



Secure in faith, learning together

Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

Psalm 119 verse 105

Sex and Relationships Policy

Date: January 2018

Review Date: January 2021

Mission Statement

St Thomas' is a Voluntary Aided School serving children from a broadly Christian background. Our Mission Statement states that at St Thomas' CE School we are:

**Secure in Faith
Learning Together**

The School Values are forgiveness, respect, service and truthfulness

Member(s) of staff responsible:

Kath Crawley (DHT & SMSC lead))

Judith Jones (HT)

Malcolm Taylor (CoG)

Description of School

Saint Thomas's is a Voluntary Aided CE Primary school. The school aims to educate children in a Christian ethos respecting all cultures, religions and celebrating difference. Children come from both dual and single parent families and are generally well nourished and cared for.

What is Sex and Relationship Education?

At St Thomas' Church of England Primary School, the definition of Sex and Relationship Education is understood as

"Lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development and the understanding of the importance of marriage for family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care."

Aims and Objectives of the policy

The aims of the sex and relationship education programme will be delivered at St Thomas' Church of England School in the context of the school's Christian ethos and values. The Governors seek to provide a well-balanced programme of sex education that reflects the age and maturity of both girls and boys. Sex is not only a given fact of human existence but, in Christian belief, a gift of God as part of creation. It is important that as children grow up, they understand their own bodies, instincts and feelings. As the pupils mature and become more sexually aware, our school aims to teach sex education within a Christian context of love, faithfulness and forgiveness.

Sex and Relationship education in this school will contribute to the new National Curriculum as from 1st September 2014. This requires all maintained schools to develop a programme of PSHCE that “will help young people learn to respect themselves and others and move with confidence from childhood through adolescence into adulthood.”

Our aim is to provide a balanced and broadly based curriculum that:

- Promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society.
- Prepares pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.
- Where pupils develop an understanding of what is and what is not acceptable in a relationship.

The school will work towards these aims in partnership with parents. This policy will ensure that each child receives accurate non-biased information, which will enable them to make decisions about their own sexual health and to be sensitive and understanding of the decisions that other people make. This programme will be developmental according to the age and ability of the children, and will provide a foundation for future work within secondary school.

Morals and Values Framework

The Sex and Relationship Education programme will reflect the school Christian ethos and demonstrate and encourage the following values. Part of maturity is learning to deal with failure in ourselves and others and realising that in strong relationships mistakes or wrong choices can be followed by repentance.

- Respect for self.
- Respect for others.
- Responsibility for their own actions.
- Responsibility for their family, friends, school and the wider community.

Equal Opportunities

This Sex and Relationship Education programme is an entitlement for all pupils. Nobody will be excluded by the school because of race, gender, religion or sexual orientation.

Organisation of the School Sex and Relationship Education

Sex and Relationship education will be taught by the class teacher. Inappropriate materials will not be used and responses to questions will receive careful responses. It will be taught:

- As a topic in the SMSC curriculum from the Foundation Stage through to Year 6.
- Through planned aspects of the science curriculum.
- Through story and circle time.
- Through planned visits by parents, babies etc.
- Through planned work with the school nurse.

- The relationship aspect of the programme may also be occasionally delivered through collective worship.

Teaching Methods

Teaching & learning will be sensitive to individual needs and will focus on, and support the children's self-esteem. The work will always start with the children's understanding and the work will be planned appropriately.

Ground rules will be established at the start of each unit of work. These will be:

- **No-one (teacher or pupil) will have to answer a personal question.**
- **No-one will be forced to take part in any discussion.**
- **Only the correct name for body parts will be used.**
- **Meanings of words will be explained in a sensible and factual way.**

Evaluations

The Sex and Relationship Education programme will be evaluated through informal pupil evaluations and self-assessments. These will be carried at the end of each unit. These will then inform future planning.

Specific Issues Statements:

Child Protection: The school has a child protection policy, which is available on request. Should a teacher be directly approached by a child who is sexually active, then this will be dealt with as a child protection issue and will be reported to the designated safeguarding teacher (Judith Jones/ Kath Crawley)

Confidentiality: Although parents and children are encouraged to talk to each other, a teacher may keep information and discussions confidential if requested to do so by a pupil. They may then seek guidance from the designated teachers without breaking confidence. Teachers **must** break confidences if it is in the child's best interest to do so. Pupils will be made aware that staff cannot offer unconditional confidentiality, however pupils will be reassured that if confidentiality has to be broken, then they will be told and supported appropriately. In seeking to support the welfare of pupils the usual course for the school is to involve parents. Occasionally this may be against the wishes of the child and/or may place the child at greater risk. On these occasions the school may, in the best interest of the child, act without informing the parents.

Answering children's questions: Children's questions will be dealt with, as in other lessons, in an honest and sensitive manner appropriate to the level of the pupils understanding and religious and cultural background.

Using Visitors: In accordance with the school policy, visitors will be invited to school in order to supplement or complement the programme of work. For example, a mother who is pregnant or who has just had a baby may be invited in, or a midwife. Any materials used by visitors, including health professionals, will be viewed by the class teacher beforehand. The class teacher will remain with the class during the visitor's contribution to the lesson. A senior member of staff will have been informed.

Withdrawing pupils: Under the Education Act 1993, pupils can be withdrawn by their parents from any part of the Sex and Relationships programme which is not within the National

Curriculum. Parents wishing to exercise this right should discuss their concerns and arrangements for the child with the head or class teacher.

Working with Parents: The school is widely committed to working in partnership with parents and will endeavour to consult parents as widely as possible on the development and review of the Sex and Relationship Education policy.

Concerns

Any complaints should be taken to the class teacher, if the teacher cannot resolve the situation then the head teacher should be informed.

Procedures for policy monitoring and evaluation

This policy will be monitored every three years.

Signed Malcolm Taylor Chair of Governors

Signed Judith Jones Head Teacher

Signed Kath Crawley SMSC Lead Teacher & Deputy Head

THE LAW

Education Act 1996 Part V, Chapter 4, sections 403-404

Education Act 1993 Section 241 (Parents' Right to withdraw)

Education Act 1996 Part V, Chapter 4, Section 405

Valuing All God's Children 2017