



St Barnabas C.E Primary School

Sex and Relationships Policy

The Education Reform Act states that the curriculum should 'promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils and of society; and prepare such pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.'

Sex and Relationships education is an important part of this entitlement. It is, however, an umbrella term for all the teaching and learning we offer pupils to understand our own and others' sexuality and to develop skills for relationships and informed decisions. We aim to deliver it within the context of a broad and balanced programme of health education.

Aims

- We will ensure that Sex and Relationships Education is fully integrated into the curriculum and not isolated or over-emphasised. It should help foster self-esteem and respect for others, the cornerstone of good health education. A partnership of sensitive support should be formed between caring adults, governors, teachers, ancillary staff and parents. Children should be enabled to accept their own and others' sexuality and be allowed to enjoy relationships of trust and respect. An atmosphere must also be generated where questions and discussion on sexual matters can take place without embarrassment.
- Effective teaching of Sex and Relationships education will add to the pupils' knowledge of the body, of human growth and development, of families, parenting and life cycles, of safety and child protection and of the other helping agencies.
- It will also enable pupils to improve self-esteem, make more informed decisions, take responsibility, recognise personal skills and develop relationships, self-confidence and assertiveness where necessary.

Within the whole school environment, pupils should be given frequent opportunities to work on feelings and to practise personal skills. We value the learning that occurs in the community and the home, believing that these are essential elements of Sex and Relationships Education. It is important to involve, where possible, and certainly to inform parents about the Sex and Relationships Education programme within the curriculum of particular age groups. Parents have the right to ask to withdraw their child from Sex Education. (See Oxfordshire Curriculum Matters 9 for further guidance. For information on child protection and confidentiality see OCC guidance pp22-23.)

Objectives

- To discover what pupils know, understand, think and feel and to identify their needs.
- To understand the value of a loving relationship as a context for sex and parenting.
- To understand the value of family life, the demands of parenthood and the needs of the very young.
- To generate an atmosphere where questions and discussion on sexual matters can take place without embarrassment.
- To provide constant reassurance that change is part of growing up and to give help in adjusting to these changes.
- To understand and respect the varied cultural and religious influences on individual sexuality.

- To help children affirm their rights, to be able to resist unwanted touch or advances and to communicate about such matters.
- To develop awareness of sexual identity, to challenge sexism and prejudice in society and promote equal opportunities.
- To be aware of sources of help and to acquire the skills and confidence to use them. Teaching should complement and support the role of the parents in helping children to cope with growing up. All staff are aware of the child protection policy and procedures.

Content

We believe that Sex and Relationships Education is a natural part of health education and should start when children enter school. Children begin to study and name different parts of the body in the nursery class. Children are introduced to animals life cycles e.g. butterfly, frog.

At Years 3 and 4 the governors have agreed that children should be told simple facts about changes in the human body at puberty as well as facts about conception and the growth of the baby in the womb. They will be given the opportunity to ask questions. Any child who indicates that they require more detailed knowledge would be asked to speak to the teacher after the lesson, when their question could be answered in more detail.

At Year 5 pupils learn in detail about puberty and the way it affects boys and girls. This is delivered by the school nurse with the class teacher present.

In Year 6 the school nurse visits for two sessions one to revisit puberty and the second to learn about fertilization, conception and pregnancy. They talk about changes in feelings and relationships.

We realise that for some children sex and relationships education could be a sensitive subject. We therefore provide sex and relationship education in the classroom environment with trusted staff and the school nurse. The children are given an opportunity to ask questions publicly and privately. Other members of staff are asked to respect these sessions. Where there is concern about possible abuse, staff will follow the school's child protection procedures.

Designated Teacher: Karen Donaghey and Helen Manley

Date agreed by staff: October 2017

Date agreed by the Governing Body: October 2017

Date of review: 2020