



'In the Beginning' - Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) programme

After the Spring Bank holiday we will be teaching our SRE (Sex and Relationships Education) programme, 'In the Beginning', to the children. The full programme has been approved by staff, a working party of parents and endorsed by Governors. It is intended to help children to understand more fully the world they live in and their responsibilities as human beings. To this end any work that is sent home from the scheme will be accompanied by Advice to Parents.

The scheme forms a celebration of life, and seeks to develop in the children an understanding of the complexities of human relationships. Our own relationship with God sits at the heart of the scheme throughout, and the teachings of Christ underpin the way good relationships form.

The scheme does not confront children with inappropriate material but it does contain opportunities for parents (and teachers) to open- up discussion on sensitive and challenging topics. Subjects which may be difficult to broach through normal conversation. Our advice is to use the worksheets as an opportunity to talk to your child and make the discussions as wide as you feel appropriate.

A Summary of the 'In the Beginning' Scheme

Year 1 – In the beginning

- Creation
- All living things are divided into families and into MALE and FEMALE. The word SEX is introduced as a division of gender
- Families with adults and young (including Humans).
- God wants us to live together, in friendship, in love, and in Him.

Year 2 – God Made Me

- The child in the context of their own family, surrounded by LOVE and CARE
- The individuality of the child and recognizes their VALUE
- The human body, naming parts (including PENIS and VAGINA)
- Acknowledges our imperfections and encourages pride in being who we are (developing self-esteem)
- Actions, consequences and responsibility including Citizenship

Year 3 - GOD-THE MASTER DESIGNER uses FLOWERS as its main focus and develops

- Male and female parts and functions
- Pollination and fertilization, reproduction and life cycle
- Our relationship with God through the Mass, Prayer and the Gospels
- The importance of communication
- Good Citizenship and an "active" response to our Faith in support of the needy.

Year 4 - GOD-THE CARING PROTECTOR uses FISH as its main focus and develops

- Male and female identification (naming parts)
- Homebuilding and courtship
- Mating, laying of eggs (female) and fertilizing with sperm (male)
- Aftercare, protection of young and life cycle
- Life-dangers and protective help
- Parental responsibility
- Stewardship and the care of a world given to us by God.



Year 5 - GOD-THE GREAT PROVIDER uses BIRDS as its main focus and develops

- Male and female identification (naming parts)
- Courtship, homebuilding and life cycle
- Mating, passing of sperm, fertilization of eggs inside the female
- Shared responsibility of parenthood - incubation, feeding hatching, aftercare
- Partnerships for life
- Good friendships and bad peer pressure
- Christ in our lives; living our Faith.

Year 5 - GOD-THE FRIEND AND NEIGHBOUR uses RABBITS as its main focus and develops

- Male and female identification (naming parts)
- Courtship, mating, homebuilding, life cycle
- Mating, internal fertilization via penis and vagina
- Birth, feeding (suckling), aftercare of young, parental responsibility
- Knowing yourself and how others might see you
- Understanding true friendship and love,
- Respect for others and care for those in need
- Living the Gospels.

Year 6 - GOD-THE IMAGE MAKER (Pt. 1) uses HUMANS as its focus and develops

- Friendships and relationships via (late-teens) boy meets girl relationship which steadily develops - attraction, friendship, falling in love, engagement, planning a future, marriage, setting up home, having a family
- Male and female parts and functions
- The act of making love (producing new life)
- Life from the moment sperm meets egg
- The developing embryo / things don't always go to plan
- Pregnancy ; associated care of both mother and child ; role of the father
- The joy of birth
- Human life cycle.

GOD-THE IMAGE MAKER (Pt. 2) continues from the point of birth and develops

- Helplessness of a new born baby / need for support
- Physical growth, support and decision making (Inc. problem solving)
- Spiritual growth and the importance of the Sacraments
- The uniqueness of the individual through genes, family characteristics, outward appearances, inner feelings, attitudes towards others ... with Christ as our example (our role model)
- Personal hygiene, resisting peer pressure
- Drugs, smoking and alcohol
- Personal timelines - past, present and future
- Age-appropriate relationships and activities
- A review of life / a time for making good decisions
- A call for God / Christ to enter our lives and help us to become as He intended us to be

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from SRE lessons. I ask that this request is made in writing as soon as possible. Please contact your child's class teacher, in first instance, if you wish to discuss any aspect of the programme.