

St John the Baptist C.E. (Aided) Primary School

Sex and Relationships Policy

“Sex and Relationships Education is lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about understanding 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.” (DFE July 2000)

Our children learn about sex and relationships from the very youngest age, even if we don't talk with them. Some of the things they learn are incorrect, confusing and frightening. In a world where sex is used to sell things from food to fast cars, and celebrities' lives become everyone's business, we should talk to our children to help them make sense of it all.

As well as this, in the UK we have the highest rates of teenage pregnancy in Western Europe. We also have high rates of sexually transmitted infections (STIs). Effective SRE does not encourage early sexual experimentation - but it does enable young people to mature, to build up their confidence and self-esteem and to understand the reasons for delaying sexual activity until they are ready.

Parents and carers are the key people for their child's learning about sex and relationships and schools should always work in partnership with home. Parents and carers need to know that the school's SRE programme will complement their role and support them in the education of their child regarding sex and relationships. St John the Baptist Primary School will ensure that parents' and carers' views are heard and that taught SRE is culturally appropriate and inclusive of all of our children.

1. Aims and Objectives

There are three main elements to our SRE programme:

- Gaining knowledge and understanding
- Developing positive attitudes and values
- Extending personal and social skills

At St John the Baptist Primary School, 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.

The objectives of Sex and Relationship Education at St John the Baptist Primary School are:

- To enable our pupils to make responsible, informed and healthy decisions about their lives, both now and in the future.
- To teach our pupils to respect themselves and others so they can move confidently from childhood through to adolescence and into adulthood.
- To provide a supportive learning environment in which pupils can develop their feelings of self-worth and confidence, especially in relationship to others.

2. Sex and Relationships Education in the context of the National Curriculum:

Legal requirements

St John the Baptist Primary School has a statutory duty to teach the following as part of the National Curriculum Science Orders

Key Stage 1

- notice that animals, including humans, have offspring which grow into adults
(*Guidance – Children should be introduced to the processes of reproduction and growth in animals. The focus at this stage should be on questions that help pupils to recognise growth; they should not be expected to understand how reproduction occurs.*)

Key Stage 2

- describe the differences in the life cycles of a mammal, an amphibian, an insect and a bird
- describe the life process of reproduction in some plants and animals.
- describe the changes as humans develop to old age.
- recognise that living things produce offspring of the same kind, but normally offspring vary and are not identical to their parents

Parents do not have the right to withdraw their child/children from these above aspects of the Science curriculum.

Foundation Stage

Children learn about the concept of male and female and about young animals. In on-going PSHE work, they develop skills to form friendships and think about relationships with others.

Key Stage 1

Through work in science, children learn about the life cycles of some animals, understand the idea of growing from young to old and learn that all living things reproduce. They learn about the importance of personal hygiene to maintain good health.

In RE and Citizenship, children reflect on family relationships, different family groups and friendship. They learn about rituals and traditions associated with birth, marriage and death and talk about the emotions involved.

Children begin to co-operate with others in work and play and begin to recognise the range of human emotions and ways to deal with them. They also learn about personal safety.

Key Stage 2

In science, children build on their knowledge of life cycles and learn about the basic biology of human reproduction.

In RE and Citizenship, they continue to develop an understanding of relationships within a family, between friends and the community and that there are different patterns of friendship. They will develop skills needed to form relationships and to respect other people's emotions and feelings. They will consider how to make simple choices and exercise some basic techniques for resisting pressures.

The Sex and Relationships Education Programme (SRE) is organised by designated PSHE co-ordinators within each Phase . Specific SRE lessons are delivered in Years 5 and 6 and cover the following themes.

Year 5

“Changes” - These sessions cover understanding the physical changes that take place over time as humans develop into old age. This will also include specific sessions on changes that occur in puberty, personal hygiene and menstruation.

“Reproduction” – These sessions cover finding out about different types of reproduction, including sexual and asexual reproduction in plants, and sexual reproduction in animals (but not humans).

Year 6

These sessions build on Year 5 learning. These sessions will further explore the physical and emotional changes that take place to both boys and girls during puberty, including human reproduction. These sessions will explain how babies are made. They will show children how a baby develops in the womb and pregnancy. These sessions will emphasise the context of a stable and loving relationship.

Greater emphasis will be placed on the emotional changes that take place in puberty and on supporting children to understand where to seek advice and how to ensure they feel secure to meet some of the challenges they might face as they move on to secondary school e.g. coping with boy / girlfriend relationships, respecting personal space.

3. Teaching Sex & Relationships Education.

SRE is taught by the class teacher. A range of teaching methods are which include use of video, discussion and looking at case studies. Resources to teach sex and relationship education include fiction, reference books, leaflets and extracts from videos. We use: Channel 4 Living and Growing - Units 2 & 3 (Available from Channel 4 Learning)

Sex and relationships education is usually delivered in mixed gender groups. However, there are occasions where single gender groups are more appropriate and relevant.

Language – where appropriate, across school the correct language will be used to refer to body parts so that children have a common understanding of the language used.

The school will inform parents when aspects of the sex and relationship programme are taught and will provide opportunities for parents to discuss the content of the lessons and to view the videos and resources being used.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from those aspects of sex and relationship education not included in the National Curriculum Science Orders - alternative work will be set. In practice this will largely only refer to the work undertaken in Year 6.

4. Dealing with difficult questions. Confidentiality and Safeguarding

Ground rules are essential to provide an agreed structure to answering sensitive or difficult questions. This framework facilitates the use of an anonymous question box as a distancing technique.

Teachers will endeavour to answer questions as honestly as possible but if faced with a question they do not feel comfortable answering within the classroom or one which is beyond the Key Stage 2 objectives, provision will be made to meet the individual child's needs.

If questions are asked by children outside the SRE Programme, the teacher will use their discretion in answering them in an appropriate manner and at an appropriate and suitable time.

Teachers need to be aware that effective sex and relationship education, which brings an understanding of what is and is not acceptable in a relationship, may lead to disclosure of a child protection issue. If such an incident occurs the member of staff will inform the Designated Child Protection person in line with the school's procedures for child protection.

A member of staff cannot promise confidentiality if concerns exist.

5. Inclusion and equality

Every child – including those with protected characteristics (see Equality Policy) is entitled to receive SRE. It is our intention all children have the opportunity to experience a programme of SRE at a level which is appropriate for their age and physical development with differentiated provision if required.

For children with special needs teaching and resources will be differentiated as appropriate to address the needs of these children in order for them to have full access to the content of sex and relationship education.

Policy History

Amended from the school's 2011 Sex and Relationships policy to reflect changes to the National Curriculum.

Discussed at the whole Governing Body on Monday 14th September 2015 and referred to the Curriculum and Standards Committee for final agreement.

Agreed at the Curriculum and Standards Committee meeting on Wednesday 7th October 2015