



## **St. John's Church of England Academy**

### **Sex and Relationships Policy Guidance**

This policy was developed in response to Sex and Relationship Education Guidance DfES 2000, the National Teenage Pregnancy Strategy and National Healthy Schools Programme.

#### **The Consultation Process Has Involved:**

- Consultation with representatives from the school council
- Consultation with parents / carers
- Review of SRE curriculum content with staff, pupils and parents /carers
- Consultation with wider school community e.g. school nurse
- Consultation, agreement and implementation of policy by school governors

#### **What Is Sex and Relationship Education?**

SRE is lifelong learning about physical, sexual, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care, for family life. It involves acquiring information, developing skills and forming positive beliefs, values and attitudes.

#### **Principles and Values**

In addition St. John's believes that SRE should:

- be an integral part of the lifelong learning process, beginning in early childhood and continue into adult life.
- be an entitlement for all pupils in our care.
- encourage every pupil to contribute to the school community that aims to support each individual as they grow and learn.
- be set within this wider school context and supports family commitment and love, respect and affection, knowledge and openness. Family is a broad concept; not just one model, e.g. nuclear family. It includes a variety of types of family structure, and acceptance of diversity.
- encourage pupils and staff to share and respect each other's views. We are aware of different approaches to sexual orientation, without promotion of any particular family structure. The important values, in line with our school ethos and Christian teachings, are love, respect and care for each other.
- generate an atmosphere where questions and discussion on personal matters can take place without any stigma or embarrassment.
- recognise that parents and carers are the key people in teaching their children about sex, relationships and growing up. We aim to work in partnership with parents/carers and pupils, consulting them about the content of programmes.
- recognise that the wider community has much to offer and we aim to work in partnership with other health and education professionals.

**Sex and Relationship Education in this school has three main elements all underpinned by our Christian ethos:**

### **Personal and Social Skills**

- managing emotions within relationships confidently and sensitively.
- developing positive self esteem and confidence.
- developing and demonstrating self-respect and empathy for others.
- making informed choices with an absence of prejudice.
- developing an appreciation of the consequences of choices made.
- managing conflict.
- empower pupils with the skills to be able to recognise inappropriate/uncomfortable situations and/or behaviours with their peers and adults.

### **Attitudes and Values**

- learning the importance of values, individual, group and community conscience and moral choices.
- valuing family life, stable and loving relationships, and marriage.
- learning about the nurture of children.
- demonstrating the values of respect, love and care.
- exploring, considering and understanding moral dilemmas.
- developing skills including negotiation and decision making.
- challenging myths, misconceptions and false assumptions.

### **Knowledge and Understanding**

- learning and understanding about physical and emotional development at appropriate stages.
- learning about reproduction, human sexuality, personal health, emotions and relationships.
- learning about where to go for help or advice in school and how to access a range of local and national support agencies

### **Aims**

The aim of SRE is to provide balanced factual information about physical and emotional changes, together with consideration of the broader emotional, ethical, religious, and moral dimensions of sexual health. Our SRE programme aims to prepare pupils for an adult life in which they can:

- develop positive values and a moral framework, based on Christian teachings, that will guide their decisions, judgements and behaviour.
- have the confidence and self esteem to value themselves and others and respect for individual conscience and the skills to judge what kind of relationship they want.
- understand the consequences of their actions and behave responsibly within personal relationships.
- avoid being pressured into uncomfortable or dangerous situations.
- communicate effectively by developing the appropriate language for sex and relationship issues.

- develop awareness of their sexuality, challenge sexism and prejudice, and promote equality and diversity.
- have sufficient information and skills to protect themselves in a variety of situations.
- be aware of sources of help and acquire the skills and confidence to access advice and support if necessary.

## **6. Organisation and Content of Sex and Relationship Education**

St. John's specifically delivers sex and relationship education through its PSHCE Programme, RE and Science lessons at Foundation Stage, KS1 and KS2.

Much of the sex and relationship education at St. John's takes place within PSHCE lessons. Teachers deliver the PSHCE curriculum with support from professionals where appropriate. School staff are usually the best people to work with the pupils on many of the SRE topics as they are aware of each pupil's individual circumstances.

SRE lessons are set within the wider context of the PSHCE curriculum and focus more on the emotional aspects of development and relationships, although the physical aspects of puberty and reproduction are also taught as part of National Curriculum Science. The PSHCE Programme and Science National Curriculum are taught in every year.

Staff use the Lucinda and Godfrey materials throughout the school to support SRE. This is a holistic approach to SRE used as part of the PSHE programme and is a spiralling curriculum, produced with regard to current guidelines, with a gentle approach. The resource is teacher friendly, easy to use and easily adaptable to meet the individual needs of the pupils.

Foundation Stage: 'We are all Different'. Differences between girls and boys including sexual organs.

Year 1: 'Exploring Friendship and Trust'.

Year 2: 'Keeping Clean'. Personal hygiene and bullying

Year 3: 'Your Feelings – Your Choice'. Personal safety and decision making.

Year 4: 'Keeping Safe'. Peer pressure

Year 5: 'Growing and Changing'. Physical/emotional changes as puberty begins.

Year 6: 'Growing and Changing'. Puberty, changing relationships, different types of relationships, pregnancy, contraception.

Please refer to Appendix for a more detailed overview.

Any SRE lesson may consider questions or issues that some pupils find sensitive. Ground rules are established which prohibit inappropriate personal information being requested or disclosed by those taking part in the lesson.

When pupils ask questions, we aim to answer them honestly at an age appropriate level and within the ground rule established at the start of the sessions. If it is felt that answering a specific question would involve information at a level inappropriate to the age and development of the rest of the pupils, the question will be dealt with individually at another time.

More expert or specialist teachers may support staff that are uncomfortable with teaching certain aspects of the SRE curriculum. Support and professional development will be provided for these staff, so that they can develop their confidence in delivering the whole of the SRE programme.

Assessment is carried out at appropriate times and involves teacher, pupil and peer assessment of knowledge and understanding, skills, and attitudes.

## **7. Inclusion**

### *Ethnic, Cultural and Religious Groups*

We intend our policy to be sensitive to the needs of different ethnic, cultural and religious groups. We encourage parents /carers to discuss any concerns with the Head teacher.

### *Pupils with Special Needs*

We will ensure that all pupils receive sex and relationship education, and we will offer provision appropriate to the needs of all our pupils, taking specialist advice where necessary.

### *Sexual Identity and Sexual Orientation*

We aim to deal sensitively and honestly with issues of sexual orientation, answer appropriate question and offer support. Pupils, whatever their developing sexuality, need to feel that sex and relationship education is relevant to them.

## **8. Right of Withdrawal of Pupils from Sex and Relationship Education**

Some parents prefer to take the responsibility for aspects of this element of education. Parents are informed of the areas to be covered during Year 6 puberty talks and they have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the sex and relationship education except for those parts included in the statutory National Curriculum (i.e. in Science lessons). We would make alternative arrangements in such cases. Parents are encouraged to discuss their concerns and / or decisions with the Head teacher at the earliest opportunity. Parents are welcome to review any SRE resources the school uses.

## **9. Confidentiality and Safeguarding**

It should be made clear to pupils that all adults in school cannot guarantee absolute confidentiality. This should be made clear when forming the class Ground Rules.

A child under 13 is not legally capable of consenting to sexual activity. Any offence under The Sexual Offences Act 2003 involving a child under 13 is very serious and

should be taken to indicate a risk of significant harm to the child. Cases involving under 13's should always be discussed with the nominated child protection lead.

Under the Sexual Offences Act, penetrative sex with a child under the age of 13 is classed as rape. Therefore, in all cases where the sexually active young person is under 13, a referral should be made to Social Care Direct identifying the young person, and the sexual partner if known by the DSL or DDSL. Following this, a Multi Agency Strategy Meeting or discussion will be held. The meeting will involve a Team Manager, Social Worker, Police, Health Worker, Education and Welfare and other relevant agencies, to discuss appropriate next steps.

Where the allegation concerns penetrative sex, or other intimate sexual activity occurs, there would always be reasonable cause to suspect that a child, whether girl or boy, is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm. All cases involving under 13's should be fully documented including detailed reasons why decisions were made not to share information.

Health professionals in school are bound by their codes of conduct but have a duty to share information with relevant others, if they believe that a child is suffering abuse.

*These procedures should be read in conjunction with the Durham LSCB protection procedures with special reference to Sections 3 'Referral and Investigation' and Section 6.13 'Sexually Active Children under 18' – 'Young People under the age of 13'*

**10. Monitoring and Evaluation of Sex and Relationship Education**

It is the responsibility of the Head teacher/ Leadership Team to oversee and organise the monitoring and evaluation of PSHCE, in the context of the overall school plans for monitoring the quality of teaching and learning. The PSHCE co-ordinator will make an annual report to the Leadership Team, including governors. The SRE programme will be included in this annual report.

The Governing body is responsible for overseeing, reviewing and organising the revision of the sex and relationship education policy and curriculum.

**11. Assessment of Sex and Relationship Education**

Assessment of SRE work will be inline with the school assessment policy. Reports on children's relationships will be made verbally at parent consultations and reported in the Personal, Social and Emotional section of the children's annual report to parents.

Reviewed: May 2015

**Head teacher signature**.....

**Governor signature**.....

**Pupil Representative signature**.....

**Date** .....