



St Paul's C/E Infant School and Sure Start Children's Centre
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Policy for Sex and Relationship Education

Introduction

We have based our school's sex education policy on the most recent guidance document Sex and Relationship Education (ref DfEE 0116/2000). We await the outcome of the DfE consultation proposing that schools are required to teach relationships education at primary school, relationships and sex education at secondary school and health education at all state-funded schools.

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. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality, and sexual health'. Sex education is part of the explicit and hidden 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.

Aims and objectives

At St Paul's we aim to:-

- Develop the appropriate skills knowledge and understanding in this area

We achieve this through the ethos/hidden curriculum of our school and through teaching children about:

- Animals, including humans - movement, feeding, growth, sense and reproduction (Science)
- Recognition and names of the main external parts of the human body - penis, testicles and breasts. These terms are introduced in Year R and revised in years 1 and 2 (This is the only part of our work that we consider to be sex education)
- That humans can produce offspring and these grow into adults (Science)
- Recognition of similarities and differences between themselves and others (Science, ethos and family links work)
- Likes and dislikes (ethos and family links work)
- How to treat other people with sensitivity (ethos and family work)
- Ourselves (ethos and family links work)
- People who help us (ethos and family links work)
- Families (ethos and family links work)

Context

We teach sex education in the context of the school's aims and values framework. In particular, we teach sex and relationship education in the belief that:

- Sex education should be taught in the context of family life.
- Sex education is part of a wider social, personal, spiritual and moral education process.
- Children should be taught to have respect for their own bodies – this includes learning about appropriate touch and saying "no".
- Children should learn about their responsibilities to others.
- It is important to build positive relationships with others, involving trust and respect
- Children need to learn the importance of self-control.

Organisation

We teach the basis of sex and relationship education through different aspects of the curriculum. We carry out much of the teaching for this area in our family links work. We also teach through other subject areas, for example, science and PE, which we feel can contribute significantly to a child's knowledge and understanding of his or her own body, and how it is changing and developing.

The role of parents

The school is well aware that the primary role in children's sex education lies with parents and carers. We wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents of children at our school through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation.

In promoting this objective we:

- Inform parents about the school's sex education policy and practice;
- Answer any questions that parents may have about the sex education of their child;
- Take seriously any issue that parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy or the arrangements for sex education in the school;
- Encourage parents to be involved in reviewing the school policy and making modifications to it as necessary;
- Inform parents about the best practice known with regard to sex education, so that the teaching in school supports the key messages that parents and carers give to children at home. We believe that, through this mutual exchange of knowledge and information, children will benefit from being given consistent messages about their changing body and their increasing responsibilities.

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from all or part of the sex education programme that we teach in our school. If a parent wishes their child to be withdrawn from sex education lessons, they should discuss this with the Headteacher or classteacher, and make it clear which aspects of the programme they do not wish their child to participate in. The school always complies with the wishes of parents in this regard.

Confidentiality

Teachers conduct sex education lessons in a sensitive manner and in confidence. However, if a child makes a reference to being involved, or likely to be involved in sexual activity, then the teacher will take the matter seriously and deal with it as a safeguarding matter. Staff will respond in a similar way if a child indicates that they may have been a victim of abuse. In these circumstances staff follow safeguarding procedures, set out in our safeguarding policy.

The role of the headteacher

It is the responsibility of the headteacher to ensure that both staff and parents are informed about our sex education policy, and that the policy is implemented effectively. It is also the headteacher's responsibility to ensure that members of staff are given sufficient training, so that they can teach effectively and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity.

The headteacher monitors this policy on a regular basis and reports to governors, when requested, on the effectiveness of the policy.