

Worlingham CEVC Primary School

RELATIONSHIP AND SEX EDUCATION POLICY

*Like a tree firmly planted by streams of living water we will grow
in knowledge, love, faith and wisdom. Based on Psalm 1:*



1 Introduction

- 1.1 Our school's policy on Relationship and Sex Education is based on the DfE document 'Relationship and Sex Education Guidance' (DfE 0116/2000).
- 1.2 In the DfE document, Relationship and Sex Education is defined as 'learning about physical, moral and emotional development'. The guidance states, 'It is about understanding 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'.
- 1.3 Relationship and Sex Education is part of the Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) curriculum in our school. When we inform our pupils through relationship education about sexual issues, we do this with regard to morality and individual responsibility, and in a way that allows children to ask and explore moral questions. We do not use Relationship and Sex Education as a means of promoting any form of sexual orientation.

2 Aims and objectives

- 2.1 We teach children about:
 - The physical development of their bodies as they grow into adults.
 - The way humans reproduce.
 - Respect for their own bodies and the importance of sexual activity as part of a committed, long-term, and loving relationship.
 - The importance of family life.
 - Moral questions.
 - Relationship issues.
 - Respect for the views of other people.
 - What they should do if they are worried about any sexual matters.

3 Context

- 3.1 We teach Relationship and Sex Education on the understanding that:
 - It follows the National Curriculum for Science and PSHE.
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/210969/NC_framework_document_-_FINAL.pdf
 - It is taught in the context of family life.
 - It is part of a wider process of social, personal, spiritual and moral education.
 - Children are taught to have respect for themselves and others.
 - Children learn about their responsibilities to others, and how to make informed choices.
 - Children learn the importance of building positive relationships with others, involving trust and respect.

4 The National Healthy School Standard

- 4.1 We participate in the National Healthy School Standard scheme, which promotes health education. As participants in this scheme, we:

- Consult with parents on all matters of health education policy.
- Ensure our teachers are familiar with the current school Relationship and Sex Education policy.
- Listen to the views of the children in our school regarding relationship education.
- Look positively at any local initiatives that support us in providing a high quality Relationship and Sex Education programme.

5 **Curriculum Coverage**

- 5.1 We teach about relationships and sex through different aspects of the curriculum. While we carry out the main Relationship and Sex Education in our personal, social and health education (PSHE) curriculum, we also do some Relationship and Sex Education through other subject areas (e.g. science and PE) which we believe contribute significantly to children's knowledge and understanding of their own bodies, and how they are changing and developing.
- 5.2 In PSHE, we teach children about relationships, and we encourage children to discuss issues. We teach about the parts of the body, and how these work, and we explain to the children changes that will occur as they grow up.
- 5.3 In Key Stage 1, we teach children about how animals, including humans, move, feed, grow and reproduce, and we also teach them about the main parts of the body. Children learn to appreciate the fact that people are not all the same, and that we need to respect each other. In Key Stage 2, we teach about life processes, and the main stages of the human life cycle, including teaching upper Key Stage 2 children in **Years 5 and 6** about how bodies change, with a particular emphasis on health education, as many children experience puberty at this age.
- 5.4 **In Year 6** this includes the fertilisation of the egg by the sperm, and the birth of a baby. This work is supported by **chosen parts** of the resource, 'Sex and Relationship Education' by Molly Potter published by A and C Black. We researched sensitively suitable teaching materials to support this area of teaching and learning. Teachers do their best to answer all questions with sensitivity and care. By the end of Key Stage 2, Year 6, we ensure that both boys and girls know how babies are conceived and born, how bodies change during puberty, what menstruation is, and how it affects women, and the changes that happen to boys. We always teach this with due regard for the emotional development of the children. We encourage the children to ask appropriate questions and will have a questions box available for the children. The sex education for Year 6 pupils is taught in a mixed gender session. A single gender lesson (girls and boys separately) will run a week later to address any appropriately raised questions.
- 5.5 Year 6 pupils are informed that all women and men can have control over when, and if they become parents. It is important to make choices about contraception. Talking with doctors or parents about the choices, is an option.
- Chances of getting pregnant are lowest if a contraception method is used correctly and every time you have sex unless pregnancy is desired.
- There are many methods of contraception including the condom or the pill.
- No one should ever try to persuade someone to have sex. No one should ever put pressure on another person to have sex.
- Teachers are always available if pupils like to know more.
- 5.6 Parents will have an opportunity to view the policy and related material prior to the delivery of this programme of lessons.

6 The role of parents

6.1 The school is well aware that the **primary** role in children's relationship education lies with parents and carers. We therefore wish to build a positive and supportive relationship with the parents of children at our school, through mutual understanding, trust and cooperation. To promote this objective, we:

- Inform parents about the school's Relationship and Sex Education policy and practice.
- Answer any questions that parents may have about the Relationship and Sex Education of their child.
- Take seriously any issue that parents raise with teachers or Governors about this policy, or about the arrangements for Relationship and Sex Education in the school.
- Encourage parents to be involved in reviewing the school policy, and making modifications to it as necessary.
- Inform parents about the best practice known with regard to Relationship and Sex Education, so that the teaching in school supports the key messages that parents and carers give to children at home.

We believe that through this mutual exchange of knowledge and information, children will benefit from being given consistent messages about their changing bodies and their increasing responsibilities.

6.2 Parents have the right to withdraw their child from all or part of the sex education programme that we teach to our Year 6 children in school. If a parent wishes their child to be withdrawn from sex education lessons, they should discuss this with the Headteacher, and make it clear which aspects of the programme they do not wish their child to participate in. The school always complies with the wishes of parents in this regard.

7 The role of other members of the community

We encourage other valued members of the community to work with us to provide advice and support to the children with regard to health education. In particular, members of the Local Health Authority, such as the school nurse and other health professionals, give us valuable support with our sex education programme.

8 Confidentiality

Teachers conduct Relationship and Sex Education lessons in a sensitive manner. However, if a child makes a reference to being involved (or being likely to be involved) in sexual activity, then the teacher will take the reference seriously, and deal with it as a matter of Safeguarding. Teachers will respond in a similar way if a child indicates that they may have been a victim of abuse. They will not try to investigate, but will immediately inform the named person for Safeguarding issues about their concerns. The Senior Designated Person will then deal with the matter in consultation with health care professionals (see our Safeguarding Policy).

9 *The role of the Headteacher*

It is the responsibility of the Headteacher to ensure that both staff and parents are informed about our Relationship and Sex Education Policy, and that the policy is implemented effectively. It is also the Headteacher's responsibility to ensure that members of staff are given sufficient training, so that they can teach about relationships and sex effectively, and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity.