



## St Andrew's C.E. Primary School

### Personal Relationships Policy

July 2018

#### School Motto:

Respect, Achievement, Fun.

#### Mission Statement:

We celebrate the uniqueness of each child, educating and nurturing them in a safe, happy and Christian environment. We want each child to reach their full potential along a creative learning journey, providing exciting and challenging learning opportunities that will remain with them for life and enhance our future working community.

#### Introduction

At St. Andrew's opportunities are provided which promote attitudes and skills which give children a sense of identity. Through a rich variety of experiences pupils will understand the importance of responsibility as an individual and as a part of wider groups. The learning opportunities that they encounter will prepare pupils to play an informed and active role as citizens.

Sex Education is not approached in isolation from other areas of the school's curriculum or indeed other aspects of school life. It is firmly rooted in the framework for PSHE and aspects of human development (including reproduction) will be taught progressively through the National Curriculum for Science. Although there are limits as to what will be taught at Primary level, issues will be discussed which support pupils through their physical, emotional, social and moral development. In an area where parents are not always confident, we will provide support, in order to provide opportunities to help pupils move with assurance from childhood to adolescence.

*(PSHCE = Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education)*

#### Aims

- To provide pupils with the knowledge, skills and understanding that they need to live healthy and independent lives
- To develop an understanding of difference, respect for self and others
- To deliver knowledge and skills, which reflect the parents' wishes
- To explore the role of family life, and stable loving relationships for nurturing young children (the diversity of family types within our society will be explored and none shall be presented as being morally superior to another)
- To examine the value of respect, love and care.
- To understand that organisms including humans; move, grow, use their senses and reproduce.

- To recognize similarities and differences between themselves and others and treat others with sensitivity.
- To develop an understanding of the main stages of the human life cycle.
- To inform pupils of both sexes of the physical and emotional changes that are experienced in puberty.
- To learn about the reasons for delaying sexual activity and the benefits to be gained from such delay.

### **Achieving policy aims**

National Curriculum Science clearly has a major role to play in providing opportunities for sex education. Throughout Key stages 1 and 2 children will be taught about the main stages involved in the life cycle of humans and other organisms.

PSHE and Citizenship will be delivered through cross-curricular opportunities and circle time. Social issues, feelings and relationships will be explored progressively throughout the school.

Religious Education allows pupils to reflect about customs and traditions associated with family life. Children will also explore the values, which are central to caring and loving relationships.

### **Dealing with Questions**

If Sex Education is to be addressed effectively in school then pupils will have the confidence to think, listen and talk about issues related to personal relationships. For teachers to be involved in lessons, which may lead to discussion about sex and relationships it is agreed that teachers need to work, to clear parameters of what is appropriate and inappropriate.

This element of caution may hardly be required for most of a child's time in primary school, but in unusual circumstances it might be and when the curriculum focuses on puberty it most certainly will be. Teachers at this school have agreed to abide by the following ground rules.

- No teacher or pupil will have to answer a personal question
- No one will be forced to take part in a discussion
- Only the correct names for body parts will be used
- Meanings of words will be explained in a sensible and factual way
- If a question is too explicit, too old for a pupil, inappropriate for the whole class or raises questions of sex abuse the teacher should acknowledge the question as being unsuitable
- If such a situation arises as a result of a genuine exchange the teacher will agree to attend to it later (without promising an answer and perhaps talking to the child in the presence of another adult) so that the child is seen to be treated with respect
- If a teacher is concerned that a child is at risk of sexual abuse then they should immediately follow the school's child protection procedures

### **Consultation with Parents**

Much of what may be discussed during a child's primary education does not require school to consult with parents prior to the event, as material is prescribed by the National Curriculum. However, the school will inform parents of Year 5 and 6 pupils each year before pupils are taught about puberty. Parents will be advised about the contents of the short course, who it

will be delivered by and how. They will be required to complete a consent form before their child can be taught.

### **Year 5 and 6 Presentations**

The Life Education staff will introduce this topic. A short video will be used to start the presentation, focussing on the correct terminology for the male and female body parts. The children will be told of the changes that occur to their body as they enter puberty. The significance of body parts for reproduction will be highlighted.

The emphasis of this topic is to inform the children about the physical and emotional changes that they will experience or have begun to experience in puberty. Information gained will give pupils the knowledge to progress with confidence from childhood to adolescence and hopefully avoid the uncertainties and anxieties that many adults experienced as they grew up without the benefit of such knowledge.

The video will teach pupils about what happens to the male and female body during puberty. There will be an opportunity to ask questions and discuss as a group.

A teacher will be in attendance at all times.

### **Confidentiality**

All Personal Relationship education that takes place at St. Andrew's will be treated with discretion by all children and staff taking part.

### **Governor Involvement**

The governing body has agreed the school's sex and relationship policy. Any future amendments to policy cannot be implemented without the approval of the school governors. The teaching programme for informing Year 5 and 6 pupils about puberty was scrutinized again by the Governing Body in Summer 2018, and it was agreed that the materials were suitable and they are still in use. The named governor for Sex Education is Mr Nick Pitman.

This policy will be reviewed annually.