



Sex & Relationships Education (SRE) Policy

This policy document should be considered in the light of our School Mission Statement.

What is SRE?

Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) is lifelong learning about physical, moral, social and emotional development. It is the understanding of the importance of marriage and family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care.

Context

At St. Columba's, our ethos is to educate our children with Christ at the centre, and thus all that we teach is focused upon Catholic values and morals. We recognise each of our pupils as unique individuals, created in the image and likeness of God, and our curriculum reflects the Gospel values of our faith. SRE promotes children's self-esteem and emotional wellbeing. It helps them to form and maintain worthwhile and satisfying relationships, based on respect for themselves and for others, at home, at school and in the community.

The school shares with parents the responsibility to provide positive and prudent sex and relationship education. We believe that it is essential that parents are actively involved and engaged in the teaching of SRE to their children. A letter is sent to all parents inviting them to view material and comment upon it.

Aims

Within a Catholic context, the purpose for teaching SRE at St. Columba's is:

- To engender growth in self-respect and self worth recognising that each of us is created in the image and likeness of God
- To appreciate and understand the role of God our Father as creator of our world and the founder of productive and purposeful relationships
- To enable pupils to have an understanding that love, trust and faith is central to relationships
- To promote an appreciation of the nature, purposes and value of marriage and the family
- To enable pupils to have an understanding of themselves, their bodies and their emotional development
- To enable pupils to reflect and recognise the qualities that helps them to grow, develop and sustain positive and effective relationships

Delivery of SRE

SRE is delivered through the BBC Active SRE scheme, using parts relevant and appropriate for Years 5 and 6 and for boys and girls.

Delivery of SRE is the responsibility of the Class Teacher. However other staff may deliver the programme as appropriate.

SRE Programme content

SRE at the primary phase builds on the personal and social development work carried out to meet the Early Learning Goals at the Foundation Stage. It builds foundation of emotional and social skills which is central to all later SRE work.

At KS1, the SRE programme continues the work from Foundation Stage. It helps to build skills of:

- Developing confidence in talking
- Listening to others
- Thinking about feelings
- Naming emotions
- Developing self-esteem
- Developing assertiveness skills and friendships skills

At KS2, the above skills are developed and pupils look specifically at:

- The changes that will take place at puberty



Legal requirements of SRE

These areas are compulsory in the National Curriculum Science programmes of study at KS1 & 2.

At KS1, pupils are taught:

- That animals including humans move, feed, grow, use of senses and reproduce
- To recognise and compare the main external parts of the body of humans
- That humans can produce babies and that these grow into adults
- To recognise similarities and differences between themselves and others, and treat others with sensitivity

At KS2 pupils are taught:

- That the life processes common to humans and other animals include nutrition, growth and reproduction
- About the main stages of the human life cycle

These compulsory programmes of study are delivered through the 'In the Beginning' Scheme in addition to appropriate Science topics.

Teaching & Learning Approaches

SRE is generally delivered using interactive methods of learning and these include:

- Whole class discussion
- Circle time
- Small group work
- One-to-one

Teaching Sensitive Issues

Puberty

We aim to provide accurate factual information about the physical and emotional changes that take place at puberty. Both boys and girls are given a basic knowledge of what happens to each gender. This is done in gender-based groups for sensitivity and so that each gender receives positive messages about themselves in the context of an adult from their own gender. We also explain that it is normal for everyone to develop at different rates.

Menstruation

We provide accurate information about menstruation in Years 5 and 6. Sensitive arrangements are organised to prepare the girls for menstruation. Sanitary facilities are available on request. Staff are prepared to deal with requests for sanitary towels in a helpful manner and without embarrassment.

Inclusion

We have a commitment to ensuring that all pupils will have equal access to the SRE curriculum, following guidelines in the SEN, Equal Opportunities and Inclusion policies. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the SRE at school, except for those parts included in the National Curriculum Science programmes of study. In such cases, parents must notify the school and alternative arrangements will be made.

Confidentiality

Some pupils may choose to mention specific problems or individual issues involving themselves or members of the school community. While staff will want to be supportive, it is made clear to all staff they work within child protection guidelines (see Child Protection policy) and therefore must state to their pupils that they may not be able to guarantee confidentiality when the wellbeing and safety of a child may be at risk.

Mar 10