

St Andrew's Church of England Primary School



With Faith, Hope and Love we can achieve greater things.

***Sex & Relationships Policy
September 2015 - September 2016***

What is sex and relationship education?

It is lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of marriage for family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality, and sexual health. It is not about the promotion of sexual orientation or sexual activity - this would be inappropriate teaching.

Effective Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) helps young people to make healthy, informed and responsible decisions about themselves by respecting themselves and others, so that they can develop from childhood through adolescence into mature adults. Of SRE, the DCSF guidance states that:

'Effective sex and relationship education is essential if young people are to make responsible and well informed decisions about their lives.

The objective of sex and relationship education is to help and support young people through their physical, emotional and moral development. A successful programme, firmly embedded in PSHE, will help young people learn to respect themselves and others and move with confidence from childhood through adolescence into adulthood.'

It has three main elements:

Attitudes and Values

- learning the importance of values and individual conscience and moral considerations; learning the value of family life, marriage, and stable and loving relationships for the nurture of children;
- learning the value of respect, love and care;
- exploring, considering and understanding moral dilemmas; and
- developing critical thinking as part of decision-making.

Personal and Social Skills

- learning to manage emotions and relationships confidently and sensitively;
- developing self-respect and empathy for others;
- learning to make choices based on an understanding of difference and with an absence of prejudice;
- developing an appreciation of the consequences of choices made;
- managing conflict; and
- ❖ learning how to recognise and avoid exploitation and abuse: ensure that children are equipped with knowledge and a range of strategies to help them deal with circumstances that could arise, e.g. stranger danger, chat rooms, peer pressure, social pressure

Knowledge and Understanding

- learning and understanding physical development at appropriate stages;

- understanding human sexuality, reproduction, sexual health, emotions and relationships;

Context

St Andrew's C of E Primary School's Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) Policy reflects the requirements of the National Curriculum and the school ethos. It provides opportunities for children to make decisions and develop their communication skills; promoting self esteem, self awareness and respect for themselves and others.

We acknowledge that children come into school with a variety of home experiences and situations and we recognise that all children and their families have a right to privacy, respect and acceptance. Whilst recognising the diversity of family backgrounds, we aim to promote the traditional view in which a sexual relationship constitutes an integral part of the life of a stable, loving couple. As a Church of England school, marriage will be advocated as a good example of a stable, loving relationship.

Co-ordination

SRE will be co-ordinated by the Headteacher in close co-operation with the co-ordinator for PSHE and all class teachers. Accountability for the SRE provision within the school lies with the Governing Body.

Curriculum

The teaching of all relationship and sex education is set within a clear, balanced sensitive and moral framework in which pupils are encouraged to consider the importance of respect, acceptance of responsibility, sensitivity, self-esteem and self-restraint. Work is matched to age and maturity of the children and a climate is created within classes that enable children to express their views and feelings, having respect for others, with clearly defined boundaries established for courtesy and confidentiality.

Strategies

Relationship education is taught from Year 1 as part of the PSHE curriculum through SEAL. Assembly themes frequently offer time to reflect on the children's own relationships.

There is no specific teaching of sex education prior to Year 5. However, it is expected that events in the children's own lives, such as a new baby, will provide opportunity for informal discussions. Whilst taking part in the Science National Curriculum children will refer to some aspects of human growth and reproduction, this is mandatory for all children.

In Year 5 and 6 sex education will be taught through a specific planned education programme, this will include whole class and group work because children need to acquire knowledge but also need opportunities to discuss issues openly. Group work is important as it enables children to develop personal and social skills, exchange ideas and express attitudes. In Year 5 part of SRE will be taught in single-sex groups. The school nurse visits school to work with Year 5 and 6 children annually.

Parents

Although the education of children on relationship and sexual matters is primarily the right and duty of the parents, the school accepts its responsibility to provide SRE for all children. SRE teaching is therefore, complementary to and supportive of the parents' role. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from sex education lessons but not from those elements that form part of the Science curriculum.

Parents will be notified in writing of our intentions to teach sex education and invited to attend a meeting in school to review all relevant materials prior to the sessions taking place.

Children will be encouraged to discuss what they have learned in school with their parents. In the event that children are withdrawn from aspects of SRE by parents, the responsibility for delivering that aspect of the programme will be the responsibility of the parent. Help and support for parents in talking to their children about relationships and sex can be found at www.parentlineplus.org.uk.

Pastoral Support

The school takes its role in the promotion of pupil wellbeing seriously. Staff endeavour to make themselves approachable and aim to provide caring and sensitive support for children in a number of ways. Staff may be approached for help on an individual basis. They offer a listening ear and where appropriate, information and advice. Families may be provided with information about outside agencies able to offer further support in specific areas where appropriate.

Resources

A DVD and related materials, recommended for use by the school nurse, entitled 'All about us Living and Growing' by Channel 4 Learning (www.channel4.com/learning) are used to support SRE.

Living and Growing Unit 1: Programmes: Growing Up, Differences, How Did I Get Here?

Living and Growing Unit 2: Programmes: Changes, How Babies Are Made, How Babies Are Born

Living and Growing Unit 3: Programmes: Girl Talk, Boy Talk

Equal Opportunities

Children will have equal access to SRE unless specifically withdrawn from this provision by their parents. Extra care will be taken to ensure sensitivity is shown towards children whose maturity, experience of family life, sexual knowledge and moral framework creates special circumstances. Resources are constantly reviewed so that they contain positive images of a range of cultures, ethnic groups and the roles of men and women.

Policy Links

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies:

- Safeguarding and Child Protection
- Anti-bullying Policy
- Equal opportunities
- Diversity Policy
- Inclusion Policy