



OUR SCHOOL MOTTO IS:

Growing in Faith and Knowledge

OUR SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

St. Joseph's Preparatory School is a Catholic School, which was founded by the Christian Brothers and is a place where the staff and governors work to bring the Gospel values into all areas of School life and where prayer, worship and liturgy are seen as meaningful experiences.

Each child is encouraged to strive for the highest possible standards of work and behaviour, whilst learning to live as a well-mannered, self-disciplined and tolerant individual both inside and outside the classroom. The children learn to live as happy and caring members of a School community, which values their unique individual talents, and also the needs of others.

St. Joseph's Preparatory School values and nurtures a close partnership with parents and encourages the forming of meaningful links with the wider community. The children are encouraged to take part in extra-curricular activities in order to develop an interest in sporting, cultural and recreational activities.

St. Joseph's Preparatory School up holds fundamental British values and encourages respect for all people.

St. Joseph's Preparatory School recognises its legal duty to work with Local Safeguarding Children's Board acting on behalf of children in need or enquiring into allegations of abuse.

We recognise that pupils have a fundamental right to be protected from harm and require a secure environment in order to learn effectively.

St. Joseph's Preparatory School's Safeguarding Children Policy follows the guidelines laid down by the City of Stoke on Trent Safeguarding Children's Procedures and "Working Together to Safeguard Children"(2015) and " Keeping Children Safe in Education"(2016) (KCSIE)

Our motto 'Growing in Faith and Knowledge' encapsulates the School's Aims:

- To provide a caring, Christian community, in which individuals can develop fully.
- To strive for excellence in all areas – academic, sporting, musical etc.
- To provide an ethos which brings the Gospel message alive.
- To develop strong community links.

(St. Joseph's Preparatory School has achieved International School Status and is an Eco School.
We are a Dyslexia Friendly School)

St Joseph's Preparatory School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Sex and Relationship Policy

Sex and Relationship Policy

Co-ordinator: Mrs S D Hutchinson
October 2014

Reviewed: May 2017 (Staff are notified of regular ISI updates which are added annually)

St Joseph's Preparatory School Sex and Relationship Policy

Introduction

Our school's policy on sex and relationship education is based on the DfES document Sex and Relationship Guidance (DfES 0116/2000). We recognise Sex and Relationship Education as the policy's full title, but for brevity's sake we will refer to it in the rest of this policy as simply SRE.

In the DfES documents SRE is defined as 'learning about physical, moral and emotional development'. The guidance states, 'It is about understanding the importance of marriage for family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. It is about the teaching of sex, sexuality and sexual health'.

Good practice suggests that an approach which seeks to integrate the elements of sex education into the wider health education and PSHE curriculum are more likely to have long term benefits for pupils.

'The Church has always recognised that it is the privilege and responsibility of the family to inform and educate their children in all matters pertaining to human growth and development, particularly in the sensitive area of sexual development. However, it has always recognised that due to the difficulties which such education encounters, parents need a 'major commitment on the part of the Christian community' and calls on the school, the parish and other bodies to collaborate with the family.' (Department for Christian Doctrine 1987 – Briefing, 15th May Vol 17, No10 p173).

At St. Joseph's Preparatory School there will be a gradual and positive SRE for children based on Christian values and sound moral principles. SRE is more than the giving of biological facts: nor is it simply Health Education. It is the gradual process concerned with the development of the whole personality leading to an understanding of God's gift of life. The ethos of the school supports the content of SRE in terms of gender relations, equal opportunities, bullying and respect for others as it places SRE in the context of church teaching about life, love and family.

SRE is part of the Personal, Social, Citizenship, Health Education (PSHE) and Science curriculum at St Joseph's Preparatory School. When we inform our pupils through SRE about sexual issues, we do this with regard to morality and individual responsibility and in a way that allows children to ask and explore moral questions. It is a gradual process concerned with the development of the whole personality leading to an understanding of God's gift of life and how we share in his work of creation. This includes biological facts and health information.

Aims and Objectives

We teach children about:

- The physical development of their bodies as they grow into adults.
- The way humans reproduce.
- Respect for their own bodies and the importance of sexual activity within a committed and long term, loving relationship.
- The importance of family life.
- Moral questions.
- Relationship issues.
- Respect for the views of other people.

Context

We teach sex in the context of the school's ethos and its stated aims (see Mission Statement). While SRE in our school means that we give children information about physical and emotional development at the onset of puberty, we do this with awareness of the moral code, and of the values which underpin all our work in school. In particular, we teach about sex in the belief that:

- Children should be taught to have respect for their own bodies.
- Children should learn about their responsibilities to others and learn that it is important to build positive relationships with others, involving trust and respect.
- Children need to learn the importance of self control.
- Sex education is part of a wider process of social, personal, spiritual and moral education and should be taught in the context of marriage and family life.

St Joseph's Preparatory School is a Health Promoting School, which promotes health education. As part of this we,

- Consult with parents on matters of Health Education policy.
- Train specific co-ordinators to teach about SRE.
- Look positively at any local initiatives that support us in providing the best SRE programme that we can devise.
- Work alongside and take advice from the LA and the School Nursing Service at the Hub where applicable.
- Listen to the views of children in our school.

Organisation

We teach about sex through different aspects of the curriculum, particularly Science, PSCHE and PE. We believe these contribute significantly to children's knowledge and understanding of their own bodies, and how they are changing and developing.

As part of the PSCHE programme children are taught about relationships, and we encourage children to discuss issues.

In PE, we teach awareness, knowledge and understanding of their own bodies in relation to physical exercise.

In Science, we teach about the parts of the body and how these work. Boys and girls learn that boys' voices will change during puberty and explains menstruation to both. We encourage children to ask for help if they need it. In both Key Stages, the teachers teach about growth and change. For this aspect of our teaching, we follow the guidance material in the national scheme of work for Science. In KS1, we teach children about how animals, including humans, move, feed, grow and reproduce and we also teach them about the main parts of the body. Children learn to appreciate the fact that people are not all the same and that we need to respect each other. In KS2, we teach about life processes and the main stages of human life cycle, in greater depth.

In Prep 5 and Prep 6 we use the "All that I Am" Programme to reinforce that Sexual & Emotional Development is part of God's plan. This programme runs alongside all other work achieved in this area.

In Prep 6, we place particular emphasis on Health Education as many children experience puberty at this age. We liaise with the School Nursing Service at the Hub about suitable teaching materials to use with our children in these lessons. Teachers do their best to answer all questions sensitively and with care. By the end of KS2, we ensure that both boys and girls know how babies are born, how children's bodies change during puberty, what menstruation is, and how it affects women. We always teach this with due regard for the emotional development of the children.

We give the opportunity for all parents and carers of children in Prep 6 to discuss this particular programme of lessons, to explain what the issues are and how they are taught and to see materials the school uses in its teaching.

The role of the parents

The school is well aware that the primary role in children's sex education lies with parents and carers. We, therefore, wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents of children at our school, through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation. To promote this objective we:

- Inform parents about the school's SRE policy and practice.
- Answer any questions that parents may have about SRE.
- Take seriously any issue that parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy, or about the arrangements for SRE in the school.
- Inform parents about the best practice known with regard to sex education, so that the teaching in school supports they key messages that parents and carers give to children at home.

We believe that, through this mutual exchange of knowledge and information, children will benefit from being given consistent messages about their changing bodies and their increasing responsibilities.

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from all or part of the SRE programme that we teach in our school. If a parent wishes their child to be withdrawn from sex education lessons, they should discuss this with the Headteacher, and make it clear which aspects of the programme they do not wish their child to participate in. The school always complies with the wishes of parents in this regard.

The role of other members of the community

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. In particular, members of the School Nursing Services at the Hub and other health professionals, give us valuable support with our SRE programme. Other people that we can call on include local clergy, social workers and youth workers.

Confidentiality

Teachers conduct SRE lessons in a sensitive manner and in confidence. However, if a child makes a reference to being involved (or being likely to be involved) in sexual activity, then the teacher will take the reference seriously, and deal with it as a matter of Child Protection/Safeguarding. Teachers will respond in a similar way if a child indicates that they may have been a victim of abuse. They will not try to investigate, but will immediately inform the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or (Deputy DSL in the DSL's absence) about their concerns. The DSL will then deal with the matter in accordance with the Safeguarding Policy.

The role of the Headteacher

It is the responsibility of the Headteacher to ensure that both staff and parents are informed about our SRE policy, and that the policy is implemented effectively. It is also the Headteacher's responsibility to ensure that members of staff are given sufficient training, so that they can teach about sex effectively, and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity.

The Headteacher liaises with external agencies regarding the SRE programme, and ensures that all adults who work with our children on these issues are aware of the school policy, and work within its framework.

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

Monitoring and Review

The Curriculum and Personnel Sub Committee of the Governing Body monitors the impact of our SRE policy on an annual basis. The Sub Committee reports its findings and recommendations to the full Governing Body, as necessary, if the policy needs modification. The Sub Committee gives serious consideration to any comments from parents about the SRE programme and makes a record of all such comments. Governors require the Headteacher to keep a written record, giving details of the content and delivery of our sex education programme.

This policy will be reviewed annually or as necessary.