St Martin's CE (Aided) Primary School

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Sex and Relationships Education Policy

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Signed:

Position:

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St Martin's CE (Aided) Primary School
Sex and Relationships Education Policy

Purpose
The Education Act 1993 (5/94) gives governors the responsibility to decide whether sex and relationships education should be included within the curriculum and, if so, to decide on the context and organisation of the programme.

If governors decide to include sex and relationships education in the curriculum, then it is the view of the school that it should be taught as part of the Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education programme.

However, it is necessary to take into account:

- that any sex and relationships education is matched to the maturity of the pupils involved, which may not always correspond to their chronological age;
- the rights of parents to withdraw their child from any or all parts of the school's programme of sex and relationships education.

Rationale
At St Martin's CE (Aided) Primary School, we believe that sex and relationships education is crucial in helping to prepare the children for their lives now, and in the future as adults, and possibly parents.

We believe that although factual information about sex-related issues is important, there should also be a focus on the quality of relationships in our lives and our personal rights and responsibilities. This will be achieved through exploring values and moral issues and through developing communication and decision-making skills.

We believe that there should be an equal entitlement of opportunity for all children at the schools. However, the Children's Act dictates that where there are circumstances causing conflict between the safety and welfare of a child and his/her parents' wishes, then the interests of the child are paramount.

The schools are sensitive to the views of parents whose cultural and religious beliefs may cause them to hold strict reservations regarding sex and relationships education for their child.

Section 241 of the Education Act 1993 grants parents the right to withdraw their child from all or part of the programme of sex and relationships education which falls outside the remit of the National Curriculum, for example in the Programme of Study for science.

If a parent wishes to withdraw their child from the sex and relationships education programme, an appointment must be made to discuss the matter with the Headteacher. Following this discussion, if the parent still wishes to withdraw his/her child, a withdrawal statement must be signed (attached at Appendix A).
Any child withdrawn from all or part of the sex and relationships education programme will be provided with an alternative activity whilst the session(s) take place. It is the class teacher's responsibility to make these alternative arrangements and to ensure that the child does not feel discriminated against.

Aims
We aim to:

- develop a culture of trust and understanding within the school;
- teach sex and relationships education within the wider context of family life and relationships;
- promote responsible behaviour across all areas of an individual person's life;
- encourage openness about sex and relationship matters;
- empower and enable children to make informed decisions;
- promote respect for oneself and others;
- promote positive relationships between adults and children, and children and their peers.

Programme
Our aims will be achieved through:

- a programme of sex and relationships education which includes facts and information and seeks to encourage children to form caring and loving relationships;
- parent partnership, informing parents of the content for sex and relationships education sessions and giving the opportunity for parents to preview any DVD resources before the children have their sex and relationships education sessions.

Sex and relationships education at St Martin's CE (Aided) Primary School forms an integral part of the PSHCE programme:

- In Year R, the sex and relationships education programme will be delivered through the PSED area of learning encompassing work on sense of self and relationships;
- In Years 1, 2 and 3, the sex and relationships education programme will be delivered through the PSHCE sessions encompassing work on caring for others, individuals as special people, feelings and emotions, changing friendships, celebrating and recognising differences and 'my body';
- In Years 4, 5 and 6, part of the sex and relationships education programme will be delivered through the National Curriculum Programme of Study for science which covers life processes, including life cycles and reproduction in mammals. Other parts of the sex and relationships education programme will be covered in PSCHE sessions encompassing work on families, relationships, personal feelings and hygiene. Years 5 and 6 will also look at puberty, how babies are made and how babies are born.

By the end of Key Stage 2 we aim that each child will:

- have some understanding of the physical, emotional and social changes which take place at puberty;
- know the basic biology of human reproduction;
- be confident to deal with their own physical changes;
- be empathetic to the physical and emotional changes in others;
- be confident to discuss sex and relationship matters.

A variety of resources will be used to deliver the sex and relationships education programme:

- DVDs, approved for use by the governing body;
- library books;
- general teaching resources.

Sex and relationships education sessions will generally be delivered to boys and girls together, although in Years 5 and 6 it may be more relevant to have single-sex sessions when covering aspects of the programme. The decision to hold mixed or single-sex sessions will be made by the class teacher in liaison with the Headteacher.

Other matters

As with all questions from children, we will endeavour to answer questions about sex and relationships factually and without bias. Individual members of staff will make a professional judgement as to whether it is relevant to address the question posed immediately or at a later stage, and whether to address the answer to an individual, a group or the whole class. If a member of staff is in doubt, he/she will discuss the matter with the Headteacher and if felt relevant, a child's parents.

Evaluation and monitoring

- The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring the sex and relationships education programme is delivered according to the stipulations of this policy.
- The class teachers are responsible for evaluating the programme and presenting outcomes to the school's PSHCE Manager who will in turn, report to the Headteacher.
- The governing body are responsible for reviewing the policy annually.