



Sex & Relationships Education Policy

St. Michael's Church of England Primary School

Document produced January 2016

St Michael's C of E Primary School, underpinned by its Christian Foundation, seeks to balance the importance of high academic expectations with providing a happy and ordered school community where children of any race, ethnicity and culture have equal opportunities to excel. Within such an atmosphere all children are enabled to develop and thrive as they prepare to face the later challenges of teenage years and adulthood in a rapidly changing and challenging world.

Introduction

We have based our school's sex education policy on the DfE guidance document 'Sex and Relationship Education Guidance' (ref DfE 0116/2000). In this document, sex education is defined as: '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. Sex education is part of the personal, social and health education curriculum in our school.

This policy was developed after consultation with parents.



Policy Statement

S.R.E. is a lifelong learning process of acquiring information, developing skills and forming positive beliefs and attitudes about sex, sexuality, relationships and feelings (Sex Education Forum 2011). It is not about the promotion of sexual orientation or sexual activity – this would be inappropriate teaching.

Effective S.R.E. can make a significant contribution to the development of the personal skills needed by pupils if they are to establish and maintain relationships. It also enables young people to make responsible and informed decisions about their health and well-being.

The 1996 Education Act consolidates all relevant previous legislation and states that all primary schools must provide an up to date policy that describes the content and organisation of S.R.E. provided outside the National Curriculum Science Order. The DfE recommends that all primary schools should have a sex and relationship education programme tailored to the age and physical and emotional maturity of the children.

Aims

This policy is a working document which provides guidance and information on all aspects of S.R.E. in the school for staff, parents/carers and governors. To be accessible to all of these groups the document needs to be available on request and presented in a way that is easy to understand.



We teach children about:

- developing confidence in talking, listening and thinking about feelings and relationships;
- protecting themselves and asking for help and support;
- being prepared for puberty;
- understanding that humans reproduce;
- respect for their own bodies;
- the importance of family life.

The S.R.E. part of the curriculum is taught, progressively, throughout the school, starting in the early years with discussions related to family and friendships, feelings and general hygiene.

The S.R.E. programme at St Michael's Church of England Primary School reflects the school ethos.

The school values: Love, Integrity, Creativity and Resilience are reflected throughout the curriculum and are used to support the teaching of S.R.E.



The following areas will be covered:

Attitudes and Values

- Learning about the values of family life and stable relationships.
- Learning the value of respect, love and care.
- Learning to take responsibility for their own actions.
- Exploring, considering and understanding moral dilemmas.
- 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 understanding of differences and with the absence of prejudice.
- Providing opportunities for young people to develop the ability to understand the consequences for their decisions and actions.
- To manage conflict.

Knowledge and Understanding

- Information about healthier, safer lifestyles
- Physical development
- Emotions, relationships and reproduction



Equal Opportunities Statement

Our school is committed to the provision of S.R.E. for all of its pupils. Our programme aims to respond to the diversity of children's cultures, faiths and family backgrounds. Equal time and provision will be allocated for all groups but there may be occasions where pupils with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities are given extra support from SEN staff.

Organisation

The teaching of S.R.E. might be following a specific theme in a series of Personal, Social, Health Education and Citizenship (PSHCE) lessons. At other times it might be delivered, where it was felt appropriate, through another curriculum area.

S.R.E. is normally delivered by class teachers in mixed gender groups other than when it is deemed more appropriate for topics to be covered in single sex groups. Active learning methods which involve children's full participation are used.

Appropriate and suitably experienced and/or knowledgeable visitors from outside school may be invited to contribute to the delivery of S.R.E. in school. This will include the school nurse.



St Michael's Church of England Primary School has a code of practice for using visitors to support the delivery of PSHCE:

- Visitors are invited in to school because of the particular expertise or contribution they are able to make;
- All visitors are familiar with, and understand, the school's S.R.E. policy and work within it;
- All input to PSHCE lessons are part of a planned programme and negotiated and agreed with staff in advance;
- All visitors are supervised/supported by a member of staff at all times;

In PSHCE we teach children about relationships, and we encourage children to discuss issues.

St Michael's Church of England Primary School believes in the importance of training for staff delivering S.R.E. Staff are encouraged to access appropriate training and support to help them deliver effective S.R.E. Parents will be kept informed about the content of S.R.E. lessons and when they will be delivered. This will be done in a timely fashion so that parents can make informed choices, review resources and be prepared to answer questions from their children.



S.R.E. and Science Curriculum

S.R.E. will be taught along the current Science curriculum. Parents do not have the right to withdraw their child/children from these lessons.

National Curriculum Science Programme of Study

Key Stage 1

- 1b That animals, including humans, move, feed, grow, use their senses and reproduce
- 2a To recognise and compare the main external parts of the bodies of humans
- 3f That humans and animals can produce offspring, and these grow into adults
- 4a To recognise similarities and differences between themselves and others, and treat others with sensitivity.

Key Stage 2

- 1a That the life processes common to humans and other animals include nutrition, growth and reproduction
- 2f About the main stages of the human life cycle.



Specific Issues within S.R.E.

Withdrawal

Parents/Carers have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the sex and relationships education provided at school except for those parts included in statutory National Curriculum. Those parents/carers wishing to exercise this right are invited in to see the class teacher who will explore any concerns.

Confidentiality

Teachers will never promise confidentiality to a pupil as they may need to inform other people if they consider it to be a child protection issue.

Child Protection

The school has a separate Child Protection Policy. Effective S.R.E. may bring about disclosures of child protection issues and staff should be aware of the obligation and procedures for reporting their concerns.

Controversial and Sensitive Issues

Staff are aware that views around S.R.E. related issues are varied. However, while personal views are respected, all S.R.E. issues are taught without bias. Topics are presented using a variety of views and beliefs so that pupils are able to form their own, informed opinions but also respect others that may have different opinions.

If any teacher feels unable to deliver all or part of the S.R.E. programme, where possible, another member of the teaching staff would be used to support these lessons.



Dealing with Questions

Both formal and informal S.R.E. arising from pupils' questions are answered according to the age and maturity of the pupil concerned. Questions do not have to be answered directly, and can be addressed individually later. The school believes that individual teachers must use their skill and discretion in this area and refer to the Child Protection Co-ordinator if they are concerned.

Dissemination

All stakeholders may have access to this S.R.E. policy. Copies are available from the school office on request from parents.

To be reviewed on a 3 yearly basis. The S.R.E. Programme is monitored by the PSHCE Co-ordinator.