

# **St Joseph's Primary School**

## **Sex and Relationships Education Policy**

***To live, love and learn in a caring Christian community.***

### **Introduction**

This policy document embraces all that underpins our school's aims and objectives and our mission statement in its desire to provide our pupils with an education that helps them to prepare for adult life. The children at St Joseph's are given every opportunity, help and encouragement to develop academically, emotionally, physically, socially and spiritually to their full potential.

### **What is SRE?**

SRE is lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is the understanding of the importance of marriage and family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care.

In our school, we recognise each of our pupils as unique persons, created in the image of God and intended to live life to the full. Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) reflects the Christian values of our Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education programme, and is taught in the context of relationships. SRE promotes children's self-esteem and emotional wellbeing. It helps them to form and maintain worthwhile and satisfying relationships, based on respect for themselves and for others, at home, at school and in the community. It develops pupils' knowledge, skills and attitudes so that they make informed choices about their behaviour, feel confident and competent about acting on these choices, and move with confidence from childhood through to adolescence.

### **Aims and objectives**

The aims and objectives of our SRE programme are:

- To encourage the development of self-respect and self-worth, recognising that each of us is created in the image of God
- To promote an awareness of relationships with other people, respecting the rights and feelings of others; developing loving, caring relationships as friends, parents and members of a family and community
- To enable pupils to have an understanding that love is central to relationships
- To promote an appreciation of the nature, purposes and value of marriage and the family
- To develop positive values and a moral framework which will guide pupil's choices, judgements and behaviour into adolescence and adult life
- To present the facts about lifestyle choices in order for all pupils to then make informed judgements and to be prepared for the demands of life in the 21st century
- To enable pupils to have an understanding of themselves, their bodies and their emotional and physical development

## **Organisation of SRE**

SRE is taught through the science curriculum, in Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship education (PSHCE) and through the RE scheme of work.

There are three main elements to our SRE programme:

- Gaining knowledge and understanding
- Developing positive attitudes and values
- Extending personal and social skills

Class teachers have the main responsibility for delivering the SRE curriculum; however they plan and liaise with other specialists (the school nurse, Crucial Crew) to ensure pupils receive an up to date and balanced programme of education. Year 6 pupils also receive additional specific sex education teaching through the use of the 'Journey of Love' scheme of work. These sessions are usually taught in single sex groups to respect the needs of the children.

## **Partnership with parents/carers**

Most of a pupil's informal sex and relationships education occurs within the family and the school's programme aims to complement and build on this. The school shares with the parents the responsibility to provide positive and prudent sex and relationship education. Parents in Year 6 are provided with the materials to be used in lessons. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from some, or all, SRE lessons but not statutory science lessons. If a parent/carer wishes to withdraw their child they need to have a discussion with the head teacher, so that he/she can be made aware of the reasons and provide alternative arrangements. The school aims to keep pupils safe and protect them from exploitation.

## **Inclusion Statement**

In our school, we have a commitment to ensure that our programme is relevant to all pupils and is taught in a way that is age and stage appropriate.

## **Confidentiality and Safeguarding**

Some pupils may choose to mention specific problems or individual issues involving themselves or members of the school community. While staff will want to be supportive, it is made clear to all staff they work within child protection guidelines (see Child Protection policy) and therefore must state to their pupils that they may not be able to guarantee confidentiality. Any safeguarding issues will be passed to the head who is the designated officer for child protection.

## **Monitoring & Review**

The PSHE subject leader will monitor teaching and learning in accordance with school policy. Implementation will be monitored by the Head teacher and PSHE subject leader and reported on to the Governing Body.

This policy is reviewed annually

ACJ February 2019