

POLICY FOR SEX AND RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION

St Anne's Mission Statement is

“to help every person here to achieve his or her best in work or and in play. To celebrate whatever is good and to follow in the footsteps of Jesus by supporting each other, for the Honour and the Glory of God.”

In the light of ‘Every Child Matters’, the DfES ‘Healthy Living Blueprint, the Government ‘Public Health White Paper’ and the National Service Framework, schools need to be aware of how children’s services are being developed and integrated with the focus on earlier and targeted prevention within their area. In line with the DfES 5 yr strategy schools will develop their roles to become community, healthy and extended schools and will work closely with the emerging children’s services.

Rationale

We recognise our pupils as unique persons created in God’s image, loved by God and intended to have a full life. We value the partnership of home, school, parish, parent and teacher, in this important area of development. We share the Bishop’s desire to provide a “whole school...whole person...developmental approach” to this Curriculum(‘Laying the Foundations’, Bishops of England and Wales statement 1987), to allow the Gospel message to be heard. We wish to keep our pupils safe and protected and will provide sex and relationship education out of conviction rather than in response to a crisis.

Definition of SRE

SRE is learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about the development of the pupils’ knowledge and understanding of themselves as sexual beings, about what it means to be fully human, called to live in right relationships with self and others. It means developing pupils abilities to make conscientious decisions about sexuality and behaviour. Good SRE enables pupils to recognise and understand the importance of marriage and family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. Care is taken that no child is stigmatized because of his or her family background.

Sex and relationship education has three main elements.

1. Attitudes and values:
 - ◆ learning the importance of values and moral considerations
 - ◆ learning the value of family life, marriage and stable relationships
 - ◆ learning the value of love, respect and care.
2. Personal and social skills:
 - ◆ learning to manage emotions and relationships confidently and sensitively
 - ◆ developing empathy and self-respect
 - ◆ learning to make choices without prejudice
 - ◆ appreciating the consequences of choices made
 - ◆ managing conflict
 - ◆ recognising and avoiding exploitation and abuse
3. Knowledge and understanding:
 - ◆ learning about and understanding physical development
 - ◆ understanding human sexuality, reproduction, sexual health, emotions and relationships.

Aims

At St Anne's we wish to promote the appreciation and development of attitudes and values which are gospel inspired, e.g. love, truth, justice, freedom, integrity and reconciliation.

We aim:

- ◆ to reassure children of their value and self-worth, including aspects of dignity, self-respect and self-restraint.
- ◆ to nurture a responsible attitude towards personal relationships, such as aspects of mutual respect and care, and to develop sensitivity towards the needs of others encompassing fidelity and loyalty.
- ◆ to foster the ability to manage relationships in a responsible and healthy manner.
- ◆ to promote the value of loving relationships and of family life.
- ◆ to recognise that marriage is a sacrament but not an exclusive, context for family life.
- ◆ to provide knowledge of human reproductive processes.
- ◆ to inform children on matters of personal hygiene and related health issues.
- ◆ to encourage exploration of values and moral issues, taking into account the physical and moral risks associated with certain behaviour.
- ◆ to educate against discrimination and prejudice.
- ◆ to empower children to make informed choices about their developing sexuality.

Objectives.

The school values the importance of sex and relationship education. At St Anne's children will experience a planned programme of sex and relationship education that offers them the opportunity to explore attitudes and values, and develop personal and social skills, as well as learning the facts necessary for life.

The programme is linked closely to the Policy for Personal, Social and Health Education, Sex and Relationship Education Guidance and the National Healthy School Standard Guidance. At St Anne's we also follow schemes used and recommended by Catholic Education i.e. In The Beginning, The Road Ahead and All That I Am.

SRE will be delivered within PSHE, Science and RE lessons; and through numerous cross curricular and whole school activities. A Health Professional will be invited into school to address children in Years 5 and 6 (girls and boys separately) to support the school's SRE education in those classes. Parents will have prior notification and the chance to see the presentation in advance, to ask questions and, to withdraw their children if they so choose.

A member of senior management will be in attendance at all times.

SRE will be developmental and provide a foundation for further work in the secondary school.

This policy supports the following School Policies.

- ◆ Equal Opportunities
- ◆ Education for Ethnic Diversity
- ◆ School Discipline
- ◆ Statement of School Philosophy, Aims and Objectives
- ◆ Health and Safety
- ◆ Personal, Social and Health Education and Citizenship
- ◆ Child Protection
- ◆ Looked after Children

Areas of Responsibility

Parents

As first educators parents lay the foundations for all acceptable behaviour, leading by example and sharing with school the joint task of giving children a balanced understanding of life and a healthy appreciation of the human relationships they may form in years to come.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from SRE, (except those delivered through the science curriculum) but it is hoped that with support and advice from school they will not do so.

The school's Learning Mentor, is a trained 'Speakeasy 4 parents' facilitator. The intention being to help parents and carers to gain knowledge and confidence to talk positively to their children about sex and relationships.

Parents will be consulted on the SRE Policy and education programme their children follow during an Open Evening.

Governors

- ◆ to ensure the legal framework is followed.
- ◆ to consult with parents on the determination of the school's sex and relationship education policy.
- ◆ to implement the sex and relationship education policy through the Head Teacher.
- ◆ to implement the 'annual' reviews.
- ◆ to make, and keep up to date, a separate written statement of the school's policy with regard to Sex Education.
- ◆ to make copies of this statement available for inspection by parents of pupils registered at the school and provide a copy free of charge to any parent who requests one.
- ◆ to include a summary of the content and organisation of sex education in the School Prospectus.

Teachers

- ◆ to implement the Sex and Relationship Education Policy.
- ◆ to ensure the policy is followed.
- ◆ to liaise with the Governors on the teaching in school.
- ◆ to liaise with parents / carers.
- ◆ to ensure the policy is reviewed annually.
- ◆ to disseminate information to staff.
- ◆ to respond to individual problems experienced by children, enlisting external agency support if appropriate.
- ◆ to ensure continuing professional development for staff.
- ◆ to ensure that all staff are aware of confidentiality issues and procedures.
- ◆ to prepare long- and short-term plans to include Sex and Relationship Education in the Curriculum.
- ◆ to ensure the correct resources are available.
- ◆ to respond to the individual needs of children, giving relevant support should a child be experiencing difficulties.
- ◆ to ensure absent pupils have access to information, especially surrounding puberty.

School Nurse/Health Service Specialists

- ◆ To give support throughout the school, when appropriate.
- ◆ To take separate lessons for Years 5 & 6 on "growing up".

Equal Opportunities

In support of the Equal Opportunities Policy, all St Anne's R.C. Primary pupils, regardless of age, ability, gender race, have the same opportunity to benefit from the sex education resources and teaching methods

Dealing with Sensitive Issues

Governors and teachers are in agreement that teachers should answer children's questions relating to sex and relationship education in an open and factual way, taking into consideration the family background, culture, religious beliefs, and pupils' differing

experiences. The Governors expect teachers to use their professional judgement and discretion when faced with, or answering, questions, which they deem to be of a sensitive nature, for example homosexuality, contraception or sexually transmitted infections.

The following ground rules have been established.

- ◆ Teachers should not enter into discussions about personal issues and lifestyles.
- ◆ No one (child or adult) has to answer a personal question.
- ◆ Nobody is forced to take part in discussion.
- ◆ In discussion, teachers will promote the knowledge and use of 'accepted' names of body parts.
- ◆ Meanings of words are explained in a sensible and factual way.

Specific Classroom Arrangements

When planning lessons, teachers should consider appropriate grouping in respect of pupil experience and need. Mixed-gender classes will be the norm for the younger pupils. In Years 5 and 6 children will be grouped according to gender.

Procedures for Reviewing the Effectiveness of the Programme

Topics are reviewed each term through long-term plans. Staff and Governors review the Sex and Relationship Education Policy annually. Parents and pupils are invited to comment at each review.

Resources and Criteria Used for their Selection

The *PSHCE Co-ordinator* in consultation with teachers and Governors chooses all resources. Advice is taken from appropriate sources. Parents' comments are taken into consideration.

The policy is available in school for all parents to inspect and details of the policy are published in the School Prospectus so that parents of potential pupils are fully aware of St Anne's R.C. Primary's position in this matter.

Training

The PSHCE coordinator holds a " " qualification.
The School Nurse is invited annually to talk to any parent interested.
New Staff members will receive training by the PSHCE Co-ordinator.

Based on the original Policy 2006
This Policy is reviewed annually
Last Reviewed: February 2014

Useful Websites (examples)

The Catholic Education Service

www.childline.co.uk

www.bbc.co.uk

www.teachernet.gov.uk/pshe

Websites for parents (*examples*)

www.parentlineplus.org.uk

www.parentalk.co.uk

www.e-parents.org

www.ncb.org.uk

Catholic Children's Rescue Society

www.ccrsorg.co.uk/