

South Otterington Church of England V.C. Primary School



Sex Education Policy 'Learning for Life'

Learning for Life Policy

Aims of 'Learning for Life' education programme

At South Otterington Church of England School we believe that the 'Learning for Life' and sex education will be developmental and a foundation for further work in the secondary school. The work undertaken will:

- Promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society; and
- Prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

The school will work towards this aim in partnership with parents.

The aim of the sex education policy is to clarify the content and the manner in which sex education is delivered in this school.

Morals and values

The sex education programme will reflect the school ethos and demonstrate and encourage the following values:

- Respect for self;
- Respect for others;
- Responsibility for their own actions;
- Responsibility for their family, friends, school and wider community.

The policy agreed by Governors and parents requires the school to teach sensitive issues with "due regard to moral considerations and the value of family life". Any sex education provided will be matched to the maturity of the pupils involved, which may not always correspond to their chronological age.

In our school, the aim will be to prepare pupils to cope with the physical and emotional challenges of growing up and to give them an elementary understanding of human reproduction. Pupils' questions will be answered sensitively with due consideration being given to religious and cultural factors and to parents wishes as to the explicitness of the concepts and presentation used.

The 'Learning for Life' programme will:

- Provide information which is easy to understand and relevant and appropriate to the age and maturity of the pupils;
- Include the development of communication and social skills;
- Encourage the exploration and clarification of values and attitudes.

Sex education will be taught in the context of relationships. Topics and themes will be repeated from year to year in greater depth taking account of the pupil's development and the spiral curriculum concept.

Organisation of 'Learning for Life'

The co-ordinator of 'Learning for Life' is the Headteacher in close co-operation with all members of staff. Our 'Learning for Life' programme will be taught by all staff as:

- Part of the Science Curriculum - See National curriculum documentation;
- Within PSHE, RE and Citizenship;
- Where necessary as a specialised lesson;
- Through pastoral time;
- Addressed occasionally in Assembly time;
- Through the use of story time, circle time.

Good sex education is about relationships as well as biology. It embraces the needs of all pupils, recognising their diverse backgrounds and special educational needs. It develops and explores knowledge, skills, attitudes and values around a range of topics. Teaching methods which involve discussion and participation have been found to be the most effective.

Teaching methods

Active learning methods which involve children's full participation will be used. Single gender groups will be used as deemed appropriate and relevant. All members of staff are committed to delivering the programme.

Resources

As recommended by NYCC, in Year 6 we use the Busy Body videos and booklet produced by the Health Promotion Department. The range of material used will be available for review on request to the Headteacher. Additional books are available to the children in the library.

Evaluation of the programme

Elements of sex education in the science curriculum will be assessed termly.

Specific issues statements:

Working with parents

The school is committed to working with parents. Under the Education Act 1993 pupils can be withdrawn by their parents from part of sex education that is outside the compulsory elements of sex education in the Science National Curriculum.

Parents who request that their children are withdrawn will be invited to discuss their concerns with the headteacher. Hopefully a more detailed explanation or minor modification to the scheme will reassure them that our programme is suitable for their children.

Parents who do decide to withdraw their children need to understand that the right of withdrawal does not apply to the National Curriculum or to discussion of sexual matters which arise incidentally in lessons outside the planned programme.

Child sexual abuse

The school has a child protection policy and procedure which is available on the school website.

Helping Pupils who want advice about Personal Problems

Teachers have always tried to help pupils who are experiencing difficulties with relationships. This may involve staff discussing sexual matters with children at the top end of the primary school. If this happens teachers should:-

1. Encourage pupils to discuss their concerns with their parents.
2. In extreme cases inform pupils where to seek confidential advice and treatment.
3. Give advice to pupils who have not been withdrawn from sex education within the bounds of their own professional role.
4. Involve the school nurse - pastoral care.

However teachers should not promise pupils confidentiality (see school policies on Child Protection and Bullying).

Answering difficult questions

Sometimes an individual child will ask an explicit or difficult question in the classroom. Questions do not have to be answered directly, and can be addressed individually later. This school believes that individual teachers must use their skill and discretion in these situations and refer to the headteacher if they are concerned.

Procedures for policy monitoring and evaluation

The policy will be reviewed using a consultative process which identifies teachers', pupils' and parents' feedback on the sex education programme.

Equal opportunities

We, at South Otterington Church of England Primary School, are committed to working towards equality of opportunity to all aspects of school life. We view equal opportunities in the widest possible sense as embracing the well-being, contribution and development of all the school community irrespective of gender, race, religion, ability, disability, age or socio-economic group.

Dissemination of the policy

This policy is available on the school website and a short summary of this policy is included in the school prospectus. This policy has been fully discussed in both staff and governors' meetings. Parents have also been invited to share their views on the policy.

Appendix 1: Information for parents

Dear Parents and Carers,

'LEARNING FOR LIFE'

The Governing Body has been reviewing the 'Learning for Life policy'.

The Governors are aware that great care must be taken to match any sex education provided to the maturity of the pupil involved, which may not always correspond to their chronological age. At this stage the aim should be to prepare pupils to cope with the physical and emotional challenges of growing up.

The Governors hope that they get maximum support for the programme from parents and to this end you are invited to view the teaching programme and rationale for sex education: a paper copy is available in the school office for your perusal. Governors would welcome comments from parents on this policy.

The Governing Body would stress that Section 241 of the Education Act 1993 gives parents the right to withdraw their children from any or all parts of a school's programme of sex education, other than those elements which are required by the National Curriculum Science Order.

Please return any comments or observations to the school. Mrs Williamson would be happy to discuss any queries.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Ian Juden
Chair of Governors