



St Mary's C of E Primary School Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) Policy – Autumn 2017

Rationale

The objective of Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) is to help and support pupils through their physical, moral and emotional development. RSE is about life-long learning and will help the pupils respect themselves and others throughout childhood, adolescence and adulthood. Through RSE the pupils will acquire accurate information, develop skills and positive values which will guide their decision making, judgements and behaviour throughout their lives.

Aims and objectives

The Governing Body and Head Teacher have consulted with the Parent's Working Party and staff in order to develop this policy which has the following aims:

- To provide the knowledge and information to which all pupils are entitled.
- To raise pupils' self-esteem and confidence, especially in their relationships with others.
- To develop pupils' skills for a healthier safer lifestyle.
- To develop pupils' communication skills and assertiveness skills to cope with the influences of their peers and the media.
- To help pupils learn to respect and care for their bodies.
- To prepare pupils for puberty and adulthood.
- To help pupils learn how to gain access to information and support and report any abuse towards them.

Equal Opportunities

At St Mary's we ensure that effective Relationships and Sex Education is available to all pupils and is sensitive to the needs of individual pupils', culture, faith and family background. Where pupils have specific educational needs, arrangements for support from outside agencies and support staff are made to ensure these pupils have an appropriate, differentiated curriculum.

Scheme of Work

Through the PSHE curriculum, throughout the school, pupils are taught about relationships, emotional well-being and personal hygiene based on the SEAL programme. In each Year Group (Reception – Year 6) the children discuss key safeguarding issues linked personal space and privacy. The school utilises the NSPCC resources to promote children's awareness of these issues in an age appropriate manner. The teachers sensitively ensure children are aware and understand of the boundaries that should exist linked to the private areas of their body.

In Science we follow the guidance material in the National Scheme of Work. The Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 are taught that animals, including humans, move, feed, grow and reproduce and about the main parts of the human body.

In KS2 Science there is a focus on life processes and the main stages of the human life cycle; including puberty.

The RSE Scheme of Work uses resources from the Living and Growing up series published by Channel 4, which we introduce in Year 4. Throughout the Scheme of Work, pupils will be given the opportunity to practice life skills such as assertiveness, self-awareness, decision making and consider all aspects of relationships and what affects them. It also provides many opportunities for pupils to explore their own and others' attitudes, values and opinions.



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The content is developmental and is an integral part of the curriculum entitlement for all children. Where possible children will be taught by their own class teacher as their familiarity with the pupils makes them best qualified to deliver RSE.

The content was decided in consultation with Governors, parents and staff. Consideration of the pupils', social, physical and emotional maturity was considered during the development of the Scheme of Work.

Here is a brief outline of what is covered in each year group:

Year 4

In year 4 pupils focus on changes in themselves over time looking back at the past to produce a timeline of changes.

Year 5

In Year 5 the pupils learn about the emotional and Physical changes that take place for girls at the onset of puberty and discuss menstruation. The pupils also review the physical and emotional changes that take place for boys at the onset of puberty as well as a discussion about sexual intercourse.

Year 6

In year 6 the pupils look at how the body changes and the lifecycle of a baby, including how the baby is made through to giving birth and looking at how babies are cared for after birth.

Organisation of the Scheme of Work

The Headteacher and the PSHE Co-ordinator are both responsible for co-ordinating PSHE and RSE. Agreed protocols will be discussed with pupils when learning about Relationships and Sex. A variety of teaching and learning strategies will be used by the class teacher. Pupils will be given many opportunities to reflect on what they have learnt in these lessons. Most of the lessons will be delivered in mixed gender groups. However, sometimes both boys and girls cover the same material but are given opportunities to discuss what has been covered in single gender groups where they might feel more comfortable in doing so.

Evaluation of the topics covered in the scheme will take place each year and adjusted as necessary.

Language

During all RSE lessons the correct terms (as set out in the Scheme of Work) for all body parts and functions will be used.

Dealing with sexually explicit questions

Personal questions will not be asked by teachers or pupils. An anonymous questions box will be used at the same time as sex education lessons. Questions raised by pupils are dealt with sensitively and any questions concerning sexually transmitted diseases and contraception are answered appropriately if raised. Inappropriate or explicit questions do not have to be answered directly. Teachers use their own discretion in these situations.

The approach to potentially controversial and sensitive issues

All staff are aware that everyone has views on Relationships and Sex Education related issues. However, while it is respected that everyone has the right to their own viewpoint, all issues are taught without bias. Topics are presented with all viewpoints so that pupils are able to form their own, informed opinions but are also encouraged to respect the fact that others may have quite different viewpoints.



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Homosexuality is discussed at a level appropriate to the age of the children. Children are reminded that 'loving relationships' can be between a man and a woman or people of the same sex. Teachers again use their own discretion in these situations when responding to children's questioning. Children are taught to respect the life choices of others (including their sexuality). Homophobic bullying is discussed at a level appropriate to the age of the children.

Child Protection

All teaching staff are trained in child protection issues. Any concerns raised through RSE are dealt with according to the ACPC child protection procedures.

Working with Parents

The school aims to work in partnership with parents when planning and delivering sex and relationship education. This is achieved through:

- Consulting parents over the development of the policy.
- Involving parents in viewing resources and discussing the RSE curriculum.
- Advising parents on how they can answer questions about RSE with their children at home.
- Supporting parents in helping children cope with the emotional and physical aspects of growing up.
- Making alternative arrangements for pupils who are withdrawn from RSE lessons and providing DfES materials for parents who choose to withdraw their children.

Using visitors to deliver Relationships and Sex Education

External staff are occasionally used to deliver aspects of RSE. Whenever an external speaker is used we always make provision for planning and a meeting with the class teacher prior to the session. They will also be expected to have been made aware of the School's Relationships and Sex Education Policy.

Confidentiality

Pupil's confidentiality is respected in all RSE lessons and pupils are made aware of the fact that what they say in Relationships and Sex Lessons will not be repeated to anyone else.

Informing parents / carers and parent's right to withdraw their child

Before each year group begins their RSE programme of work, parents are informed by letter of what aspect of RSE will be covered. Parents have a right to withdraw their children from all or any part of sex education, but not from the biological aspects of human growth and reproduction provided under the National Curriculum for science. Parents will be given the opportunity to view the resources used to deliver the lessons.

Procedure for pupils who are withdrawn from sessions

Provision will be made for parents who wish their child to be removed from the RSE lessons to work in another classroom.

Pupils' access to help and support

At St Mary's, all staff are trained in offering support to children in a number of areas and are very approachable.

Girls who start their periods at school are supported by both the class teacher and office staff. The office staff keep sanitary protection and are very sensitive to the individual and their needs.



St Mary's C of E Primary School Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) Policy – Autumn 2017

Teachers' Embarrassment

If a member of staff is extremely uncomfortable teaching RSE then provision will be made for another teacher that is known to the children to deliver the RSE. The school feels that this is justified as if the member of staff is feeling uncomfortable with the teaching of RSE then they are unlikely to do an effective job or give positive messages.

Arrangements for Monitoring and Evaluation

The Curriculum Leader will be responsible for evaluating the RSE policy and curriculum. The Policy will be formally reviewed by the Headteacher, staff and Governors every year. The formal monitoring of RSE is carried out by the Head Teacher who reports to the Governors.

Appendix:

KS2 Channel 4 Living and Growing Scheme overview 2016

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Next review due: Autumn 2017