personal and social skills;
- Teach RSE within a moral framework which reflects the school ethos;
- Follow school guidelines regarding confidentiality and child protection;
- Ensure that teachers and other staff members have relevant training and resources;
- Meet the National Healthy Schools Standard criteria for RSE.

ORGANISATION OF RSE

Most of a pupil's informal relationships and sex education should occur within the family and the school's programme will complement and build on this. Teachers have the main responsibility for teaching RSE in the classroom and they liaise with other specialists, particularly the school nurse, to ensure our pupils receive an up to date and balanced programme. We have a commitment to ensure that our programme is relevant to all pupils and is taught in a way that is age and stage appropriate.

Aspects of RSE are included in our:

- Personal, Social and Health Education and Citizenship curriculum;

- Science curriculum;
- Religious Education curriculum.

RSE PROGRAMME

We have a programme for the teaching of RSE, which outlines the:

- knowledge and understanding;
- attitudes and values;
- personal and social skills;

which are taught at each Key Stage and how these are included in Science, PSHE and RE.

As much as possible, we provide an interactive learning environment that is motivating and allows pupils to practise social skills as well as gain information and knowledge.

Lessons specific to puberty, menstruation and sex education are included in the Key Stage 2 programme for RSE as follows:-

Puberty and Menstruation

In the Summer term, lessons concerning puberty and menstruation are made available to the girls in Years 4, 5 and 6 and the boys in Year 6. These lessons are aimed specifically at children who are about to go through changes associated with puberty. We provide facilities, including spare sanitary towels, for girls who begin menstruating while at school.

Sex Education

In the Summer term we provide a planned programme of sex education for Year 6 pupils. Parents/carers are invited to the school to discuss this programme before it is taught. They are also able to view the materials that will be used in these lessons. Teachers have the main responsibility for teaching about RSE in the classroom and they plan and liaise with other specialists, such as our school nurse, to ensure pupils receive an up to date and balanced programme.

The class teacher ensures that pupils are able to ask questions in a relaxed and informal setting and that these questions are answered sensitively. This may involve single-sex groupings.

In line with our Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy, reasonable adjustments will be made for children with special educational needs or disabilities and due regard will be given to religious and cultural requirements.

Teachers' Personal Beliefs

Teachers' personal beliefs and attitudes will not influence the teaching of RSE within the PSHE framework.

Confidentiality and Child Protection

All staff members and external visitors who work with our pupils will be given a copy of this policy and our School's Child Protection Policy. This is to ensure that they are aware of correct practice and how to respond to issues. We make clear to pupils what our procedures are with regard to confidentiality.

PARENTS RIGHTS TO WITHDRAWAL

Under the Education Reform Act 1988 parent/carers have the right to withdraw their child from some, or all, RSE lessons but not from statutory science lessons. Parents are requested to notify the Headteacher in writing so that alternative arrangements can be made for their child. The DfES has published information for parents who withdraw their children from RSE (October 2001).

EVALUATION ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING TO PARENTS

Evaluation and assessment, including self-assessment, is an integral part of RSE. A comment on pupils' PSHE progress will be included in our annual reporting on PSHE to parents/carers.

MONITORING

Our scientific and understanding physical health and wellbeing team will monitor teaching and learning according to our school's policy. Implementation will be monitored by the Headteacher and the above team and reported on to the Curriculum, Standards and Community Links Committee of the Governing Body.

This policy was drafted in the Spring Term 2015. It was approved on 2nd July 2015. This Policy will be reviewed every two years, in line with the Governors' monitoring and review cycle.