

St Antony's Catholic Primary School



Growing and Changing Policy “A Journey in Love” (Sex and Relationship Education)

*Learning together
in
God's love*

Agreed by staff: Autumn 2014
Agreed by governors: Autumn 2014
Review date: Autumn 2016

St. Antony's Catholic Primary School Sex and Relationship Education Policy

Our Mission Statement

At St. Antony's Catholic School we celebrate our special talents as children of God:

- We try to be like Jesus and always keep him in our hearts.
- We work together in our homes, school and parish to share our gifts and learn together.
- We understand that we are all different but we respect each other.
- We look after our world so that we may share it together in peace.

Rationale

"... children and young people should be helped to develop harmoniously their physical, moral and intellectual qualities.... They should receive a positive and prudent education in matters relating to sex... and young people have the right to be stimulated to make sound moral judgements, based on a well-informed conscience and to put them into practice with a sense of personal commitment.... And to know and to love God more perfectly."
Gravissimum Educationis (para 3)

Second Vatican Council

Sex and Relationships Education is developed through cross-curricular links within Science, RE, PSHCE but essentially Education in Sex and Personal Relationships is concerned with the development of positive relationships with ourselves, other people, the world around us and with God.

Aims

- To appreciate the whole of creation as a sign of God's love
- To develop a greater understanding of the nature of relationships with families, friends and communities which exist in our multi-racial, multi-faith society.
- To develop a greater understanding of the responsibilities of the individual.
- To promote good health and understanding of physical development, respecting and reverencing the wonder of the body.
- To promote a source of self-esteem and well-being.
- To support the personal, moral and social development of all pupils.

Objectives

By the end of **Key Stage 1** the majority of pupils should be able:

- To understand the importance of valuing themselves and others.
- To recognise their membership of the family and recognise the roles of individuals in families.
- To understand growth and know themselves as male or female.
- To recognise that babies have special needs.
- To appreciate relationships, friends, family, caring, working together, sharing and playing together.
- To know about rituals that mark life, and especially, birth, marriage and death.
- To recognise the range of emotions and how we deal with them.
- To know about being safe.
- To have an awareness of personal health and safety and personal hygiene.

By the end of **Key Stage 2** the majority of pupils should be able:

- To appreciate that life is precious and a gift from God and to use this gift in God's service.
- To value themselves as a child of God, and their body as God's gift to them.

- To understand that they grow and change throughout life.
- To understand what is meant by relationships within families, friends and communities.
- To develop an appreciation of what is involved in bringing up children and what responsibility parents have.
- To become aware of the different patterns of friendship.
- To know the rituals celebrated in Church, marking birth, marriage and death.
- To be aware of their changing emotions and the need to respect the emotions and feelings of other people.
- To begin to know about and understand the changes that come about through puberty.
- To know and understand their own bodies and their need for personal hygiene.
- To know the names for the parts of the body.
- To know the basic biology of human reproduction.
- To become aware of the choices they make and that there are good choices and wrong choices.
- To recognise the importance of forgiveness in relationships.

Equal Opportunities

St. Antony's Sex and Relationships Education Policy reflects its commitment to the principle of equal opportunities. This ensures the entitlement of all pupils, regardless of race, gender or disability, to develop their self-esteem and self-identity and to enable a confident participation in the curriculum. We intend that the subject be taught so that the equal but different natures of men and women are not compromised. We will endeavour to provide male and female role models whenever possible. It is also our aim to ensure that this programme of study is culturally relevant where possible in order to address the different needs of all our pupils.

Differentiation

A differentiated programme of work is offered to the pupils through teachers' planning, activities, resources, outcomes and adult support where appropriate.

Organisation

The PSHCE Co-ordinator has the responsibility, along with the Head Teacher, to ensure that the planned sex education programme is delivered effectively.

All class teachers will be responsible for delivering their section of the programme to their class. All teachers will be expected to incorporate the diocesan recommended scheme of work – 'A Journey in Love' by Sr. Jude Groden RSM

After consultation with teachers, if specific training is required, it will be provided through the school's INSET programme. Professional agencies may be called upon (School Nurse) in order to deliver more effectively certain aspects of the sex education programme. This will be organised by the PSHCE Co-ordinator when and where appropriate and monitored by the teachers concerned as well as the Senior Leadership Team.

Classes will remain mixed (boys and girls) for all elements of the Sex Education Programme, except in Years 5 and 6, where if appropriate, separate gender provision could be available.

Specific Issues

Personal beliefs and attitudes of teachers will not influence the Catholic teaching of sex and relationships education at St Joachim's. All sex and relationship education in St Antony's will be taught in line with the advice and guidance of the Diocese of Brentwood (BRES) in conjunction with government recommendations. Teachers see their role as one of supporting parents in their role as primary educators of their children.

Working with Parents

Sex education is a joint partnership between school and parents. Parents will be invited into school to preview the materials used to deliver the Sex and Relationships Education programme for Years 5 and 6. Parents wishing to discuss specific aspects of the planned curriculum are invited to make an appointment with the Head Teacher.

Parents do have the right to withdraw their child from any Sex and Relationships Education lesson except for elements in the National Curriculum Science Programme. However, parents must be aware that Sex and Relationships Education takes place at home, in the school playground, on TV and on the Internet, through the use of mobile devices, and in the media, so withdrawing a child from these lessons may result in the child having an incomplete and confused understanding of the issues and subject taught.

The school seeks to help to educate children appropriately and with great sensitivity, to dispel myths and ignorance.

Confidentiality

Children have a right to ask questions in confidence. Teachers will not tell parents if their child asked a question, unless they feel that the parent is the best person to deal with the issues raised.

Our intention is to make the child feel safe and secure in the school environment so that they can ask questions to gain a fuller understanding of the content covered in class.

Child Sexual Abuse Procedures

Children will be made aware that disclosures that fall within the realm of a child protection will be pursued. Child sexual abuse will be identified in the school's Safeguarding and Child Protection procedures and staff will be made fully aware of these (See Child Protection Policies).

Role of Governors

Governors have the legal responsibility of deciding whether or not Education for Personal Relationships and Sex Education should be taught in school.

The Diocese advises that schools provide this education for the needs of its children. Governors, in consultation with staff and advisors should be involved in the dialogue as to what materials might be used to teach Sex Education.

Procedures for Monitoring and Evaluation

The effectiveness to the school's approach to Sex and Relationships Education will need assessing. This will include feedback from the staff, parents and the children. All materials used will have been previously reviewed and assessed for suitability by the PSHCE Subject Leader, members of the SLT and a member of the governing body of the school.

Additional Information

The Sex Education programme will be incorporated into the PSHCE scheme of work. Alongside the PSHCE Scheme of work, teachers will also use the 'Journey in Love' lesson plans.

Please refer to the PSHCE Policy for further information.