

CHARLTON & NEWBOTTLE C of E SCHOOL

Sex and Relationships Education Policy

1) Introduction

It is important for children, as they grow up, to come to an understanding of their own bodies, instincts and feelings. In this way they will be prepared for the opportunities, joys and responsibilities of permanent relationships as adults. Sex is not only a given fact of human existence but, in Christian belief, a gift of God as part of creation. Sex and Relationships Education is part of the Science and the Personal, Social and Health Education curriculum in our school. At all times, the physical development of the children is related to morality and individual responsibility, and sexual issues are dealt with within the Christian context of family life. The Governing Body of Charlton School has decided, in the light of its responsibility for deciding what form sex and relationships education should take, that children in this school should be taught about the physical development of their bodies during puberty, the effects these will have and how babies are made. (From *The Guide to the Law for School Governors*: ‘Governing Bodies (of primary schools) must decide whether sex education should be included in their school’s curriculum and, if so, what it should consist of and how it should be organised.’)

2) Aims and Objectives

The school’s aim is for the children to leave primary school

- knowledgeable about the changes which may be already happening, or about to happen, to their own bodies, and to those of the opposite sex;
- knowledgeable about the act of sexual intercourse within the context of a loving relationship.
- aware of the significance of these changes for their own possible future roles as parents, and of the role they may play as part of God’s Creation and creativity;
- confident and happy with their own bodies.

We teach children about:

- the physical development of their bodies as they grow into adults;
- respect for their own bodies and those of others;
- the importance of family life, placing sexual development within the Christian context of love, faithfulness and forgiveness.
- sexual intercourse within the context of a loving relationship

3) Context

All teaching and learning in Charlton School takes place within the Christian ethos of the school. ‘*Each individual will be encouraged in his or her own personal, spiritual, moral and intellectual development, to grow in self-esteem and to develop good relationships with others.*’ It is part of the general policy of the school that ‘difficult’ questions are always answered honestly, and as fully as seems appropriate.

4) Curriculum: What is taught and when

Sex and Relationships Education is taught through different aspects of the curriculum: some in the Personal, Social and Emotional Health curriculum, and some in Science and PE.

- **In Key Stage 1** as part of the Science curriculum, we teach children about how animals, including humans, move, feed, grow and about life-cycles; we also teach them about parts of the human body including the correct scientific language for the sexual parts of the body eg: penis, vagina, breasts, clitoris, testicles, scrotum and foreskin. Circumcision will be talked about within the context of some boys having a foreskin and some not and this will also be related to the RE curriculum.
- **In Lower Key Stage 2**, as part of Personal, Social and Emotional Health Education, personal hygiene (washing, use of deodorant etc) in relation to changing hormones will be introduced. This will be reinforced in Year 5 when the children move on to learn about puberty.
- **In the second part of the Autumn Term in Year 5**, children will be taught about puberty and the changes to their bodies. The 1st section “Changes” in the video *Living and Growing: Unit 2* will be shown and addressed over the course of a week.

The 2nd section “Boy Talk” in the video *Living and Growing: Unit 3* will also be shown. Both videos go through the changes which happen to boys and girls as they go through puberty.

Girls and boys will receive the same factual information on body changes: hair growth, voice changes, erections, wet dreams, menstruation, breast development etc. The term masturbation will be explained.

The boys and the girls will be separated for some of these sessions so that issues specific to their gender may be talked about in greater detail without them feeling uncomfortable. There will be ample opportunity for questions and discussions which will be dealt with responsibly and sensitively by the teachers.

Any questions about sexual intercourse will **not** be answered at this stage. Children will be told (if they ask) that this will be covered in Year 6 or they can ask their parents.

- **In the Autumn Term of Year 6** the children will be taught about how babies are made. The 2nd section of the video *Living and Growing: Unit 2 (How to Make a Baby)* will be shown in one session. Opportunities for questions and discussion will take place on that day with the teachers being sensitive to the emotional development of the children.

The topic of homosexuality will be treated within the context of it being another example of a type of loving relationship.

Questions will be answered, including those about In-Vitro Fertilisation.

Subjects such as contraception, sexually transmitted infections, abortion, HIV and how a baby is born will not be taught. However if questions are raised with respect to one of these topics, the teacher will either answer them sensitively or advise the child to speak to their parents.

The subjects of oral sex and anal sex will not be discussed and questions relating to these will be referred to parents.

5) Organisation

Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 are taught as usual in mixed classes. Key Stage 1 will be taught on a rolling program so some will receive information in Year 1 and others in Year 2.

In Lower Key Stage 2, as part of the PHSCE curriculum, the children will be taught in a mixed year class. Personal Hygiene will be covered each year for both year groups.

In Upper Key Stage 2, the Year 5s and 6s will be taught by the class teacher separately. Sessions will give as much time for questions and discussion as seems necessary.

The parents of children in Years 5 and 6 are offered an opportunity to come into school and see the videos used in advance.

6) The role of Parents

The school is well aware that the primary role in children's sex and relationships education lies with parents and carers. 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 and relationships education policy and practice;
- write to parents to inform them of specifically when the sex and relationships education will take place so that parents are prepared for possible questions or have the opportunity to have a discussion with their child beforehand.
- answer any questions that parents may have about the sex and relationships education of their child;
- take seriously any issue that parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy or the arrangements for sex and relationships education in the school;
- encourage parents to be involved in reviewing the school policy.

Current law states that parents have the right to withdraw their child from all or part of the Sex and Relationships Education programme that we teach in the school. If a parent wishes to do this, they should discuss it with the head teacher, and make clear which aspect 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 are regularly visited by our local clergy, and 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, particularly the school nurse and other health professionals.

8) Confidentiality

Sex and Relationships Education is conducted in a sensitive manner and in confidence. 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 as a matter of child protection. Teachers will respond in a similar way if a child indicates that he/she may have been a victim of abuse. In these circumstances the teacher will talk to the child as a matter of urgency and go to the head teacher who is the Child Protection Officer. The head teacher will then deal with the matter in consultation with health and care professionals, and in accordance with the school's Child Protection Policy.

Older children are expected to act responsibly and respect the fact that younger children in the school may not have the same information as they do. They are therefore encouraged not to share the information they have received with the younger children in the school.

9) The role of the Head Teacher

It is the responsibility of the head teacher to ensure that both staff and parents are informed about our Sex and Relationships Education policy, and that the policy is implemented effectively. It is also her responsibility to ensure that members of staff are given sufficient training, so that they can teach effectively and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity.

The head teacher liaises with external agencies regarding the school Sex and Relationships Education programme, and ensures that all adults who work with children on these issues are aware of the school's policy, and that they work within this framework.

The head teacher monitors this policy on a regular basis and reports to the governors, when requested, on the effectiveness of the policy.

10) Monitoring and review

The School Improvement Committee of the governing body monitors our Sex and Relationships Education policy on an annual basis, reporting its findings and recommendations to the full governing body, if the policy needs amending. The School Improvement committee takes seriously any comments from parents about this matter, and records them. Governors require the head teacher to keep a written record, giving details of the content and delivery of the Sex and Relationships Education programme that we teach in our school.

