



Relationships and sex education policy



***Northumberland
County Council***

Presented to Governors Jan 2017. Ratified Spring Term 2017

Tritlington C of E Aided First School

Ethos

Reflecting the Trust Deed, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church at parish and diocesan level.

The school will aim to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers all pupils.

These values include love, caring, sharing, forgiveness, tolerance, perseverance and goodwill to all people.

We aim to ensure everyone reaches their full potential by providing an education that stretches the mind, strengthens the body, enriches the imagination, nourishes the spirit, encourages the will to do good and opens the heart to others

Relationships and Sex Education Policy

Rationale

The objective of relationship and sex education is to help and support young people through their physical, emotional and moral development. A successful programme, firmly embedded in personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE), will help young people learn to respect themselves and others and move with confidence from childhood through adolescence into adulthood.

Sex and relationship education should contribute to promoting the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at school and of society and preparing pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

Pupils need to be given accurate information and helped to develop skills to enable them to understand difference and respect themselves and others and for the purpose also of preventing and removing prejudice.

The PSHE framework will help pupils develop the skills and understanding they need to live confident, healthy and independent lives. It will play an important role, alongside other aspects of the curriculum and school life, in helping pupils deal with difficult moral and social questions. (Department for Education)

Our aims:

- ❖ To provide relationship and sex education in a way which encourages pupils to have a positive regard for moral order and value for family life
- ❖ To ensure children acquire accurate knowledge, which is set in the context of caring relationships, with the emphasis on responsibility, mutual respect and care for other individuals.
- ❖ To develop in children a positive self-image, and a growing sense of responsibility for themselves and others.
- ❖ To help them acquire a suitable vocabulary to talk about how they grow and change.
- ❖ To provide opportunities for children to become confident in discussing and communicating openly, freely and appropriately about these matters.
- ❖ To combat ignorance and provide an increasing understanding at a level appropriate for each child's development.

How we will teach Relationships and Sex Education

The combined PSHE and Citizenship framework at Key Stages 1 and 2 is developed through four broad themes and makes clear what is appropriate in the early primary years and the transition year.

The four themes are:

- ❖ Developing confidence and responsibility and making the most of pupils' abilities
- ❖ Preparing to play an active role as citizens
- ❖ Developing a healthier, safer lifestyle and
- ❖ Developing good relationships and respecting differences between people

At primary school level relationship and sex education should contribute to the foundation of PSHE and Citizenship by ensuring that all children:

- ❖ Develop confidence in talking, listening and thinking about feelings and relationships
- ❖ Are able to name parts of the body and describe how their bodies work
- ❖ Can protect themselves and ask for help and support.

For the school's inclusive vision to be realised, we believe that high quality relationship and sex education (RSE) provision is central to developing healthy relationships and behaviours where children are able to assess and manage risk.

To meet the children's needs RSE will be integrated into relevant areas of the curriculum; science, RE, PE and as part of personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education. It begins in the Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 with activities based on friends, feelings and families. This is built on in Key Stage 2 where pupils learn about reproduction and relationships. It is expected that full explanations relating to bodily and other changes at puberty will be addressed by the Middle School and will not be a deliberate part of our school curriculum.

We know that questions will arise naturally in all sorts of schoolwork; when talking about animals, plants or family life. Teachers will deal sensitively and appropriately with any questions or concerns from the children in as simple and straightforward a way as possible, according to their age, understanding and emotional development.

Although teachers will be responsible for delivering the RSE provision, there may be occasion when the school nurse, vicar or another member of the wider school community will be invited to assist.

In response to parents, staff and governors concerns about the impact of technology on children, the school also runs regular e-safety workshops.

Context

Relationship and Sex Education is taught in the context of the school's aims and Christian values. RSE in this school means that learners are given an awareness of the moral code and values which underpin positive relationships. In particular RSE is:

- ❖ Taught in the context of marriage and family life
- ❖ Part of a wider social, personal, spiritual and moral education process
- ❖ Learners are taught to have respect for their own bodies

- ❖ About our responsibilities to others
- ❖ Building positive relationships involving trust and respect
- ❖ The importance of self control.

By the end of Key Stage 1 learners will have been taught:

- ❖ That humans develop at different rates
- ❖ That humans produce babies and that all babies have specific needs
- ❖ The main external body parts
- ❖ Ways in which people live and work together
- ❖ That individuals have rights over their own bodies
- ❖ To use strategies to maintain their personal safety

By the end of Year 4 learners will have been taught:

- ❖ About the reproductive cycle in plants and animals
- ❖ To explore relationships with family, friends and community
- ❖ To examine how relationships develop
- ❖ How to undertake responsibility for their own personal safety

Organisation

Relationship and Sex Education is taught through different aspects of the curriculum. While the main RSE teaching is carried out in PSHE curriculum, some is also taught through other subjects such as Science and Physical Education where it is felt it would significantly contribute to the learner's knowledge and understanding of their own body and how it is changing and developing.

In PSHE learners are taught about relationships and they are encouraged to discuss issues. We encourage learners to ask for help if they need it.

Tritlington follows the guidance materials in the National Curriculum scheme of work for Science. In Key Stage 1 learners are taught about how animals, including humans, move, feed, grow and reproduce, and also the main parts of the body. Learners appreciate the differences between people and how to show respect for each other. In Key Stage 2 life processes are taught in greater depth.

We liaise with the Local Health Authority and Local Healthy Schools Team about suitable teaching materials to use with learners during these lessons.

The School Health Advisor may be involved with planning and delivering aspects of Sex and Relationships Education in Year 4, often focusing on personal hygiene. Parents and carers would be informed prior to this taking place and encouraged to discuss issues at home.

The Role of Parents

The School is well aware that the primary role in learner's Relationship and Sex Education lies with parents and carers. We wish to build a positive and supporting

relationship with parents and carers of all children at the school through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation.

In promoting this we will:

- ❖ Inform parents and carers about the Relationships and Sex Education Policy and our practice
- ❖ Answer any questions that parents and carers may have about the Relationships and Sex Education provision
- ❖ Take seriously any issues parents and carers raise with staff or governors about this Policy or the arrangements for RSE provision we have in school
- ❖ Encourage parents and carers to be involved in reviewing the Policy Statement and making modifications if necessary
- ❖ Inform parents and carers about the best practice known with regard to RSE so that teaching in school supports the key messages that parents and carers are giving at home.

We believe that, through this mutual exchange of knowledge and information, the children will benefit from being given consistent messages about their changing bodies and their increasing responsibilities.

Parents and carers have the right to withdraw their child from all or part of the Sex and Relationships Education programme that is taught in school. If a parent or carer wishes that their child should be withdrawn they should discuss this with the Headteacher and make it clear which aspects of the programme they do not wish their child to participate in. The School will always comply with the wishes of the parent or carer in this regard.

Confidentiality

If a child indicates that they may have been a victim of abuse this matter will be taken seriously and dealt with as a disclosure.

In such circumstances the member of staff will speak to the Designated Person for Child Protection as a matter of urgency. The Child Protection Policy will be initiated and the disclosure dealt with in line with the specified protocols and procedures.

See Child Protection Policy for further details.

The Role of the Headteacher

It is the responsibility of the Headteacher to ensure that both staff and parents are informed about the Relationships and Sex Education policy and that it is implemented effectively. It is also the Headteacher's responsibility to ensure that members of staff are given sufficient training so that they can deliver RSE effectively and handle any difficult issues sensitively.

The Headteacher liaises with external agencies regarding the Sex and Relationships Education programme and ensures that all adults who work with learners on these issues are aware of the policy statement and that they work within this framework.

The Headteacher monitors this policy statement on a regular basis and reports to the Governing Body, when requested, on the effectiveness of this policy.

Monitoring and Review

The Headteacher monitors this policy statement on a regular basis and reports to the Governing Body, when requested, on the effectiveness of this policy.

The Curriculum Committee will monitor any issues that may arise or comments from parents or carers about the Relationships and Sex Education programme. A written record and serious consideration of all such incidents or comments will be made.

The Headteacher will keep a written record, giving details of the content and delivery of the Sex and Relationships Education programme that is taught in school.

Sex and Relationships Education Co-ordinator: Mrs H Hughes)

Designated Person Child Protection: Mrs H Hughes)

Second Designated Person Child Protection: Mrs. K Stephenson

Reviewed January 2018