



Fawkham CE Primary School
Policy for Sex and Relationship Education

July 2023

FAWKHAM C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) Policy

John Chapter 10 Verse 10 – I came that you may have life; life in all its fullness

Our Fawkham Family helps everyone to:-

- Follow in the footsteps of God, with God's love, help and guidance,
- Know that we are all special and different and that God has created us in this unique way
- Feel safe, happy and confident in our loving caring Christian family
- Work together through the living out day by day of our Core Christian Values
- Try our best, with the light of Jesus inspiring us to be the best that we can be ensuring that we flourish

DREAM, BELIEVE, ACHIEVE AT FAWKHAM CEP SCHOOL

We value diversity and promote equal opportunities for all.

1 Introduction

Our school's **Sex and Relationship Education (SRE)** is based on the DfEE guidance document, 'Sex and Relationship Education Guidance' (ref DfEE 0116/2000) and reflects the Christian principles and values that we uphold as a school.

Within this document, Sex education is defined as:

'A lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of marriage for family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality, and sexual health. It is not about the promotion of sexual orientation or sexual activity – this would be inappropriate teaching.'

Included within this definition are clear objectives which are covered in order to achieve a firmly rooted framework for Sex Education. These include:

- 'Helping and supporting young people through their physical, emotional and moral development.'
- 'Helping young people to learn to respect themselves and others and move with confidence from childhood through adolescence into adulthood'
- 'Developing 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.'
- 'Pupils should be taught about the nature and importance of marriage for family life and bringing up children. But the Government recognises – as in the Home Office, Ministerial Group on the Family consultation document "Supporting Families"- that there are strong and mutually supportive relationships outside marriage. Therefore pupils should learn the significance of marriage and stable relationships as key building blocks of community and society. Care needs to be taken to ensure that there is no stigmatisation of children based on their home circumstances'
- 'Pupils need also 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'

Sex education, in terms of reproduction, forms part of the Science Education curriculum in our school during Upper Key Stage 2 teaching.

2 Aims

We teach children about:

1. Attitudes and Values

- the importance of values and individual conscience and moral considerations;
- the value of family life, marriage, and stable and loving relationships for the nurture of children;
- learning the value of respect, love and care;
- exploring, considering and understanding moral dilemmas
- developing critical thinking as part of decision-making

2. Personal and Social Skills

- learning to manage emotions and relationships confidently and sensitively;
- developing self-respect and empathy for others;
- learning to make choices based on an understanding of difference and with an absence of prejudice;
- developing an appreciation of the consequences of choices made;
- managing conflict
- learning how to recognise and avoid exploitation and abuse especially within E-Safety of Upper Key Stage 2

3. Knowledge and Understanding

- learning and understanding physical development at appropriate stages;

3 Context

We teach Sex Education in the context of the school's Christian aims and values. While Sex Education in our school means that we give children information about sexual behaviour, we do this with an awareness of the moral code and values which underpin all our work in school. In particular, we teach Sex Education in the belief that:

- Sex Education should be taught in the context of marriage and family life
- Sex Education is part of a wider social, personal, spiritual and moral education process

- Children should learn about their responsibilities to others in the context of Sex Education

4 Organisation

4.1 We teach some Sex Education through other subject areas (for example, Personal, Social and Health Education), where we feel that they contribute significantly to a child's knowledge and understanding of his or her own body, how it is changing and developing and the effect of these changes on their thoughts and feelings.

4.2 We teach about the parts of the body and how these work, and we explain to them what will happen to their bodies during puberty. For example, we tell the children that boy's voices will change during puberty and we explain about menstruation for girls. We teach the children about relationships and encourage them to discuss issues that may occur as their hormones change during puberty. We ensure the children are aware of the adults available for them to talk to and encourage them to ask for help if they need it. We discuss inappropriate behaviour related to touching and let the children know that they must tell an adult if they are ever inappropriately touched by anyone.

4.3 . The Key Stage 1 programme of study for science shows that in it is a statutory requirement for pupils to be taught to: "notice that animals, including humans, have offspring which grow into adults". The Key Stage 1 programme of study goes on to state: "The focus should be on helping pupils to recognise growth and they should not be expected to understand how reproduction occurs". In Key Stage 1, we teach children within a unit called Animals, Including Humans about movement, feed, growth and reproduction which relates to offspring and we also teach them about the main parts of the body. Children learn to appreciate the differences between people and how to show respect for each other.

In Key Stage 2, we teach about life processes and the main stages of the human life cycle in greater depth In Key Stage 2, the science 'Evolution and Inheritance' programme of study states that children should "recognise that living things produce offspring of the same kind, but normally offspring vary and are not identical to their parents." The Animals including humans programme of study stipulates that children should be able to: "describe the changes as humans develop to old age". Both of these are statutory requirements.

4.4 In Years 5 and 6, we place a particular emphasis on sex education, as many children experience puberty at this age. We use the Bounty DVD, "Growing Up: A guide to Puberty" annually as the basis for our sex education. The Year 5 and 6 teacher as well as the headteacher endeavour to answer all questions with sensitivity and care. By the end of Year 5, we strive to ensure that both boys and

girls know how their bodies change during puberty, what menstruation is, and how it affects women. We always teach this with due regard for the emotional development of the children.

4.5 Children are taught about puberty in same sex groups to allow greater freedom of discussion. Children will experience this aspect of the curriculum in Year 5 and again in Year 6.

4.6 We provide all parents and carers of children in Years 5 and 6 a letter by which we inform them of this particular programme of lessons, to explain what the issues are and how they are taught. This letter also provides parents with the opportunity to see the materials the school uses in its teaching so that discussions can continue effectively at home.

5 Special Educational Needs

Fawkham Church of England Primary School has a duty to ensure that children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities as well as learning difficulties are properly included in sex and relationship education. Sex and relationship education should help all pupils understand their physical and emotional development and enable them to make positive decisions in their lives.

Students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities at Fawkham Church of England School receive sex and relationship education. Teachers may find that they have to be more explicit and plan work in different ways in order to meet the individual needs of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities or learning difficulties.

6 Equal Opportunities

In support of the equal opportunities policy, all Fawkham Church of England School pupils, regardless of age, ability, sex or race will have the same opportunities to benefit from the sex education resources and teaching methods.

7 The Role of Parents

7.1 We wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents of children at our school through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation. In promoting this objective we:

- inform parents about the school's Sex Education Policy and practice
- answer any questions that parents may have about the sex education of their child
- take seriously any issue that parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy or the arrangements for sex education in the school
- make school resources available to parents to support their discussions at home should they feel the need to address issues sooner or later than in school

7.2 Parents have the right to withdraw their child from all or part of the sex education programme that we teach in our school. The school always complies with the wishes of parents in this regard. However, parents cannot withdraw their children from the science components of SRE as the science programme of study is

a statutory requirement.

8 Confidentiality

Teachers conduct Sex Education lessons in a sensitive manner. However, if a child makes a reference to being involved, or likely to be involved in sexual activity, then the teacher will take the matter seriously and deal with it as a matter of Child Protection. Teachers will respond in a similar way if a child indicates that they may have been a victim of abuse. All disclosures will be brought to the attention of the Designated Child Protection Officer within school and the matter will be dealt with in line with the school's Child Protection Procedures (See Child Protection Policy).

9 The Role of the Headteacher

9.1 It is the responsibility of the headteacher as well as the Sex Education Lead to ensure that both staff and parents are informed about our Sex Education policy and that the policy is implemented effectively.

9.2 The headteacher liaises with external agencies regarding the school sex education programme, and ensures that all adults who work with children on these issues are aware of the school policy, and that they work within this framework.

It is the responsibility of all adults within school to reinforce safety messages.

10 Monitoring

It is the responsibility of the PSHE and Science Co-ordinator to oversee and organise the monitoring and evaluation of Sex Education within PSHE and Science, in the context of the overall school plans for monitoring the quality of teaching and learning. However, self-evaluation will also be led by the Headteacher and Year 5/6 Class Teacher yearly.

This policy will be reviewed regularly and updates given to Governors, in line with any new information and guidance that becomes available.

Written by: Mrs Nicki Golding-Williams (SRE Leader)

To be reviewed: July 2024

Signed.....Date.....
(Chair of Governors)

Signed.....Date.....
(Headteacher)