



ST.PETER'S R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL



SRE Policy

MISSION STATEMENT



St. Peter's Catholic School Mission is that pupils, parents staff, governors and parish build together a learning community which develops love, concern for each other and forgiveness, by living out the Gospel.

This means our school will be a place which:

- ☺ encourages children to live as children
- ☺ welcomes, values and respects the innocence of childhood and the individual's strengths and weaknesses
- ☺ encourages each to use his/her gifts and talents for self fulfilment and the good of all
- ☺ fosters knowledge, experience and understanding
- ☺ celebrates that we are each made in the image and likeness of God
- ☺ fosters prayer, trust in God and an understanding of His love through the Gospel of Jesus Christ, encouraging our respect for all His people

Member(s) of staff with responsibility for SRE:
Miss Ailish Lavelle (RE Coordinator)
Miss Marna du Bruyn (Coordinator and Deputy Head teacher)
Mrs O'Regan (Head teacher)

Background information:

At St Peter's Primary School we recognise and believe that children should be given the opportunity to discuss and learn about their growth and development in an informal way and come to appreciate, respect and value their minds and bodies as gifts from God and, as a consequence, respect others throughout their lives. The gift of life is God's greatest gift to us.

Aims and objectives:

This policy is a working document which provides guidance and information on all aspects of SRE in the school for staff, parents/carers and governors.

Aims:

- We aim to offer the children a curriculum which will help them develop spiritually, intellectually, morally, socially and culturally in preparation for their adult life. Sex education is integral to this process. It is our faith that God created everything, the earth, plants, animals and especially human life.
- To provide accurate knowledge about physical, mental and emotional development.
- To enable our pupils to better understand the nature of human relationships.
- To enable pupils to see the importance of marriage and stable loving relationships for the bringing up of children.
- To prepare pupils for the changes that occur to their bodies, minds and emotions as a consequence of growth from childhood to adulthood.

Objectives:

- Establish a coherent programme of sex education as a developing contribution to the school curriculum.
- Establish progression of learning in relation to other areas of the curriculum with sensitivity to the needs of students at different stages of development.
- Create an atmosphere of sensitivity to the feelings and beliefs of students.

Moral and Values framework:

It is our faith that God created everything –the Earth, plants, animal life and, especially, human life. For human beings, this is a wonderful gift from God to each one of us-God has given us our sexuality. This is something we should have the greatest respect for-respect of our own body and those of others.

- Young people can be naturally attracted to one another-friendships/close friendships/they can have girl friends or boy friends if they wish.
- They can, if they wish, fall in love and if they want to, they can receive the sacrament of marriage.
- Within married love they can use and enjoy God's wonderful gift of sex. Sexual intercourse is a loving act-pleasurable for both partners-expressing their love and can mean the conception and birth of a new life.

Equal Opportunities Statement:

The School is committed to the provision of SRE to all of its pupils. Equal time and provision will be allocated for all groups but there may be occasions where children with Special Educational Needs are given extra support.

Content:

Key Stage 1:

- To understand the importance of valuing themselves and other.
- To recognise their membership of the family and recognise the roles of individual families.
- To understand growth and know themselves as male and female.
- To be able to name the main external part of the body.
- To recognise that babies have special individual needs.
- To appreciate relationships, friends, family, working together, sharing and playing together.
- To know about rituals that mark life especially birth, marriage and death.
- To know about being safe.
- To know the difference between good and bad touching.
- To have an awareness of personal health and safety, and personal hygiene.

Key Stage 2:

- To value themselves as a gift from God, and their body as God's gift to them.
- To understand that they grow and change throughout life.
- To understand what is meant by relationships within families, friends and communities.
- To develop an appreciation of what is involved in bringing up children and what responsibilities parents have.
- To become aware of the different patterns of friendship.
- To know that sacraments celebrated in Church, marking birth, marriage and death.
- To be aware of their changing emotions and the need to respect other peoples' emotions and feelings.
- To begin to know about and understand the changes that come about puberty.
- To know and understand their own bodies and their need for personal hygiene.
- To know the names for parts of the body.
- To know the basic biology of human reproduction.
- To appreciate that life is precious and a gift from God.
- To become aware of the choices they make and that there are good choices and wrong choices.
- To recognise the importance of forgiveness in relationships.

In year 5, the following programme is covered with the aid of BBC educational video, which is sensitive to religious beliefs.

Programme1: Growing and Puberty.

Programme2: Someone new-Birth.

Programme3: Life Begins.

Parents are informed that children are taking part in the programme and are asked to discuss the programme with their children when they are at home. They are given the choices to withdraw their child from all or part of the Sex and Relationships Education provided at school except for those parts included in statutory National Curriculum Science. Children are given opportunities to ask questions which have been raised from the programme. The nurse and class teacher support the questions.

Assessment and Evaluation:

Elements of the sex education in the science curriculum are assessed formally. Assessment and evaluation of the SRE programme outside the science order is conducted using a variety of informal activities which have been built into the programme. It is both peer and self assessment.

Confidentiality and Child Protection Issues:

As a general rule a child's confidentiality is maintained by the teacher or member of staff concerned. If this member of staff believes that the child is at risk or in danger, she/he talks to the Headteacher/Deputy Head teacher who is the named Child Protection Officer. All members of staff follow the Child Protection policy and procedures and act accordingly.

Answering difficult questions:

Both formal and informal SRE arising from pupil's questions are answered according to the age and maturity of the pupils concerned. Questions do not have to be answered directly, and can be addressed individually later. The school believes that individual teachers must use their skill and discretion in this area to refer to the designated Child Protection Officer if they are concerned. St Peter's RC Primary believes that SRE meet the needs of all pupils regardless of their developing sexuality and be able to deal honestly and sensitively with sexual orientation, answering appropriate questions in a general informative way.

St.Peter's Governing Body will review this policy in line with the new Diocesan Policy for Relationship and Sex Education.

Date: September 2018

Review Date: September 2021

Chair of Governors: Mr Gerry Franklin