



St Peter's Methodist Primary School

Sex and Relationship Education Policy

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Introduction

In 2000, the Department for Education and Employment (DfEE, now DfE) published Sex and Relationship Education Guidance. The DfE Guidance states that SRE should contribute to promoting the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of students. In March 2017 a Policy Statement: RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION, RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION, AND PERSONAL, SOCIAL, HEALTH AND ECONOMIC EDUCATION was released to give further guidance for schools. It states that all primary schools (maintained, academies or independent) will be required to provide relationships education (and will retain their current choice to teach age-appropriate sex education).

At St Peter's, we believe that Sex and Relationship Education does not stand as a stand-alone subject, but as an integral part of a 'balanced and broadly based' curriculum, that promotes pupil wellbeing. SRE is learning about the emotional, social and physical aspects of growing up. It is about understanding the importance of marriage, family life and stable, loving relationships (or partnerships), respect, love and care within the framework of Christian values. RSE allows children to develop a good self image in order to manage their own relationships in a positive, responsible and healthy way. Children will be prepared to move with confidence from childhood, through adolescence, to adulthood. We do not use Sex and Relationships Education as a means of promoting any form of sexual orientation.

The policy has been developed to ensure that staff and parents or carers are clear about the statutory requirements regarding Sex and Relationships Education, and that the pupils receive their educational entitlement. Through implementation of this policy, the school will meet specific aspects of the legal and statutory requirements.

Aims and Objectives

At St Peter's, we will:

- Provide high quality, age appropriate Sex and Relationship Education in all year groups.
- Involve and work together with parents to develop awareness that Sex and Relationship Education is a crucial part of preparing children for their lives now, and in the future as adults and parents.
- Teach our pupils about the importance and value of family life, marriage and stable relationships.
- Help children to develop feelings of self-respect, self esteem, self -confidence, sympathy and empathy.
- Ensure children understand how their bodies change and prepare them for puberty.
- Help children understand the importance of keeping healthy and looking after their bodies as they change physically.
- Give them an understanding of reproduction and sexual development.
- Educate our children on the creation of life from conception to birth.
- Develop and use communication skills and assertiveness skills to cope with the influences of their peers and the media.
- Help children to develop the confidence and language to discuss matters to do with SRE that concern them.
- Answer pupils' questions honestly and sensitively – referring the children to parents where appropriate.

Teaching Relationships and Sex Education at St Peter's

Sex and Relationship Education is delivered through PSHCE and Science. A planned and co-ordinated approach to each subject can provide an appropriate framework for SRE to take place providing pupils with a consistent message.

The DFE guidance is clear on the themes and issues that schools should cover, in an age-appropriate way. RSE will be age-appropriate, building knowledge and life skills over time in a way that prepares pupils for issues they will soon face. They will likely focus on:

- different types of relationships, including friendships, family relationships, dealing with strangers;
- how to recognise, understand and build healthy relationships, including self-respect and respect for others, commitment, tolerance, boundaries and consent, and how to manage conflict, and also how to recognise unhealthy relationships;
- how relationships may affect health and wellbeing, including mental health;
- healthy relationships and safety online

SRE is taught by classroom teachers, and if appropriate, outside visitors such as the school nurse. A range of teaching methods include use of video, discussion, group work, debate, looking at case studies, drama and role-play.

SRE is usually delivered in mixed gender groups, however, there may be occasions where single gender groups are more appropriate and relevant.

Foundation Stage

We teach SRE in the reception class as an integral part of the topic work covered during the year. We relate the SRE aspects of the children's work to the objectives set out in the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum.

The Role of Parents

We wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents of children at our school, through mutual understanding, trust and cooperation.

In promoting this objective we:

- Inform parents about the school's SRE policy and practice.
- Answer any questions that parents may have about the sex education of their child.
- Ensure that parents have access to the policy and are invited to view resources and schemes of work used in the delivery of SRE.
- Take seriously any issue that parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy or the arrangements for sex education in the school.

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from all or part of the non-statutory SRE programme (i.e. not the Science Programme of Study) that we teach in our school. If a parent wishes their child to be withdrawn from sex education lessons, they should discuss it with the class teacher, and make it clear which aspects of the programme they do not wish their child to participate in.

The Role of the Headteacher

It is the responsibility of the headteacher to ensure that both staff and parents are informed about our Sex and Relationships Education policy, and that the policy is implemented effectively. It is also the headteacher's responsibility to ensure that members of staff are given sufficient training, so that they can teach effectively and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity. The headteacher monitors this policy on a regular basis and reports to governors on the effectiveness of the policy.

Assessment

Teachers assess the children's work in SRE by making informal observations during lessons rather than formally assessing each child. Topic and class discussions help to provide evidence of individual progress. Teachers on duty and Midday Supervisors give feedback about any social or friendship difficulties. Worrying behaviour may be noted down as a cause for concern. Intervention for social skills takes place if necessary. Outside agencies may become involved in some cases.

Confidentiality

Teachers conduct SRE lessons in a sensitive manner and in confidence. However, if a child makes a reference to being involved, or likely to be involved in sexual activity, or indicates that they may have been a victim of abuse, this will be dealt with in line with our Child Protection and Safeguarding policy.

Health and Safety

The health and safety of pupils will be taken into consideration at all times. Members of staff are aware of protecting children online and a strict and clear safety policy and code of practice is in place. Parents are invited to training on how to keep their children safe online and be aware of the dangers of social networking sites.