



SAINT JOHN'S

# Relationship and Sex Education Policy

Designated Member of Staff	Inclusion Lead
Committee with responsibility	Curriculum and Standards
Date of Issue	Summer 2020
Frequency of Review	Annual

Issue Number	Issue Date	Summary of Changes
1	February 2022	Re-formatting of the policy
2	May 2023	Reviewed and ratified by governors at T5 FGB
3	July 2024	Reviewed and ratified by governors at T6 FGB

## **SEX AND RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION POLICY**

### **The Ethos of the School**

The ethos of Saint John's CE Primary School is to be a place where "we all flourish" and, as such, aims to provide a stimulating and caring environment in which each child may experience high standards of education and preparation for the future, working in partnership with parents and the local community. The Policy for Relationship and Sex Education is written in accordance with this ethos.

Saint John's aims to fulfill the educational needs of as wide a group of children as are represented in the local community. The children come from a varied cross section of the local community and represent different social, ethnic and religious values, beliefs and customs.

The following issues are considered prior to Relationship and Sex Education lessons commencing:

- Withdrawal from sex education lessons
- Use of external visitors
- Resources
- Ideas for involving parents and guardians
- Time allocation
- Teacher responsibility

### **Aims and Objectives of the Policy**

- To reassure children of their value and self-worth including aspects of dignity, self-respect and self-restraint
- To nurture a responsible attitude towards personal relationships including aspects of mutual respect and care and to develop sensitivity towards the needs of others encompassing fidelity and loyalty
- To provide knowledge of loving relationships
- To provide knowledge of human reproductive processes
- To inform children on matters of personal hygiene and related health issues
- To encourage exploration of values and moral issues taking into account physical and moral risks associated with certain behaviour
- To educate against discrimination and prejudice
- To empower children to make informed choices about relationships

This will support the following school policies:

- Equality Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- PSHE Policy

## **Lessons**

Relationship and Sex Education takes place towards the end of the academic year during the Summer term. It is taught by the class teacher, through Yr 1 to 6. The main focus of the lessons takes place through teacher led sessions followed by discussions and the answering of appropriate questions. The school nurse may also be involved in the implementation of lessons.

## **Moral and Values Framework**

Relationship and Sex Education will be sensitive towards the established morals and values framework of all the major world religions and philosophies. In its implementation, it will draw from the practical experiences of those who represent the various religious and philosophical groups within the local community.

## **Equal Opportunities**

In support of the equal opportunities policy, all Saint John's CE Primary School pupils, regardless of age, ability, sex or race, will have the same opportunities to benefit from the resources and teaching methods.

## **Methodology and Approach**

There will be a whole school approach – from Reception to Year 6. In Reception, this subject will be taught in a cross-curricular way, encompassing all of the elements within the Early Years Foundation Stage, whereas from Y1 to Y6 it will be taught as a separate lesson. The content will discuss human relationships, human emotional and physical development and reproduction, risks of sexual activity and sexuality.

Teachers will answer children's direct questions in an open and factual way. However, teachers will not enter into discussions about personal issues and lifestyles. Teachers have agreed to answer all age appropriate questions relating to relationship and sex education or to seek external advice.

## **Specific Classroom Arrangements**

All relationship and sex education will be taught in mixed sex classes. Children will know that they are free to question further and discuss issues with their own or another teacher.

## **Resources and Criteria Used for their Selection**

Relationship and Sex Education is primarily taught through the Coram Life Education SCARF (Safety, Caring, Achievement, Resilience, Friendship) scheme of work Y1-Y6 with a key theme 'Growing and Changing' with some Gloucestershire Healthy Living and Learning (GHLL) resources, as well as appropriate resources from the Science scheme of work.

All resources have been chosen by the PSHE Lead in consultation with teachers and governors. Advice was also taken from a PSHE Consultant.

## **Specific Issues**

### **Child Sex Abuse Procedure**

The Child Protection Procedures as laid down by the LA and our Safeguarding Policy will be followed. All referrals, whatever their origin, must be taken seriously and must be considered with an open mind, which does not pre-judge the situation. The procedures adopted within the LA for handling cases of neglect, physical, emotional, sexual abuse and failure to thrive involving children and young persons, are based on the principle that the interests and welfare of the child or young person are of paramount importance.

Confidentiality must not prevent action if the child is 'at risk'. Teachers will listen sympathetically to anything a child tells them in confidence. However, if a teacher feels that a child is at risk then the appropriate people will be contacted in accordance with our Child Protection Procedures, a copy of which is available for parents in school and on the school website.

### **Child Withdrawal Procedure**

Relationship and Sex Education at Saint John's is to be taught as separate lessons during the Summer Term. Notification is sent to parents in advance of such lessons. If a parent feels it necessary to withdraw their child, it will be arranged for the parent to come to school and discuss their concerns with the class teacher or Headteacher.

In the event of a child being withdrawn from a lesson, the child must stay in school and will be assigned to another class until the relationship and sex education lesson is over.

### **Procedures for the Involvement of Health Professionals and Visitors**

All visiting Health Professionals and other visitors will only be involved in the implementation of the Relationship and Sex Education lessons after detailed consultation concerning lesson content and method of teaching. The class teacher will remain in the lesson throughout.