



ST. THOMAS OF CANTERBURY C OF E JUNIOR SCHOOL  
*“Realising the potential of every child within a caring, Christian community”*

## **Relationship and Sex Education Policy 2016/2017**

### **Rationale**

At St Thomas of Canterbury Church of England Junior School we believe Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) should be taught in a manner that is sensitive and relevant to the needs of all the children. Sex education is essential if young people are to understand about their bodies and their feelings. It should prepare children for relationships they may encounter in life and give children an understanding of feelings that may arise in differing situations. We also believe that through the teaching of relationship and sex education we promote lifelong learning about physical, emotional and moral development.

In this policy, sex education is defined as 'learning about physical, moral and emotional development'. 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'. Sex education forms part of the personal, social and health education (PSHE) and science curriculum in our school. While we use sex education to inform children about sexual issues, we do this with regard to matters of morality and individual responsibility, and in a way that allows children to ask and explore moral questions. We do not use sex education as a means of promoting any form of sexual orientation.

### **Compliance Statement**

We at St. Thomas' agree to follow the National Curriculum 2000 guidelines.  
We also support the 'vision statement' in 'Every Learner' (Essex CC, 1992)

"In Essex, every learner is entitled to a curriculum rich and varied, challenging and inspiring which enables every individual to fulfil her/his potential to the highest possible standard; so that all, for the benefit of all, are able to shape their destinies and create a better world."

### **Aims**

- ✓ For children to understand the physical development of their bodies as they grow into adults;
- ✓ For children to understand the feelings and emotions they may encounter during relationships;
- ✓ For children to understand how babies are created and the responsibility of having a child (human reproduction);
- ✓ For children to know there are different types of relationships that people may enter into and to respect the views and choices of other people;
- ✓ For children to respect their own bodies and the importance of sexual activity as part of a committed, long-term, and loving relationship;
- ✓ For children to understand how the media represent relationships and sex and how this often does not match everyday life
- ✓ For children to appreciate that understanding of RSE varies according to age and therefore should not be discussed with children younger than themselves

### **Teaching and Learning**

We teach relationship and sex education (RSE) in the context of the school's aims and values. While relationship and sex education in our school means that we give children information about sexual behaviour, we do this with an awareness of the moral code and values which underpin all our work in school. Any resources or video/DVD material which is used to underpin our teaching of this area is selected for its quality and ensures it openly and sensitively supports our moral Christian values.

For many young people, schools may be the only place where they can receive and make sense of accurate information about sex. As with the rest of the curriculum, we ensure that all children, boys and girls, of all abilities and backgrounds have



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equal access to relationship and sex education. The resources and language used in our teaching reflects the age and maturity of our children.

Throughout Key Stage Two, our children will study a variety of areas in the Science Curriculum under the topics of 'Human Life Cycles' & 'Ourselves and Animals' (Lower School), 'Ourselves and other Animals' (Upper School) and 'Sex Education' (Year 6) -refer to Science scheme of work. The Religious Education scheme of work includes the topic of 'Relationships' and many issues are also informally covered through other curriculum areas, such as PSHE and social and emotional aspects of learning. There may be occasions when specific issues arise and these are dealt with when appropriate.

Relationship and Sex Education is dealt with as a specific subject in the Lower School (Cycle 1) and again in more detail in Year 6, usually in the autumn term. Relationships and Sex education is delivered with an open, honest approach in a caring, Christian manner.

The Year 6 teachers deliver the scheme of work which may include some input from the School Nurse, if necessary. The School Nurse may be accessed as a valuable resource to lead information sessions on personal health and hygiene as well as puberty for children in Year 6. We feel it is appropriate with Sex Education to acknowledge the different emotional and physical development of the two sexes and accommodate them accordingly and sensitively. We, therefore, split the sexes in the teaching of some of the areas covered.

We strive to create an environment where children feel safe and confident to discuss the relevant issues and ask questions. Whilst every effort is made to enable constructive dialogue to take place, no staff member can agree to complete confidentiality. All staff are subject to child protection and safeguarding policies in line with current Keeping Children Safe in Education and SET procedures.

Children are given reasonable opportunities to ask questions during the RSE sessions. School staff will always try and facilitate a confidential and anonymous 'Questions & Answers' session where children can write down and submit questions related to any aspect of RSE. These will be answered sensitively either as a whole class or on a one to one basis depending on the wishes of the child and the nature of the question. We look at questions carefully after each session to decide if they are appropriate to the whole group or should be discussed with individuals who asked.

Our named person for sex related incidents (Child Protection & Safeguarding) is the Headteacher.

### **Inclusion (differentiation)**

All teachers understand that it is their responsibility to make RSE accessible for every child. All SEN/G&T children will be included in the programme of study and have objectives that match their need. In some cases it may be appropriate for children with SEND to have some/ all aspects of the RSE programme delivered in small groups or individually to be sensitive to their learning needs. Some children may need longer to access and understand the language associated with RSE and a chance to discuss this in more depth and detail with an adult. If small group sessions or individual sessions are delivered we will always have two adults present to ensure the safety and integrity of both children and adults.

### **Disability Equality Scheme**

At St Thomas of Canterbury Church of England Junior School we recognise our duties and responsibilities under the Disability Discrimination Act as outlined in our Disability Equality Scheme and Action Plan (December 2007)

It is our aim that through specific and accurate planning, resource allocation, differentiated teaching and use of adult intervention and support (where necessary), that **every** child, irrespective of disability, will have full access to the curriculum and feel and be enabled to participate actively in developing to their full potential their skills, knowledge and understanding. We will ensure that all 'reasonable adjustments' are made to help both children and adults with identified specific needs and disabilities to participate in the learning and teaching of RSE.



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## **Information and Parental Involvement**

At St Thomas of Canterbury Church of England Junior School we encourage parents/carers to be supportive in the learning and teaching of RSE. Parents are informed that sex education will be a specific part of the curriculum and are invited to see the video/DVD programmes that will be shown and to discuss any other relevant parts of the curriculum.

At St Thomas' we do not teach anything extra to that which is required in the National Curriculum and therefore it is a legal requirement for children to attend the lessons. Parents may not withdraw their children. However, we will listen to any parents concerns and reassure them as much as possible.

## **Confidentiality**

Teachers conduct sex education lessons 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 deal with it as a matter of safeguarding and child protection. Teachers will respond in a similar way if a child indicates that they may have been a victim of abuse. In these circumstances the teacher will talk to the child as a matter of urgency. If the teacher has concerns, they will draw their concerns to the attention of the Headteacher completing the yellow 'Child Protection and Safeguarding Reporting of a Concern' form in as much detail as possible. The Headteacher will then deal with the matter in consultation with health care professionals. (*Refer to Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy*)

Due to the nature and topic of RSE lessons children may raise the issue of internet safety, dangers associated with the use of the internet and exposure to explicit or inappropriate material. This will be dealt with in a sensitive but robust manner as and when necessary. Children will access teaching related to e-safety through relevant ICT modules/topics as detailed in the ICT and internet policies.

## **Training & Continued Professional Development**

All in house training delivered will be tailored towards the needs of the children and will fit in with the School Development Plan and priorities of the school. Any INSET will be recorded on the staff meeting agenda and a record of actions will be taken. Any external training will be monitored by the Headteacher and the Headteacher will decide which member of staff will attend training.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

The Science Subject Leader will monitor, evaluate and update the scheme of work and its resources. The RSE policy and the accompanying scheme of work are updated yearly – usually in the Autumn term.

The Headteacher will decide if there needs to be any formal monitoring of RSE. It is the responsibility of the class teachers to monitor the effectiveness of the programme of study and to speak to the Science Subject Leader if they feel it is not meeting the needs of the children.

The School Development Committee of the Governing Body monitors our relationship and sex education policy on an annual basis. The committee reports its findings and recommendations to the full Governing Body, as necessary, if the policy needs modification. The School Development Committee gives serious consideration to any comments from parents/carers about the relationship and sex programme, and makes a record of all such comments.

## **Review**

This policy will be reviewed annually.



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