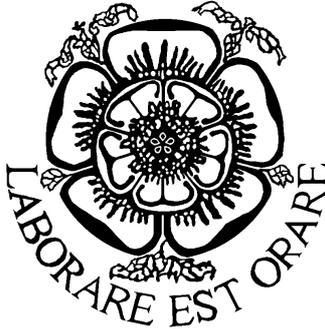


St Teresa's RC Primary School



Sex Education Policy

Our Mission Statement

*By following in the footsteps of St Teresa,
we share Gospel Values.*

Policy Updated: Summer 2017

Description of the School

St Teresa's is a Roman Catholic Voluntary Aided primary school in the Diocese of Brentwood; the school serves the parishes of St Teresa, Rochford and St John Fisher, Prittlewell. The school emblem is the Tudor Rose, reflecting the Tudor history of the area; the school motto is Laborare est Orare: Work is Prayer.

Purpose of this Policy

The aim of this policy is to communicate clearly to staff, parents and governors how Sex and Relationship Education is approached in the school.

Aims and Objectives of the school sex and relationship policy

At St Teresa's we believe that the essential aim of sex education is to enable pupils to form and conduct relationships in accordance with Christ's law of love.

Sex education

1. will contribute to the fulfilment of statutory requirements
2. will be based on Christian values
3. will enable the school to fulfil its essential Catholic mission
 - to promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and to enable them
 - to understand the nature of relationships
 - to reflect upon the way in which these are conducted
 - to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to develop and handle both their present and future relationships and particularly skills related to making appropriate choices.
 - to raise children's self-esteem, recognising that each one of us is created in the image of God

The policy at St Teresa's will take account of good practice in other schools both locally and nationally. The overall objective of the policy is to prepare pupils for responsible adult relationships; in so doing, the sex education programme at St. Teresa's will form the basis for sex education at the secondary schools to which the pupils transfer.

Moral and Values Framework

Education in sexuality is not just about biology and how the reproductive system works. It is about relationships, feelings and behaviour and this is reflected in this policy.

The sex education programme will be rooted firmly in the school's Catholic values and ethos. The content and presentation will be:

- linked closely to the Diocesan RE programme *Come and See*
- seen as part of the wider Personal Social Health Education programme.

As a Catholic school, we are aware that sexuality is a fundamental component of personality and so is God's gift to us. It is, therefore, essential that "our children and young people are given positive guidance and a true appreciation of all their human gifts" (Bishops' Conference 1987).

Sex education at St Teresa's will emphasise and encourage a number of values rooted in the Catholic ethos, including but not restricted to:

- morality and love within a family setting
- openness, a sense of self-worth and the importance of sharing
- responsibility towards, and respect for, others
- the importance of self-restraint
- stability and fidelity within relationships.

Content Headings

Education in sexuality and relationships needs to be developed as children progress throughout the school. Through day-to-day school life, children will learn about the value of friendships and the qualities needed to sustain relationships – trust, co-operation, tolerance, kindness, forgiveness, generosity and understanding. These are deeply rooted in St Teresa's Core Values. Further important concepts are taught through aspects of National Curriculum Science.

Key Stage 1

1. that animals and humans, move, feed, grow, use their senses and reproduce.
2. to recognise and compare the main external parts of the bodies of humans.
3. that humans and animals can produce offspring and these grow into adults.
4. to recognise similarities and differences between themselves and others and treat others with sensitivity.

Key Stage 2

1. that the life processes common to humans and animals include nutrition, growth and reproduction
2. about the main stages of the human life cycle.

There will, however, be more in-depth teaching specifically relating to Sex & Relationship Education in Years 5 and 6 during the Summer term. This teaching will cover:

- Puberty and how our bodies change as we grow up
- Male and female sex organs
- Nocturnal emissions
- Circumcision
- Menstruation/periods

- Management of personal hygiene
- Changing emotions and social expectations
- Sexual intercourse
- The baby, from conception to birth.

Resources:

Personnel: All teaching staff
 School Nurse
 'Come and See' R.E. Programme
 'Journey in Love' – Sr. Jude Groden
 National Curriculum Science

Organisation

Class teachers will be best placed to deliver sex education as an integral part of the RE and PSHE programmes. However, where a member of staff feels unable to take on this part of the curriculum, the Headteacher will provide appropriate support, delivering the programme if necessary.

Roles

The Role of Governors

Governors have the legal responsibility of deciding how Sex & Relationship Education should be taught in school. Diocesan advice is that the needs of children require that schools provide such education.

The Role of Parents

St Teresa's is committed to working with parents and to providing them with the fullest possible details of their children's curriculum entitlement at the school. To this end, parents

- have been consulted fully on the formulation of this policy and the resources to be used
- will be informed annually through the autumn term *Information Evening* of the aspects of the programme to be delivered to their children during the school year.

We see our role as one of supporting parents and not one of taking the place of parents.

The Role of the School

The role of the school will be exercised with sensitivity. The dignity, privacy and modesty of children must always be respected.

The links between Home, School and Parish are of fundamental importance. We see our programme as complementing the teaching and life of home and family.

Answering Questions from Pupils

Pupils will be encouraged to ask questions relating to the sex education programme as it is delivered to them. At the outset of the programme in each year, the teacher will set “ground rules” as follows: teachers will always answer pupils’ questions relating to the sex education programme, but where pupils ask questions outside the context of this programme, teachers will always refer to parents before answering those questions.

Teachers will undertake to answer questions relating to the sex education programme openly and honestly; however, teachers must not promise confidentiality in relation to questions outside the sex education programme but they should promise their support to children in dealing with their feelings over issues that they raise.

If a question or comment from a pupil raises suspicions that the pupil may have been sexually abused or may have had inappropriate experiences, the teacher will inform the Headteacher in accordance with the school’s child protection policy. This requires the Headteacher to decide, on the basis of the evidence available, whether or not to refer the matter to Social Services.

In addition to questions arising from the sex education programme, teachers will answer questions relating to responsibility and choice in relationships, including the issues of contraception, HIV and AIDS, where these arise from year 5 and year 6 pupils. Such questions will be answered individually or in small groups as appropriate to the needs of pupils.

Subject to parental consent, explicit or sensitive questions from pupils may be answered by a teacher in the presence of another adult; this is particularly relevant where the pupil and the adult are of different genders.

Right of Withdrawal

Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from Sex & Relationship Education where this is not contained in the National Curriculum. Should parents wish to exercise this right, they are asked to inform the Headteacher by letter or make an appointment to discuss the issues causing concern.

Equal Opportunities

In relation to sex education:

- every pupil will have access to the sex education programme, with appropriate differentiation to meet his or her needs

- staff will be sensitive to the diversity of family life and experience
- the selection of support materials and resources will be appropriate to pupils in this school who come from different cultural, religious and family backgrounds
- single gender teaching groups will be used where staff consider that these will make the best provision for pupils
- all staff will be given appropriate training and support to enable them to feel confident in providing pupils' curriculum entitlement in this area
- the school will respect the right of parents to withdraw their children from any or all parts of the sex education programme, other than those that form part of National Curriculum science.