

## **Sex and Relationship Education Policy**

### **Introduction**

St James' Church of England Aided Infant School recognises that parents have the key role in teaching their children about sexual matters. The role of the school is a supportive one. This policy specifies what the school means by sex and relationship education (SRE), its aims and the framework within which it teaches SRE.

SRE is firmly rooted in the PSHE framework and is one of the criteria of the National Healthy Schools Standard.

At St James' Church of England Aided Infant School, Christian values are firmly embedded in our teaching. We seek to raise our children believing and practising important values of friendship, trust, forgiveness, love, kindness, respect, generosity, honesty, sharing, responsibility and togetherness.

### **Definition**

SRE contributes to promoting the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of children at school and in society and prepares children for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life. It is about understanding the importance of family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care.

**Sex and Relationship Education at St James' Church of England Aided Infant School has three elements:**

#### **Attitudes and values**

- ❖ learning the importance of values and individual conscience and moral considerations
- ❖ learning the value of family life
- ❖ appreciating that not everyone is in the same family situation
- ❖ learning the value of respect, love and care
- ❖ exploring, considering and understanding moral dilemma
- ❖ developing critical thinking as part of decision making

#### **Personal and Social skills**

- ❖ Learn to recognise and manage different emotions.
- ❖ Develop self-respect and empathy for others.
- ❖ Develop appropriate relationships with peers and adults and develop skills in friendship, self-esteem, communication, assertiveness and how to deal with bullying.
- ❖ Learn to make choices and appreciate the consequences of choices made.
- ❖ Manage conflict and take responsibility for their actions.
- ❖ Help children to know how they can protect themselves, understand what is right and wrong and have the confidence to talk to people they trust if they do not feel safe.

#### **Knowledge and Understanding**

- ❖ Teach pupils about their physical and sexual development, at a level appropriate to their age and development, by teaching appropriate vocabulary for parts of the body and bodily functions.
- ❖ Teach pupils about human growth and development including lifecycles.
- ❖ Create an atmosphere where pupils feel confident to ask questions and discuss such things without embarrassment.
- ❖ Be aware of possible dangers and know how to get help if they need it.

### **Aims**

At St James' Church of England Aided Infant School we aim:

- ❖ to help children respect themselves and others
- ❖ to support children through their physical, emotional and moral development
- ❖ to develop skills and understanding to enable pupils to make healthy, responsible choices about their health and well being
- ❖ to help children to deal with their own feelings within their relationships with other people, especially within the family
- ❖ to be developmental and for SRE to be appropriate to the age and stage of the child - common starting levels cannot be assumed
- ❖ to encourage awareness, respect and responsibility for oneself and others
- ❖ to communicate the value of family life, marriage and stable and loving relationships for the nurture of children
- ❖ to support the safeguarding of all children

### **Organisation and delivery**

The SRE curriculum will be planned and delivered by the relevant year groups. Teachers will use a range of teaching methods to suit the topic and their pupils. It will also be delivered as the need arises to support children's natural curiosity.

SRE is not taught as a discrete subject. Each teacher answers the questions as they arise – sometimes with an individual child, a group or a whole class. The children are given as much information as the teacher feels is needed at that moment, taking account of the age of the children and how much they will understand.

**Emphasis is put upon birth, new life and growth. Children are encouraged to question, whilst a reverence and respect for life is fostered through Religious Education and Collective Worship. We would expect children to leave the school:**

- ❖ knowing that animals, including humans, move, feed, grow, use their senses and reproduce
- ❖ recognising the needs of babies and young people
- ❖ recognising and comparing the main external parts of the bodies of humans recognising that humans and animals can produce offspring and these grow into adults
- ❖ recognising similarities and differences between themselves and others and treating others with sensitivity
- ❖ identifying human family relationships and raising awareness of the various types of human families
- ❖ recognising that families and friends should care for each other
- ❖ developing confidence in talking, listening and thinking about feelings and relationships and naming emotions
- ❖ identifying and sharing their feelings with others and making friends
- ❖ identifying and being able to talk to someone they trust
- ❖ being aware that their feelings and actions have an impact on others
- ❖ using simple rules for dealing with strangers and for resisting pressure when they feel uncomfortable or at risk
- ❖ knowing the basic rules for keeping themselves safe and healthy
- ❖ developing ideas of non-stereotype gender roles

### **Parental Withdrawal**

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from SRE. However, this right does not extend to education within the statutory National Curriculum. Since SRE is not given as a separate subject at St James' Church of England Aided Infant School, in practice there is no part of the school's curriculum from which parents have the right to withdraw their children. However, the school and

its governors recognise that there may remain sensitivities. Therefore parents who are unhappy about aspects of the delivery and/or content of SRE within the curriculum have the right to discuss this with the headteacher.

May 2016

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