

St John's Catholic Primary School



RELATIONSHIP AND SEX EDUCATION POLICY

“Christ is the Centre of our School Community where we live, love and learn together”

St. John's Catholic Primary School has 305 pupils on role. The majority of pupils come from the Kirkdale area of the city. The school is a Roman Catholic school and the vast majority of pupils are from Catholic families. Our policies and teaching must reflect the values and teachings of the Catholic Church, and our own Archdiocesan guidelines.

The Relationship and Sex Education programme will contribute to the requirements of Section 1 of the 1988 Education Reform Act and will promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils.

This policy sets out the approach to Relationship and Sex Education at St. John's Primary School, in line with National and Local guidelines, but also in accordance with our own Mission Statement:

“Christ is the centre of our school community where we live, love and learn together.”

Respect for life, love and knowledge is part of our sacred trust to develop the dignity of every child and ensure 'Every Child Matters'.

Aims

At St. John's Catholic Primary School we aim to provide our children with the knowledge, understanding and skills that enable them to make the sort of choices that lead to a healthy lifestyle and develop to their full potential. Our Relationship and Sex Education programme teaches children about respectful relationships, care and consideration for themselves and others, personal hygiene, parts of the body, puberty and change. The programme will provide a foundation for further development in secondary school.

Relationship and Sex Education will be:

- Appropriate to the age and stage of development of the individual.
- Taught with sensitivity and sympathy towards individual, personal and family circumstances in order to avoid any hurt or distress.

Objectives

The objectives of our Relationship and Sex Education programme are:

- To provide our children with knowledge and information about puberty and change, feelings, relationships, reproduction and responsibility.
- To help children respect their own bodies and in so doing reduce the likelihood of abuse or teenage pregnancy.
- To encourage children to become more self-confident so that they are able to make sensible and informed choices about their lives.
- To ensure that children are taught about sex and relationships in a consistent manner following guidelines that have been agreed by the LA, parents, governors and staff.

The National Healthy Schools Standard

The school aspires to reach the National Healthy Schools Standard for Relationship and Sex Education.

With the criteria in mind, we endeavour to:

- Consult with parents, governors, LA and Health professionals on all matters of the Relationship and Sex Education policy.
- Listen to the views of parents and pupils regarding sex education and thus constantly evaluate the success of the programme delivered.
- Assess the needs of both teachers and pupils on a regular basis.
- Use local initiatives and information to update practice.
- Monitor the delivery of Relationship and Sex Education.

Content

We at St. John's Catholic Primary School regard Relationship and Sex Education as a whole school issue, and believe that opportunities to teach about the importance of living a healthy lifestyle occur through the curriculum.

Topics and themes will be revisited. The content of the programme will be based on 'Health for Life' and the 'All that I Am' DVDs produced by the Birmingham Archdiocese.

At Key Stage 1 children are taught:

- That animals, including humans, move, feed, grow, use their senses and reproduce.
- To recognise and compare the main external parts of the bodies of humans.
- That humans and animals can produce offspring and these grow into adults.
- To recognise similarities and differences between themselves and others and to treat others with sensitivity.

At Key Stage 2 children are taught:

- That the life processes common to humans and other animals include nutrition, growth and reproduction.
- About the main stages of the human cycle.

The above elements represent the statutory minimum that schools must deliver to all children.

Early Years

The schools' Sex and Relationships Education programme runs from Early Years, initially covering parts of the body and who is allowed to touch their body. Children are taught to respect themselves and others.

Additional Needs

The school is aware that due consideration should be given to the educational entitlement of all the children in its care and that they are taught appropriately.

The Role of the Headteacher

It is the responsibility of the Headteacher that all staff and parents are informed about this policy and that it is implemented effectively. It is also the Headteacher's role to ensure that all staff have appropriate support and training so that they can teach effectively with sensitivity and understanding.

The Headteacher will liaise with external agencies and the LA regarding the school's Relationship and Sex Education programme and thus ensure that all adults who work with children on these issues are aware of the school policy and work within its framework.

The Headteacher will monitor the policy, in conjunction with the PSHE Coordinator, on a regular basis and report to the Governors on request.

The Role of the Governors

The governing body has the responsibility of setting down these general guidelines on Relationship and Sex Education, and will support the parents about the Relationship and Relationship policy.

Role of the Parents

We wish to build positive partnerships with the parents of our children and this can only be achieved through mutual trust and cooperation.

We aim to:

- Inform parents about the school's Relationship and Sex Education policy, programme and practice.
- Invite parents to view the materials and resources used to teach Relationship and Sex Education.

- Answer parental questions about Relationship and Sex Education and where necessary signpost a parent to the relevant support agencies.
- Encourage parents to be involved in reviewing this policy and implementing modifications.
- Inform parents about best practice with regard to current Relationship and Sex Education so that they may support key messages being given to the children in the school.
- Inform parents of their right to withdraw pupils from any area of Relationship and Sex Education that is not taught under the Science curriculum.

The Role of the Coordinator

The Coordinator will regularly attend LA meetings and courses. They will keep the Headteacher, Governors and staff informed on up to date trends and good practice.

Assessment

Teachers will make assessment on progress in knowledge, understanding and skills. These assessments will inform future planning and delivery.

Monitoring

Monitoring in PSHE should be both formal and informal, and may involve the scrutinising of planning, classroom observation, peer teaching, sampling of work and discussions with the children.

The teacher(s) responsible will have a written record of their planning for the delivery and implementation of the Relationship and Sex Education programme and will evaluate the programme and its delivery after implementation.

Confidentiality

Children have rights under the Children's Act 1989 and can thus expect incidents of issues of a sexual nature to be treated sensitively. However, no one can give guarantees of confidentiality where the safety and welfare of a child is at risk.

Child Protection

If any disclosure occurs during a health-based lesson and concerns are raised, teachers will follow the school's procedure for Child Protection.

Teachers have a duty of care and so any incident or potential incident (e.g. involving abuse) must be treated as a Child Protection issue.

Links to other policies

Other school policies which have relevance to Relationships and Sex are:

- PSHE/Citizenship
- Equal Opportunities
- Child Protection
- Behaviour Management/Anti bullying
- Drug Education
- Science

Specific Issues

If an individual child asks a difficult or explicit question, classroom teachers can address the issue raised by the individual later. The governors will be expected to support individual teachers in using their discretion and skills in these situations. Staff will be able to consult the Headteacher if concerned.

Sanitary Disposal Units are located in the cubicles of the Year 5 and 6 girls' toilets. Girls requiring sanitary protection are able to obtain this from the school office.

The school will follow the procedure outlined by the City Council with regard for supporting pupils or staff affected by HIV/AIDS.

Any person wishing to complain about aspects of the Relationship and Sex Education programme will be asked to do so to the Headteacher, who will then report to the Governors.

Review

This policy will be reviewed annually, unless there are changes to the National and Local guidelines prior to this.