

St Mary's Church of England Primary School
Sex Education Policy

Date of policy:	March 2024
Responsible body:	Governing Body
Review date:	March 2027
Consultation:	This policy has been created following consultation with parents, staff and governors of the school.

Ethos statement

Our school is committed to bringing out the best in each other so that every member of the school community can know 'life in all its fullness' (John 10:10). Through learning of the teachings of Jesus, we believe that our children can explore and develop their understanding of Core Christian values as markers and guides for their own lives. We aim for the school's Core Christian values to inform and influence our pupils' moral compass and allow them to enjoy 'life in all its fullness'. These values are known as the 'Sunshine 6'. They are: Forgiveness, Perseverance, Honesty, Compassion, Courage and Respect.

Context

St Mary's CofE Primary School is a two-form entry primary school for children between the ages of four and eleven. It aims to fulfil the educational needs of all its children. Our children come from a cross-section of the local community and represent a range of abilities; diverse social, cultural and faith groups and families with a variety of values, beliefs and customs. This policy aims to be sensitive and respectful towards our school community.

This policy has been informed by the following guidance:

Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education (DfE 2021)
Parental Engagement on Relationships Education (DfE 2019)
The National Curriculum (DfE 2014)

Aims

- To provide knowledge of human reproductive processes.
- To enable the children to understand the physical, emotional and social changes of puberty.
- To inform the children on matters of personal hygiene and related health issues.
- To provide children with a foundation of knowledge which will aid further study in secondary education and help empower them to make informed and safe choices in their future lives.
- To consider the importance of committed, caring and loving relationships, and to develop sensitivity towards the needs of others, encompassing fidelity and loyalty.
- To encourage the exploration of values and moral issues and to be aware and respectful of the various religious and cultural views of sexual behaviour.

Organisation of teaching

Sex Education will be taught through the delivery of statutory content for the Science National Curriculum (2014). Where necessary, the curriculum will be adapted to meet each child's needs so it is accessible to all.

Teachers will use the policy and schemes of work for Science and elements from the school's Relationships Education curriculum to deliver age-appropriate teaching. There will be a whole-school approach from Reception to Year 6. This subject will be taught in a way which encompasses all relevant elements of the National Curriculum as well as the broader themes identified in this policy.

Sex Education will usually be taught in mixed sex classes although there are some opportunities for single sex teaching. The class teacher will answer questions, as they arise, factually and sensitively within the context. They will take into account of the maturity of the child, the philosophy, aims and objectives of the school and religious and cultural factors. They will seek to clarify any misconceptions subject to specific guidelines from the school's Senior Leadership Team.

There may be occasional lessons in which health professionals will be invited to address the children in the presence of the class teacher. Notification will always be sent to parents in advance of such lessons and the content of these will be scrutinised so they are consistent with the school's provision.

Curriculum provision for the teaching of Sex Education is detailed in the table below:

YEAR GROUP	CONTENT
RECEPTION	Parts of the body
YEAR 1	Ourselves – similarities and differences Plants – reproduction/ germination
YEAR 2	Ourselves and other animals – know that living things have babies, know how animals change as they get older
YEAR 3	Parts of the body Green plants
YEAR 4	Micro-organisms – comparing living things, importance of hygiene
YEAR 5	Being Healthy Changes occurring during puberty Animal reproduction Human reproduction: the human body and sexual organs
YEAR 6	Functions of flower parts. Reproduction of plants

Monitoring and evaluation

The school reviews the effectiveness and impact of its Sex Education curriculum as part of its usual operating procedures and the outcomes are used to improve and develop the school's work in this area.

Parents

Parents/guardians have the legal right to withdraw their child from some aspects of Sex Education. This request must be made in writing. Parents considering this are encouraged to discuss their concerns with the Headteacher in the first instance.

Responsibility for implementing the Sex Education policy rests with the school's Governing Body. Parents contribute to the review and evaluation of the policy through a series of engagement exercises. The Headteacher and staff welcome feedback from parents on an ongoing basis in respect of the content that is being taught in this school.

Sex Education at St Mary's is taught as part of other curriculum subjects (specifically Science). In Year 5, parents will be informed in advance when specifically identified Sex Education lessons are being taught and invited to a meeting prior to the teaching of these lessons. This is intended to provide an understanding of the content and programmes of study which will be covered and to have the opportunity to view the teaching materials that will be used.

The teaching of this curriculum area is included in the curriculum newsletters that each family receives throughout the year so parents and carers are aware of the specific areas being taught in that term.

Safeguarding

Adults delivering the Sex Education curriculum will follow the school's standard safeguarding procedures if they receive a disclosure from a child that causes concern for their safety and welfare. These are contained within the school's Safeguarding and Child Protection policy, a copy of which is available on the school's website.

Accessibility of the policy

This policy is placed on the school website and referred to within the school's Prospectus. It will be reviewed every three years or earlier if the statutory requirements asked of the school change.