



St Albert the Great Catholic Primary School

"The more I learn about the world in which I live the closer I grow to God"



POLICY ON SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION (SRE)

The Catholic Ethos of the School

At St. Albert the Great Catholic Primary School we aim to provide the highest quality education and care for all our children. We aim to offer a welcome to each child and family and to provide a warm and caring environment within which all children can learn and develop.

Our school was founded by and is part of the Catholic Church. The school is to be conducted as a Catholic school in accordance with canon law and teachings of the Catholic Church, and in accordance with the Trust Deed of the Archdiocese of Westminster and at all times the school is to serve as a witness to the Catholic faith in Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Aims:

To clarify the content and manner in which sex and relationships education is delivered at St. Albert the Great Catholic Primary School.

To specify knowledge, understanding, positive attitudes, values, extending, personal and social skills to be taught.

Policy Formation and Consultation Process

This policy was drafted by the Head, and Senior Leadership Team Body. It was approved in its various stages by the staff team and by the Governing Body.

Aims of Sex Education Programme

Sex Education at St. Albert the Great Catholic Primary School reflects the aims of the school and the spirit of the Mission Statement.

The programme takes account of our Catholic faith, culture, ethnicity and SEND and is closely linked to R.E. and is based upon the development of the whole child as a unique individual, created and loved by God. It encompasses the values of self-respect and relationships with others. It supports the personal, moral and social development of all children and is underpinned by Gospel values. Children are learning about themselves and others as part of personal development curriculum. The programme is integral to PSHE/RE curriculum.

Curriculum Content

There is no planned, formal, specific sex education until Year 6. From Years 3 - 5, any questions arising in class are answered as openly and as honestly as possible. Parents are contacted if issues have arisen in class, if the teacher feels it is appropriate.

Preparatory work for the Year 6 programme begins in Years 3 - 5, with work on relationships, caring for each other, making choices, etc, as part of the R.E. Programme. Work in Science also helps to build this foundation for Sex Education in Year 6.

Year 6 Programme

The content of the Sex Education Programme is contained in Appendix 1.

Organisation of School Sex Education

Co-ordination - Sex Education is co-ordinated by the Head, R.E. Science and PSHE Co-ordinators. It is delivered in a variety of ways including:-

1. Planned sessions with class teacher/school nurse.
2. Use of videos (subject to prior approval by staff, parents and governors).
3. Sessions arising within R.E./Science/PSHE lessons.

Teaching Methods

Methods used include:

- Time for reflection
- Boundaries / climate setting
- Use of question box
- Discussion.

Most sessions are of an interactive nature, with children being invited to discuss issues and give opinions. Teachers are aware of the great diversity in 'knowledge' already acquired by the children and ensure that those who have not had any previous sex education will not feel identified by others for their lack of knowledge. Teachers are also aware of the possibility of mis-information amongst the children. The programme begins with mixed gender groups, but single gender groups are also used.

Resources

DVD (from school nurse), relevant SEAL themes and RE topics are used.

Resources are available for parents and governors to review in advance of the programme.

Specific Issues

The sex education programme is delivered within the framework of the R.E, Science and PSHE curriculum and is delivered alongside general health education and drugs education.

Withdrawal of Children

The Governors realise that sex education is the prerogative of the parents. Should they wish to exercise it, without the support of the school, parents have the right to withdraw their children from the programme. Parents are invited to discuss this with the Headteacher and are advised of the difficulty of withdrawal from all aspects of the SRE programme, particularly those linked in with R.E, Science and PSHE. However, after discussion, if the parents still wish to withdraw their child, this is carried out with every effort to avoid 'singling out' the child.

Procedures for the Involvement of Parents

Parents are advised of the date for commencement of the programme, and are actively encouraged to attend a meeting at which the content of the programme is discussed, and resources, including videos, are shown. The school nurse is invited to the meeting and may address parents. The meeting is led by the Year 6 teacher.

Confidentiality and Child Protection

Emphasis is placed on the trust invested by parents in staff in the handling of sex education. Children are told that parents have made a conscious decision to include their children in the programme because they are perceived to have a level of maturity and personal development to receive it responsibly. It is, therefore, **not** to be shared with other children in the playground or younger brothers and sisters who have not reached this level of maturity. They **are** encouraged to share their learning with parents.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The sex and relationships education programme is monitored during delivery in the Summer term of each year. This informs the subsequent policy review with staff and governors. Evaluation and assessment are an integral part of SRE.

Equalities

All Year 6 children are included in the programme, unless the parents exercise their right to withdraw or unless the school, in discussion with the parents, believes that the child has not yet reached a suitable level of maturity. This would only be in very exceptional circumstances.

Complaints Procedures

Parents should adopt the school's usual complaints procedure, i.e. through the teacher, then the Key Stage Leader, then Head, then Governing Body.

Catholic Doctrine

All teaching in SRE complies with the doctrine of the Catholic Church.

Dissemination of Policy

All teaching staff and governors have access to the school's current sex education policy. It is available for perusal by parents and other interested parties, on request

Staff CPD

Staff attend CPD as appropriate.

Links with other policies

The following policies are linked to the SRE Education Policy:

- Mission Statement
- Child Protection
- Health and Safety
- Medicines
- Healthy Schools
- PSHE
- Anti-Bullying
- Behaviour
- Equalities Policy

Date approved: Summer 2011

Date for Review: Summer 2012

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