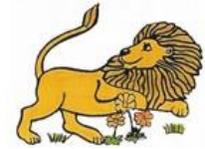




Policy for Personal, Social and Health Education including Sex and Relationships and Drug Education



St Mark's CofE Primary School

This policy defines the way in which St Mark's CofE Primary School approaches PSHE, Drug and Sex and Relationships Education, provides pastoral support, manages drug related incidents and implements staff and development training. This policy was drawn up using a range of documents including Hampshire Children's Trust Sex and Relationships education policy for young people, including support for teenage parents, November 2010)

It should be read with reference to the school's Learning and Teaching, Relationships and Behaviour, Child Protection, Safeguarding, SMSC, Health and safety, Medicine and Anti Bullying policies.

The policy applies to all staff, pupils, parents/carers, governors and partner agencies working within the school. The school site is defined as the school building and grounds and also any area used by the school for off-site activities. The school operates the HCC No smoking policy.

Aim

The school curriculum aims to promote pupils' spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development and prepare all pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life with reference to the United Nation Convention of Rights for Children.

Pupils are encouraged to take part in a wide range of activities and experiences across and beyond the curriculum, contributing fully to the life of the school and community. In doing so they will learn to recognise their own worth, work well with others and become increasingly responsible for their own learning.

Our curriculum aims to:

- Ensure pupils' become healthy and fulfilled individuals.
- Raise pupils' confidence and self-esteem by reminding pupils and teachers of the importance of respecting everyone as an individual and appreciating effort and resilience;
- Enable pupils' to make and act on informed decisions;
- Support the development of pupils' ability to form relationships and communicate effectively;
- Prepare children to cope with the physical and emotional challenges of growing up.
- Give an understanding of reproduction.
- Increase pupils' motivation and deepen their understanding through providing relevant opportunities for 'real life learning'. Enabling pupils to become active citizens within the local community.
- Improve pupils' ability to reflect on and become responsible for their own learning;
- Reduce the chances that pupils' education will be interrupted or impaired, for example by drug misuse or fear of bullying.
- Offer an especially supportive climate for working.

The Content of the school PSHE, Sex and Relationships, and Drug programme

PSHE is a non-statutory subject; however section 2.5 of the National Curriculum states “All schools should make provision for personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE), drawing on good practice.”

The school makes provision for this through a combination of:

- HeartSmart programme, an implementation of the PSHE curriculum which is very closely aligned with our Christian values;
- Science lessons;
- Discrete curriculum time;
- Through enrichment activities and school events, for example visiting speakers and school trips;
- Themes in worship;
- Pupil voice opportunities;

The governors believe that Sex and Relationships education, Drug education and any other sensitive topics should be taught according to the age and understanding of the children.

Year group coverage

At St Mark’s, the topics of drugs, sex, relationships and puberty are covered in Year 6. In Year 5, reproduction and puberty are covered as part of the science and PSHE curriculum. Typically in Year 5, further discussion is given with girls around puberty and periods.

Parental Involvement

The school believes that it is important to have the support of parents and the wider community for the PSHE and Citizenship programme.

We are committed to working with parents and carers and parents are given the opportunity to find out about and discuss the school’s programme through;

- Parents evenings and Curriculum evenings;
- Newsletters and termly Curriculum letters ;
- Information display boards;
- Information leaflets;
- Home visits.
- Website

In the event of concern (regarding drug or and other PSHE related incident) parents will be informed so that home and school can work together to support the child (See behaviour, Child protection and safeguarding policies).

Parental Involvement within Sex and Relationships Education

We believe parents are the key people in teaching their children about sex and relationships, maintaining the culture and ethos of the family and helping their children cope with emotional and physical aspects of growing up.

At St Mark’s we want to work in partnership with parents and complement and support them in teaching their children about sex and relationships.

Parents will be informed when Sex and Relationships Lessons will be happening (usually in Year 6) and will have the opportunity to watch DVDs, look at any teaching resources and discuss the content in advance of the lessons.

Parental Rights to Withdraw their Children from lessons

A pupil cannot be withdrawn from sex education where this is taught within the Science National Curriculum. Hence children who are withdrawn from PSHE lessons will still receive biological information but not taught in the context of relationships.

Parents and carers who have withdrawn their children from an SRE lesson need to be aware that discussion could arise during the teaching of the Science National Curriculum Orders.

Parents wishing to withdraw their children should contact the Head Teacher.

Visiting Speakers

Visiting speakers from the community e.g. health promotion specialists, clergy, community police and fire officers make a valuable contribution to the programme. Their input is planned so as to fit in and complement the programme. Teachers are always present during these sessions and remain responsible for the delivery of the material.

Teaching and learning strategies

Pupils need a comprehensive and balanced body of factual information to inform present and future risk assessment. We believe pupils learn best through active learning however we understand teachers cannot be experts on every issue covered in PSHE education but will frequently have the role of facilitator of learning.

It is important that PSHE, Drug and Sex and Relationships education takes place in a safe and secure environment. This will be achieved through:

- Clear goals and expectations (e.g. no one will have to answer a personal question, there will be an atmosphere of mutual respect, no one will be forced to take part etc.);
- A calm atmosphere;
- Praise and encouragement;
- Teaching staff answering questions sensitively, honestly and appropriately.
- Making children aware that their teacher is available if they wish to discuss any sex and relationship issues as well as other issues which may arise from teaching.
- Using distancing techniques – teachers can avoid embarrassment and protect pupils by depersonalising discussions. For example role play can be used to help pupils act out situations or case studies with invented characters using appropriate videos. This will all help pupils discuss sensitive issues and develop decision making skills in a safe environment.

A variety of teaching and learning strategies are used to deliver PSHE as appropriate to the topic and needs of the pupils these may include drama, group and whole class discussions, visiting speakers and circle time

Children will be listened to, but on occasions staff may need to seek advice and, therefore, confidentiality cannot be promised. (Refer to Child Protection and Safeguarding Policies)

Concern about an individual child should be registered with the Head Teacher. The child should then be monitored carefully to ensure effective support if necessary. Child protection procedures may be initiated if appropriate.

The governing body will be informed of any PSHE related issues which may arise, including Drug Education. The Head Teacher will provide a link between staff and governing body and ensure dialogue about PSHE concerns.

Managing Drug Related Incidents

Staff who suspect or experience a drug related incident should register their concern with the Head Teacher immediately and discuss appropriate action.

Incidents should be recorded in a book giving date, details of concern and action taken.

Parents should be contacted by the Head Teacher about all definite incidents concerning individual children.

All staff should be vigilant and strive to be aware of significant changes of behaviour in individual children, as in the case of child protection procedure.

If a drug related incident is suspected staff should monitor the situation carefully and discuss further action with the Head Teacher.

Staff may ask pupils to show them belongings, contents of pockets or bags, but they should not search.

In the event of finding illegal substances on site, the local beat officer may be contacted for help and advice.

Evidence of drug related incidents on the school site out of school hours should be reported to the police immediately. The site manager will make inspections of the area around the school building and playgrounds.

In the event of any media interest or questioning, the Press Office in Winchester should be contacted immediately.

Training and support for staff

The Head Teacher will ensure that all staff, including new staff, are clear what to do in the event of a drug related incident.

Opportunities are provided for all staff (teaching assistants, site staff, admin staff, lunchtime supervisors and breakfast club staff) to identify individual training needs on a yearly basis and relevant support is provided. In addition to this, support for teaching and understanding issues is incorporated in our staff training programme, drawing on staff expertise and a range of external agencies.

Reviewed: Summer 2019

Next Review Date: Summer 2021