



St Michael's C of E VA Primary School

As a Church School we seek to ensure that the ethos and principles of Christianity underpin the experiences of the children in our care.

“St Michael's is an inclusive school and respects and values the diversity of the Community”.

Sex and Relationships Education Policy

**DRAFT POLICY – awaiting approval from the Governing
Body**

Policy Statement

SRE is a lifelong learning process of acquiring information, developing skills and forming positive beliefs and attitudes about sex, sexuality, relationships and feelings. Effective SRE can make a significant contribution to the development of the personal skills needed by pupils if they are to establish and maintain relationships. It also enables young people to make responsible and informed decisions about their health and well-being.

The 1996 Education Act consolidates all relevant previous legislation and states that all primary schools must provide an up to date policy that describes the content and organisation of SRE provided outside the National Curriculum Science Order. The DfE Sex and Relationship Education Guidance (2000) supports this legislation and recommends that all primary schools should have a sex and relationship education programme tailored to the age and physical and emotional maturity of the children.

Other related policies and documents include the PSHE policy, Anti-Bullying Policy, Drug Education Policy and Child Protection Policy.

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.

Moral and Values Framework

The SRE programme at St Michael's reflects the school's Christian ethos and demonstrates and encourages the following values:

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

Equal Opportunities Statement

The school is committed to the provision of SRE to all of its pupils. Our programme aims to respond to the diversity of children's cultures, faiths and family backgrounds.

Content

Early Years: Children learn the names of different parts of the body and how to be healthy

Key Stage 1: Pupils learn to recognise similarities and differences between themselves and others, identify and share their feelings with each other, recognise safe and unsafe situations and identify and be able to talk to, someone they trust.

Key Stage 2: Pupils learn to express their opinions about relationships, listen to and support others, including respecting other people's viewpoints and beliefs. They learn to recognise their own worth and identify positive things about themselves and try to balance the stresses in life in order to promote their own mental health and the well-being of others. Life processes in humans and other animals are discussed.

Puberty: In Year 5, girls are taught about the physical changes that take place at puberty, why they happen and how to manage them. In Year 6, boys and girls learn about the changes that occur during male and female puberty and the processes of conception.

Organisation

SRE should not be delivered in isolation but firmly embedded in all curriculum areas, including Personal, Social Health Education (PHSE) and citizenship. At St Michael's the *main* content is delivered in PSHE lessons in the summer term as part of the SEAL (Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning) themes of Relationships (1st half of term) and Changes (2nd half of term). This ensures a coherent spiral curriculum. SRE is normally delivered by

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class teachers in mixed gender groups, other than when it is deemed more appropriate for topics to be covered in single sex groups (see above paragraph on puberty).

Occasionally, appropriate and suitably experienced and/or knowledgeable visitors from outside school, such as the School Nurse, may be invited to contribute to the delivery of SRE in school.

Specific issues within SRE

Withdrawal from lessons

Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the sex and relationships education provided at school except for those parts included in statutory National Curriculum. Those parents/carers wishing to exercise this right are invited in to see the Headteacher who will explore any concerns and discuss any impact that withdrawal may have on the child. Once a child has been withdrawn they cannot take part in the SRE programme until the request for withdrawal has been removed.

Confidentiality and Child Protection

As a general rule a child's confidentiality is maintained by the teacher or member of staff concerned. If this person believes that the child is at risk or in danger, she/he talks to the Designated Senior Lead for Child Protection (Mrs Crooks). The school has a separate Child Protection Policy. Effective SRE may bring about disclosures of child protection issues and staff should be aware of the procedures for reporting their concerns.

Controversial and Sensitive Issues

Staff are aware that views around SRE related issues are varied. However, while personal views are respected, all SRE issues are taught without bias. Topics are presented using a variety of views and beliefs so that pupils are able to form their own, informed opinions but also respect others that may have different opinions.

Dealing with Questions

Both formal and informal SRE arising from pupils' questions are answered according to the age and maturity of the pupil 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 and refer to the Designated Senior Lead for Child Protection if they are concerned.

Sexual Identity and Sexual Orientation

St Michael's School believes that SRE should meet the needs of all pupils regardless of their developing sexuality and be able to deal honestly and sensitively with sexual orientation, answer appropriate questions and offer support. Homophobic bullying is dealt with strongly yet sensitively. The school liaises with parents on this issue to reassure them of the content and context.

Dissemination

All staff members and governors receive a copy of the SRE policy. Copies are available from the school office on request from parents.

Policy reviewed by Curriculum Committee

Policy adopted by Governing Body

Policy review due: December 2017