



Relationship and Sex (RSE) Education Policy

This policy is intended to ensure consistency across the school in terms of Relationships and Sex Education teaching and learning.

Introduction

We have based our school's sex education policy on the DfE guidance document Sex and Relationship Education Guidance (ref DfE 0116/2000). In this document, sex education is defined as *'learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about understanding the importance of marriage for family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care.'*

At Christ Church CE Primary School we refer to Relationship and Sex Education (RSE); we place the emphasis upon relationships, supporting pupils understanding and skill in developing positive and healthy relationships. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality, and sexual health'.

RSE is part of the personal, social and health education (PSHE) curriculum in our school. While we use sex education to inform children about sexual issues, we do this with regard to matters of morality and individual responsibility, and in a way that allows children to ask and explore moral questions. We do not use sex education as a means of promoting any form of sexual orientation or sexual behaviour. We are sensitive to the fact that families make different life style choices, some are in long term relationships, others are not.

Ofsted 2002 recommendations have informed our policy and practice, in particular 'A caring and developmental RSE programme needs to be more than just biology and the fundamentals of reproduction.' Young people want reassurance about their body image, behaviour, feelings and relationships. They also need knowledge and skills appropriate to their level of maturity and developmental needs.

- Our policy and practice is based upon national guidance and is consistent with Shropshire Council recommendations. It is cross referenced and consistent with the PSHE policy, Equalities policy, the Behaviour policy and the Child Protection policy.

Equal Opportunities

At Christ Church CE Primary School the notion of equality of opportunity is highly valued. The RSE curriculum should offer children the opportunity to clarify and develop their attitudes and values relating to gender roles and stereotyping.

RSE education may help to counteract certain assumptions and influences in society such as: females being more passive than males; women always being the homemaker; men always working as the "breadwinner" and males being aggressive and dominant.

Child Protection Procedure

The Child Protection Procedures as laid down by Shropshire County Council will be followed. All referrals, whatever their origin must be taken seriously and must be considered with an open mind, which does not pre-judge the situation. The procedures adopted for handling cases of neglect, physical, emotional, sexual abuse and failure to thrive involving children and

young persons, are based on the principle that the interests and welfare of the child or young person are of paramount importance.

Confidentiality must not prevent action if the child is 'at risk'. Teachers will listen sympathetically to anything a child tells them in confidence. However, if a teacher feels that a child is at risk then the appropriate people will be contacted in accordance with the above Child Protection Procedures, a copy of which is available for parents in school.

For further guidance refer to the Child Protection Policy.

The Social, Ethnic and Religious Mix of the School

We aim to fulfill the educational needs of the children who are represented in the local community. The children come from a varied cross section of the local community and represent different social, ethnic and religious values, beliefs and customs.

Disability

When the school has children with special needs who require special assistance their needs will be fully considered & their parents consulted.

Whole School approach

It is our belief that RSE is the responsibility of all staff and should be an integral part of the teaching and learning process in order to prepare children to cope with the physical and emotional challenges of growing up and give them an elementary understanding of human reproduction. It should be provided for all children including those with physical, emotional or learning difficulties. We believe it should encourage the exploration of values and moral issues, along with considerations of sexuality, sexual health and relationships. It should develop decision-making and communication skills, foster self-esteem, self-awareness and respect for oneself and others.

Questions will be responded to as they arise in a straightforward way, giving simple and correct information, using correct terminology for body part and functions appropriate to the age of the child. This includes questions in sensitive areas, which may arise during the learning undertaken through the scheme of work. School staff have the right not to feel under pressure to answer difficult questions on the spot and will use distancing techniques such as referring the question to a question box, allowing time for discussion about the most appropriate way to answer.

Any concerns arising concerning a child or any indications that a child or children are at risk of harm or in danger will be discussed with the head teacher or child protection lead in accordance with the Child Protection policy.

Organisation- agreed procedure

The main delivery of RSE is through PSHE, but some aspects are also taught through other subject areas such as science and PE. It is taught by the class teacher, and where possible a Teaching Assistant or other member of staff to provide a gender balance. Some elements may be taught to small groups which may be single gender. The Respect Yourself Transition Programme will be taught specifically to years 5 & 6. The school nurse will be asked to support by offering question and answer sessions where possible.

In PSHE we teach pupils about relationships and encourage children to discuss issues. We teach the parts of the body, how they work and how we change as we grow. We encourage children to ask for help if they require it, providing reassurance that change is part of life's cycle. In year 5 and 6 there is a greater emphasis on the changes that occur due to puberty and the understanding of body parts and these are taught through the Shropshire RSE Transition Project as part of the Shropshire Respect Yourself scheme of work.

In science lessons in Key Stage 1 the children are taught about how humans change and grow and how a baby is born. For this aspect we follow the guidance material in the national scheme of work for science. In Key Stage 2 we teach about life processes and the main stages of the human life cycle in greater depth.

Aims

RSE in our school is part of the personal, social and health education curriculum. This is integrated within the wider school curriculum and complements and overlaps with the general ethos and life of the school.

In planning and presenting our RSE programme we provide the opportunity for pupils to express themselves within a trusted and safe environment, following agreed ground rules. We want to reassure children of their value and self-worth including aspects of dignity, self-respect and self-restraint, help them to have a responsible attitude towards personal relationships including mutual respect and care and to develop sensitivity towards the needs of others, provide knowledge of loving relationships and human reproductive process.

We aim to inform children on matters of personal hygiene and related health issues, encourage exploration of values and moral issues taking into account physical and moral risks associated with certain behaviour, educate against discrimination and prejudice and help prepare children to make informed choices about relationships.

We offer a planned and appropriate scheme of work, devised to meet the following aims and objectives:

- To give accurate and objective information and dispel some of mixed messages which children may have received from a variety of sources from pre-school onwards. This information will be presented in the context of family life, of loving relationships and respect for others as well as their own bodies.
- To capitalise on the fascination that primary school children have for wanting to study themselves, their own pattern of growth and development and reassure them that such changes are normal.
- To work with parents to provide a well balanced viewpoint on all aspects of RSE for children so that their social, emotional and physical health is safeguarded, and thus benefit each family and every member in it.
- Foster a culture of acceptance and openness where questions and discussion can take place without embarrassment. It is expected that within each classroom with the class teacher such a supportive environment will already exist.
- Establish what the children already know and understand, identify what their needs are and then follow a curriculum plan that is progressive, differentiated and sensitive to individual and group needs.
- Create opportunities for children to study themselves and their pattern of growth and development and provide reassurance that change is part of life's cycle.
- Give children support in adjusting to changes and help them to accept the variation in rates of growth and development.

- Develop skills in personal relationships e.g. communication, assertiveness, decision-making, and build and develop self-esteem by helping children to understand their responsibilities, rights, opportunities and choices.
- Help children to understand the value of family life, develop an appreciation of how much parents contribute to their lives and understand the need for the proper care of all young things.
- Ensure any disclosure is confidential unless it is felt that it would be detrimental to the welfare of the child. See links with Child Protection Policy.
- Ensure children are able to understand the information that they acquire and provide them with contexts where they are able to consider and evaluate the information they receive.
- Help children gain the knowledge, confidence and language to discuss and form positive relationships which can be assessed using baseline questionnaires and end of unit assessments.

We teach children about:

the physical development of their bodies as they grow into adults, reassuring them that such changes are normal and the correct terminology for body parts ;
 the need to discuss RSE issues, at home or school, without embarrassment;
 counteracting misleading or false information and challenging sexism or prejudice;
 the way humans reproduce;
 respect for their own bodies and the importance of sexual activity as part of a committed, long-term, and loving relationship;
 the importance of family life and proper care of all young creatures;
 moral questions;
 relationship issues, including issues of self esteem and assertiveness;
 equal opportunity issues;
 exploring attitudes and emotions;
 respect for the views of other people;
 what they should do if they are worried about any sexual matter.

Home/School Partnership

Children are exposed to information and messages from TV, internet, film, music videos, books and magazines. They are influenced by family and friends and significant adults. Part of our role is to ensure that children are able to understand and not misinterpret the information they acquire and to provide contexts where they are able to consider and evaluate the information they receive.

We believe that parents have the primary role in delivering relationship and sex education. We aim to provide a programme in partnership, ensuring all pupils receive high quality provision in line with national good practice recommendations.

It is hoped that the school curriculum and the ethos of the school complements and enhances home teaching and values, giving due regard to the value of family life and loving and stable relationships.

We provide parents with opportunities to discuss the school's policy and practice. Parents will be informed about the timing of the delivery and offered an opportunity to look at resources. Parents are encouraged to discuss and ask questions.

Under the terms of the 1993 Education Act, parents have the right to withdraw their child from part, or whole of the RSE programme that does not form part of the national curriculum. If a parent wishes to do this they should discuss this with the head teacher. We would encourage parents to discuss any concerns at the earliest opportunity with class teacher and head. The Head will discuss the implications of withdrawal from the non-statutory part of the curriculum.

Parents should make it clear which aspect of the programme they do not wish their child to participate in and put this in writing. In the event of a child being withdrawn from a lesson the child must stay in school and will be assigned to another class until the RSE lesson is over.

Resources and information regarding further support and help will be made available to support discussion at home. We aim to run the Speakeasy course every two years, this is for parents to enable them to talk with their children about sexual matters. Any parents with concerns about this policy should discuss this directly with the head teacher.

Role of the Head Teacher

It is the responsibility of the head to ensure that:

- Policy and practice is developed in accordance with good practice guidelines and recommendations.
- The policy is reviewed, monitored and approved by governors.
- Staff and parents are informed about the policy.
- Staff receive appropriate training and support.
- External visitors and agencies adhere to the Visitors policy.
- Staff and governors will review the RSE Policy every two years.

Key websites:

www.teachernet.gov.uk/pshe

www.wiredforhealth.gov.uk

Sex Education Forum (www.ncb.org.uk/sef).

Is this working?

Do all children take part in the Y5&6 Transition Programme?

What do parents feedback to school about the programme?

Are pupils engaged & interested?

Do pupils know the appropriate words for body parts & are they comfortable using them?

The Standards, Curriculum and Safeguarding Committee of the governing body monitors our relationships & sex education policy on a regular basis. This committee reports its findings and recommendations to the full governing body, as necessary, if the policy needs modification. The Standards & Curriculum Committee gives serious consideration to any comments from parents about the relationship and sex education programme, and makes a record of all such comments.

Governors require the Headteacher to keep a written record, giving details of the content and delivery of the sex education programme that we teach in our school. This policy has been reviewed and updated with teaching and support staff, and approved by the school governors. It will be reviewed every two years.

Evaluation of the Y5&6 Transition Programme at Christ Church CE Primary School

Name of staff member completing form:

Date:

How was the programme organised & delivered this year?

What worked really well?

How would you change the programme to improve it for next year's children?

What parts of the programme were the children most/ least comfortable with?

What questions did the children ask?