



St James' Lanehead Church of England Primary School

Sex and Relationships Policy

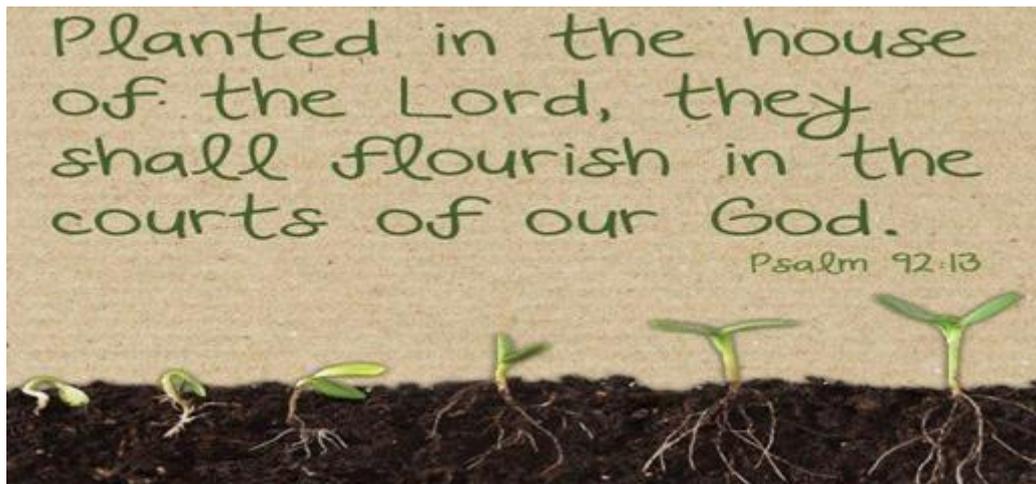
Date of Policy:	November 2018
Person Responsible:	S Irvine
To be reviewed:	Three years
Review Date:	November 2021



St James` Lanehead C of E (VA) Primary School

Mission Statement

Our church school seeks to inspire each individual to flourish, grow and learn with Jesus at the heart of all we do.



St James' Lanehead Church of England Primary School

Sex and Relationships Policy

Introduction

In line with the Government's directive this policy has been determined by the Governing Body in conjunction with the Head Teacher and relevant staff. Significantly this policy places sex education firmly in the context of the importance of relationships as a whole and seeks to develop it as such. It is also taught in the school's Christian context that we are all unique creations made in God's image.

We believe that sex education should be seen as a continuous process contained within the total curriculum. It forms part of St James' Lanehead's personal, social, cultural, spiritual, moral and religious ethos and education. It has an important role to play in fulfilling our commitment to help pupils develop as a whole person within our ethos of being the best that we can be and is part of making St James' Lanehead Primary School a healthy school. In this way SRE seeks to help our children grow by:

- Developing confidence and making the most of their abilities.
- Preparing them to play an active role as citizens.
- Encouraging them to develop a healthy, safer lifestyle.
- Developing good relationships and respecting the differences between people.
- Helping them to lead confident, independent lives.

SRE takes place throughout a child's time at our school, embracing the wider curriculum in a safe and caring environment and looking to develop positive:

- Attitudes and Values.
- Personal and Social skills.
- Knowledge and Understanding.

It is achieved through a whole-school approach, which ensures that the school's policy is appropriately set for the age and maturity of the pupils. This includes;

- Involving parents and carers (please note that St James Lanehead C of E's policy is available to parents who may be consulted about its content in general, as well as contacted in Y6 before the more focused sex education programme is taught).
- Giving staff appropriate training and support.
- Ensuring that pupils' views are listened to.
- Ensuring that everything takes place within an equal opportunity's framework, including sensitive consideration of families cultural and religious beliefs.

As part of sex and relationships education children are taught about the nature and importance of marriage for family life and bringing up children. But we also recognise that there are strong and mutually supportive relationships outside marriage. Therefore, pupils learn the significance of marriage and stable relationships as key building blocks of

community and society. Care is taken that there is no stigmatisation of children based on their home circumstances.

In this way SRE contributes to promoting the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at school and of society and preparing pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life. It is firmly rooted in our approach to citizenship.

We believe that effective SRE does not encourage early sexual experimentation, but rather helps teach young people to understand human sexuality and to respect themselves and others. Within St James' Lanehead C of E. Primary School, we believe SRE should be an early step towards maturity, building self-esteem and confidence and understanding the reasons for delaying sexual activity. It is intended to begin the process of building the knowledge, skills and awareness that are particularly important today because of the many different and conflicting pressures on young people.

The Specific Teaching of Sex Education

We believe that broached sensibly and sensitively, sex education itself is appropriate and relevant for our Year 5/6 children. We feel our approach is of great benefit to our young people, informing them, helping them to sensibly question and preparing them for both their present and their future in a society where issues of health, sex and sexuality are very prevalent, especially through the increasing influence and liberalisation of television.

The purpose of sex education is to provide knowledge about the processes of human reproduction and the nature of sexuality and relationships. At the same time it should lead to the acquisition of skills and attitudes which prepare children to manage their relationships in a responsible and healthy manner. It also provides a very important forum for children to discuss their own issues and ideas, clarifying issues, gaining correct information and reaching balanced views that may help them to avoid potential difficulties in the future.

Therefore, added to the above context SRE for our Year 5/6 children aims:

- To explain changes in the body related to puberty, the varying time scales associated with these and what issues may cause young people anxiety and how they can deal with these.
- To present facts in an objective, balanced and sensitive manner, set within a clear moral framework, which emphasises the importance of relationships.
- To provide a basic knowledge about the purposes of human reproduction (i.e. how a baby is conceived and born).
- To generate an atmosphere where questions about sexuality and reproduction can be asked and answered simply and truthfully and without embarrassment on either side.
- To help children appreciate the value of stable family life and the responsibilities of parenthood.
- To help children appreciate the need for proper care for all young creatures.

- To encourage children to consider the importance of dignity, respect for themselves and sensitivity towards the needs and views of others.
- To help children understand that they have rights and should have control over who touches their bodies and to increase communication skills about these.
- To recognise that parents are key figures and the teaching offered by school should be complementary and supportive to this role.
- To provide a means of developing the total personality of the child, thus helping the overall development of all children into well balanced human beings, who are able to take a responsible role within society.
- Develop meaningful discussions about feelings and relationships and avoid an overly reproductive focus.
- Identify the different needs and learning styles of boys and girls and provide work and discussions in single sex groups whenever appropriate.
- Provide a questions box, so that some questions can be asked anonymously, so that important issues aren't missed through a child's embarrassment.

It is also an essential part of this that pupils are helped to:

- Develop the maturity to discuss more personal subjects.
- Understand the importance of agreed ground rules such as, no one will have to answer a personal question, no one will be forced to join in a discussion, no one will be laughed at, only the correct names for body parts will be used and meanings of words will be explained in a sensible and factual way.
- Talk to an appropriate adult if they have an anxiety knowing that their question will be treated privately.

As part of the ground rules the teacher will also set certain parameters in which the questions will be answered. Where children raise a concern or question that staff consider reflects an inappropriate sexual knowledge, parents will be contacted and/or a referral made to children's social care if it is believed it is a safeguarding issue.

As part of this, teachers may choose to use distancing techniques, whereby pupils are helped to be able to broach more personal subjects by considering them from the view of a third party.

At the end of each session a time for reflection is included.

Organisation

All year groups 1-6 will have sessions deliver from 'Growing up with Yasmine and Tom'. This a FPA scheme of work which was approved by the Governing board and presented to parents in 2017.

Growing up with Yasmine and Tom is an online resource to help you easily deliver high-quality sex and relationships education (SRE) as part of a PSHE programme.

The Department for Education recognises the need for SRE at all key stages and encourages schools to develop their own lesson content with support from expert sources. Growing Up with Yasmine and Tom was developed with this in mind.

It includes 50 flexible, age-appropriate lesson plans and fun, interactive whiteboard activities designed to meet curriculum requirements for children aged 5–11.

Animation, sound and touch-screen activities bring the characters Yasmine and Tom to life, as they cover topics including the body, feelings, relationships, family life and online safety.

The resource is accessed online and available on a yearly subscription basis. A single subscription can be used by every teacher in school, making it a cost-effective resource that's always up-to-date and never wears out, gets lost or needs replacing

Parental Involvement

All parents are informed by letter about when our programme of sex education is to take place with opportunity to view the materials and discuss the school's approach to SRE. Parents have been informed that they have the right to withdraw their child from some aspects of SRE but are encouraged to come into school and discuss before doing this

Special Needs

At our school all our SRE teaching is differentiated to the intellectual and emotional needs of individual children. SRE will also be provided for children with specific special educational and physical needs in consultation with their parents.

Confidentiality and Child Abuse

Whilst all discussions will be dealt with as sensitively as possible, including the guarantee of privacy where appropriate, it must be understood that absolute confidentiality cannot be guaranteed, especially where a member of staff suspects that a child is a victim of abuse or have reason to believe that he/she is at risk of abuse.

Please note that the term parent in this policy is also meant to include carers.

This policy will be reviewed as part of the School Self Review Plan. Where children raise a concern or question that staff consider reflects an inappropriate sexual knowledge, parents will be contacted and/or a referral made to children's social care if it is believed it is a safeguarding issue.