

St. Edmund's and St. Benet's Catholic Primary Schools.

SEX AND RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION POLICY

Our Mission Statement

We see Christ in everyone

As we journey together, teaching and learning.

We believe every day matters

As we challenge ourselves to be all that we can.

As an integral part of our Catholic philosophy, we believe that every child regardless of sex, race, class or creed should enjoy equal access to all aspects of the curriculum within our school. We believe that sex education in this school will be developmental and a foundation for further work in the secondary school.

What is Sex Education?

Education is about the growth and development of the whole person and about meeting the physical, spiritual, moral and emotional requirements of our pupils. As children develop, their sexuality emerges so we need to help each individual acquire the necessary values and attitudes together with the appropriate knowledge, understanding and skills suitable for the different stages of his or her own personal growth to human maturity. It is also extremely important that we allay fears and anxieties and correct myths and misinformation. Therefore, there is a need to establish within the curricular a clear programme of Education for Personal Relationships, which incorporates sex education. Such a programme must recognise the sacredness of the

individual and help develop self-esteem and self-respect and respect for others.

The programme of sex education must be presented in accordance with the Church's teaching and within a framework that emphasises love, commitment, fidelity and the value of family life. We must also help pupils develop an appreciation of the values of underpinning the teaching so that they can make informed decisions and choices.

Aims

Through an effective sex education programme we hope to:

□ Engender growth in self-worth, helping pupils to recognise that each person is created in the image of God.

Enable pupils to understand that love is central to the basis of meaningful relationships.

Encourage pupils to be aware of their attitudes and values and to have a sense of responsibility for themselves.

Prepare the children for puberty and to develop the skills and self-esteem to help them enter adolescence confidently.

Ensure that they have the ability to accept their own and others' sexuality in positive ways and to enjoy relationships based on mutual respect, dignity and responsibility free from any abuse.

Correct misinformation and misunderstanding children may have gained.

Help pupils develop their critical faculties and be aware of the values conveyed by the media in relation to

self-image and sexuality.

Explore the meaning and value of life and give some appreciation of the values of family life.

Enable children to make informed choices.

Key Stage 1 Objectives for Education in Sexuality Children should be taught:

That loving, secure relationships within a family group are important.

That they are created by God and to be aware of their uniqueness and self worth.

The need for self-discipline and self-control.

To talk about their emotions in a socially acceptable way.

How their behaviour and feelings affect others.

To recognise their feelings and find ways of dealing with them.

That humans can produce babies and that these babies grow into children and then into adults.

That humans move, feed, grow, use their senses and reproduce.

To know themselves as male and female.

To name the external parts of the human body.

That individuals have rights over their own bodies.

The difference between good and bad touching.

That good hygiene practices prevent the spread of diseases.

That schools are caring communities where they will be believed and listened to.

About the Church's rituals that mark life. Especially birth, marriage and death.

To treat themselves and others with mutual respect and dignity.

Keystage 2 Objectives for Education in Sexuality Children will be taught:

To understand what is meant by relationships within families, friends and communities.

About development from birth.

An appreciation of what is involved in bring up children and the responsibility of parents.

To develop an awareness of how their behaviour and feelings affect the behaviour of feelings of others.

The meaning of friendship, trust and loyalty and to develop the skills need to form, maintain and end relationships.

To understand the importance of honesty, self discipline and to develop a caring, considerate attitude towards the needs of others.

There are good and bad choices and that these choices have consequences for themselves and others.

About their changing emotions and the need to respect other people's emotions and feelings.

To value themselves as a child of God, and their body as God's gift to them.

The names for the parts of the body.

The main stages of the human lifecycle.

About the changes that come about through puberty and how these changes affect the body in relation to hygiene.

- The basic biology of human reproductive organs
- To talk about relationships and how to seek advice from significant adults

To judge what kind of physical contact is acceptable or unacceptable and how to respond. **Guidance** The school is committed to working closely with parents. Pupils can be withdrawn by parents from part of education that is outside the compulsory elements of sex education contained in the National Curriculum. **Parents wanting to exercise this right are invited to see the Head.** Parents are the key figures in helping their children to cope with the physical and emotional aspects of growing up and in preparing them for the challenge and responsibilities which sexual maturity brings. The teaching offered by our school will try to be complementary and supportive to the role of parents. The school can provide: A setting in which children can at times, more easily reflect on their present relationship:

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- An opportunity for people of the same age to share common experiences and to learn from each other

Insights that may not be provided by some parents **N.B. No sex education will be given to year 6 pupils without prior consultation with parents.** When pupils ask questions about controversial issues, the school will be prepared to offer balanced and factual information

and to acknowledge the major ethical issues involved. If questions arise, they will be answered sensitively and with due consideration to the children's needs, age, stage of development and Catholic beliefs. Sex education will be taught in the context of personal relationships and marriage and delivered through science and RE and laid out in the EPR and RE co-ordinated framework. See EPR Long Term Plan for a sequence for teaching sex education.

Teaching Methods

Sex education will be taught to mixed gender groups except where it is deemed appropriate and relevant to teach single sex groups.

Specific Issues Statements Use of Language

Appropriate language that has been agreed by the whole staff will be used to communicate about sexual health. Pet names, swear words and slang can mystify, confuse and offend children. Explicit terminology for body parts will be taught when necessary and appropriate.

Reproduction

Children in year 5 and 6 will be taught about human reproduction; this will include naming sexual external/internal organs and about menstruation and the production of semen by the testes and wet dreams. Pupils in Year 6 will be taught about sexual intercourse. They will learn that sexual intercourse between husband and wife is a joyful expression of their love for each other, and that it is an act of self-giving made by two people who want to give everything of themselves to the person they love and respect. Sex education materials will be available to parents who wish to supplement sex education in school or wish to deliver sex education to their children at home.

Safeguarding Children

As a general rule, a child's confidentiality will be maintained by the teacher, or member of staff concerned. However if a child discloses abuse guidance from the Child Protection Procedures will be as follows:

Listen to the child directly rather than question him or her.

Never stop a child who is freely recalling significant events.

Explain that you are concerned for their well being and will be in contact with the Children and Young People's Services.

Make a note of the disclosure, including the time, setting and people present, detailing what the child said and the child's presentation and behaviour as observed. This record should be written at the time, signed and dated; record all the actions taken concerning the incident. See Child Protection Policy.

Answering Difficult Questions

Sometimes an individual child will ask an explicit or difficult question in the classroom. This school believes that individual teachers must see their skill and discretion as teachers in a Catholic School in these situations. However they must refer to the Head if they are concerned, and then inform the parents before speaking to the child individually.

Use of Visitors

There are various people who can resource and support school based sex education. These may include parents, the

school nurse, religious or health professionals.

Teachers must always be present when visitors are working with pupils

Responsibilities

The governors, and especially the Foundation Governors, are responsible for ensuring that the EPR programme follows Diocesan guidelines and is in keeping with the Church's teachings. In all matters related to EPR and especially Sex and Relationship Education governors will ensure that parents are consulted on the contents of the programme and given an opportunity to view resources.

Monitoring and Evaluation The policy will be reviewed yearly.

We will all be sensitive, fair and understanding to the individual needs of the child (and in respect of disability, special educational needs, race, religion and circumstances, in accordance with the '*Equality Act: 2010*'),

10 Monitoring and review

- 10.1** The Curriculum Committee of the governing body monitors our sex education policy on an annual basis. This committee reports its findings and recommendations to the full governing body, as necessary, if the policy needs modification. The Curriculum Committee gives serious consideration to any comments from parents about the sex education programme, and makes a record of all such comments. Governors require the headteacher to keep a written record, giving details of the content and delivery of the sex education programme that we teach in our school.

Signed: Emily Rogers

Date: May 2017