



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School & Nursery

POLICY

Sex & Relationship Education

January 2015

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School & Nursery

SEX & RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION POLICY

Our family at St Joseph's learns, loves & grows with God at the centre

Introduction

Our Catholic faith informs all our teaching and we teach within the guidelines of the Catholic Church. The school sought advice from the Archdiocese of Westminster Education Service (WDES) and the Islington LEA before implementation of the SRE programme in school. Our programme is grounded within a moral and spiritual framework in order to instil in each child: a sense of their own dignity, a respect for and acceptance of this, together with a sense of responsibility.

Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) is seen in St Joseph's Catholic Primary School & Nursery by staff and governors as an important part of a child's development. Children need to develop knowledge and skills and to explore their own, and others values in order to make informed choices.

SRE is about relationships, feelings and behaviour, we therefore support children to explore and appreciate the value of family life and marriage.

We welcome and encourage partnership and cooperation with parents, recognising them as the primary educator of their children.

Consultation Process

The Archdiocese of Westminster Education Service and Islington LEA's PSHE Advisors were consulted about provision of SRE at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School & Nursery, and the school analysed SRE guidance from the DfE and Ofsted in order to develop the policy.

Subsequently the policy will be reviewed annually and consulted on as appropriate

Aims of Sex and Relationship Education

This policy helps ensure that the whole school community (parents, staff, governors and pupils) have a shared understanding of this important area of the curriculum.

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School & Nursery believes SRE to be a lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of marriage for family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care (adapted from DfEE, July 2000).

Content of an SRE Programme

SRE is taught, within the context of the PSHCE Framework and throughout the school as part of the religious education and science curriculum. The teaching of SRE at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School & Nursery has been planned using the guidance on Education for Personal Relationships, published by the Archdiocese of Westminster Education Service, and the new Islington PSHE Curriculum 2014.

- **Where is SRE taught?**

SRE lessons are taught in all year groups.

Should a particular issue arise that is not covered in the programme of study, e.g. contraception, teachers will address this with the individual student if appropriate or refer their questions to their parents.

- **Who teaches SRE?**

SRE is taught in the familiar surroundings of the child's classroom with their class teacher

- **How is SRE taught?**

SRE is taught using a variety of methods. Classes begin by agreeing a set of 'ground rules' which creates a safe environment. These ground rules prevent teachers or pupils being asked any embarrassing, inappropriate or personal questions.

Activities are varied and allow for both small and large group discussions. Some lessons in Year 6 will be taught in single sex groups.

Older children will be given the opportunity to ask questions anonymously at the end of lessons through the use of a question box. Teachers consider the age and maturity of the pupils when answering questions and consider how they relate to the intended learning for that class. These questions will be answered in the next lesson, giving the teacher's time to consider how to answer them, taking into account what is appropriate or inappropriate in a whole class setting. Teachers can ask the advice of the Head teacher, Deputy Head teacher or PSHE coordinator if they are unsure how to deal with a particular question asked by a child. Some questions may be referred to parents or carers to answer at home.

Confidentiality

Teachers will ensure that children are aware that while most issues can be kept confidential, certain disclosures may need to be passed on to the members of staff responsible for Child Protection, if they consider the child to be at risk.

If a discussion raises issues of concern the class teacher will follow the school's child protection procedures.

Evaluation and Assessment

Assessment is an integral part of teaching SRE and enables teachers to measure what pupils have learnt and decide what to teach next. The programme is evaluated to ensure it meets the changing needs of the young people and reflects the views and values of the school community; this is carried out both by teachers and pupils.

SRE, Equal Opportunities and Inclusion

The SRE curriculum has been developed to take into account the diversity of the school population and to meet the needs of the pupils at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School & Nursery. We have consulted with parents and carers to maximise their opportunity for influence over the content and delivery. The teaching materials we use are regularly reviewed to ensure their suitability. The pupils are taught in mixed sex groupings for most SRE lessons although teachers use single sex settings when this is thought to be more appropriate.

Working with Parents and Carers

Parents and carers have an especially important role to play in SRE; they need to feel confident that St Joseph's Catholic Primary School & Nursery's programme compliments and supports their role.

To enable this, an information session for parents is also held to discuss the SRE programme. Teaching resources will be shown and opportunities will be given for discussion and questions.

Parents and carers have the right to withdraw their children (Section 405 of the Education Act 1996) from all or part of a school's SRE programme, except those parts covered by the statutory national curriculum in science.

Parents who have concerns about SRE are encouraged to talk to the class teacher to discuss the programme in detail. If they are still concerned they may wish to arrange an appointment with the head teacher to explore any concerns and discuss any impact that withdrawal may have on the child. If the matter remains unresolved, parents need to notify the Governors in writing, (at least a week before lessons begin) of their intention to withdraw their child from the sex education programme. Once a child has been withdrawn they cannot take part in the SRE programme until the request for withdrawal has been removed.

The Role of the Headteacher

It is the responsibility of the head teacher to ensure that both the staff and parents are informed about our SRE policy, and that the policy is implemented effectively. It is also the head teacher's responsibility to ensure that members of staff are given sufficient training, so that they can deliver the SRE programme effectively, and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity. Training is provided for teachers through school based and centrally provided INSET, through team-teaching and peer observation.

The head teacher monitors the policy and reports to governors, when requested, on the effectiveness of the policy.

Monitoring and Review

The policy and content will be reviewed annually to take into account changing needs of the pupils and parents wishes. This will include monitoring by governing body.

Date of completion: January 2015

Date of review: January 2016

Signed:

This Policy is reviewed Triennially by

The Governing Body

It was last reviewed in

2015

It will next be reviewed in

2018