

## **SEX EDUCATION POLICY**

### **Background**

**The governing body of Holy Trinity Church of England Primary School agreed on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2003 that the school should provide sex education for its pupils.**

This policy was drawn up following consultation with parents, staff and governors.

### **The statutory requirements**

- The governing body decides whether or not the school should provide sex education
- The national curriculum requires that the school must provide some sex education because the Science curriculum includes human growth, development and reproduction at key stages 1 and 2.
- Parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of sex education but not from the national curriculum.
- The education act 1986 (2) requires that the governing body and headteacher take such steps as is reasonably practicable to ensure that the sex education programme is delivered in such a manner as to encourage children to have due regard to moral considerations and the value of family life.

As a church school the sex education will be placed within a Christian context of love, faithfulness and forgiveness.

### **Aims of sex education**

1. To provide learning experiences that help children to develop a responsible and caring attitude towards sexual matters.
2. To develop the ability of children to determine their own values within a moral framework and to make decisions about their behaviour which reflects concern for oneself and others.
3. To reduce anxiety by increasing understanding, recognising and valuing individual differences, thereby helping pupils to be better able to manage puberty and develop self esteem to become confident adolescents.
4. To involve parents in the school's education programme.
5. To challenge sexism and prejudice in society and to promote equal opportunities.
6. To facilitate pupil's access to further information, help and advice.

### **Principles underpinning Sexual Health Education**

Sexual health education is the shared responsibility of parent, governors and teachers. Schools have an important role in promoting this partnership. A progressive approach to Sexual Health Education should form an important part of a broad and balanced provision for personal and social education. It is a planned element of the curriculum at key stage 1 and 2, fulfilling the requirements of section 1 of the education reform act 1988.

The Christian values, which the school has identified as central to its commitment to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils, will underpin personal and social education including Sexual Health education.

Learning should:

- Be positive and constructive rather than highlighting problems.
- Reflect the needs of children
- Start from where they are in terms of their understanding and development.
- Respect the privacy of children, staff and parents.

### **The content of the Sexual Health Programme**

#### **Key Stage One**

The content will form part of the Science, PSHE and RE curriculum (see long term plans)

#### **Key stage Two**

Similarly in key Stage Two the science, PSHE and RE curriculum provide opportunities to include aspects of Sexual Health Education.

### **The organisation of Sexual Health Education**

Sexual Health Education may occur within specifically planned lessons, school assemblies and worship and in general class time.

In year Six a major input on Sexual Health Education is included in the science theme for the summer term. Use is made of the Channel 4 series- living and growing, which also has video material appropriate for KS1 and years 3 and 4. The school welcomes the involvement of the school nurse.

The material is introduced to the children in mixed groups, but gender groups are also used to enable children to feel comfortable when discussing issues. The school feels that wherever possible male and female staff should be available for the discussion sessions. The children are encouraged to submit written questions, which may then be dealt with on an individual basis, small group or whole class. Children are also encouraged to discuss certain issues with their parents/carers. The school nurse is also available to provide confidential advice to individuals.

### **Parental involvement**

Parental views were sought during the policy review, especially regarding the video material. All parents will be able to view the video and discuss the programme on a regular basis. The parents of year six children will be notified prior to the commencement of the sexual health programme.

Pupils of all abilities will be provided with the opportunity to access this aspect of the curriculum, in context appropriate to their current needs and experience and with due regard to gender, race and creed. ICT will be used whenever appropriate to enhance planning and delivery of the curriculum and associated activities.

Reviewed by Jon Smith (November 2016)