

## Balderstone St Leonard's CE Primary School



### Policy for Sex and Relationships Education (SRE)

#### Philosophy & Mission Statement

'This school is part of a strong and vibrant Christian community with a clear mission to inspire in our children a love of God, a love of each other and a love of learning'.

Balderstone St Leonard's Church of England Primary school is found in the pretty hamlet of Balderstone just outside the town centre of Blackburn, Lancashire. It has approximately 100 pupils.

At St. Leonard's, pupils' personal, social and emotional development are supported, alongside their educational development in a highly positive school ethos. Each individual is valued and there is a safe, secure school environment which is conducive to learning, personal growth and development. We aim to provide a broad and balanced curriculum, Christian commitment and sensitivity, working in conjunction with the family and the wider community.

The Governing Body of Balderstone St Leonard's CE Primary School authorises and supports the Sex Education Programme prepared for the pupils at the school. The programme is rooted in the Christian faith and is designed to meet the needs of all our pupils. The Governors believe that sex education is important in promoting the spiritual, moral and cultural development of our children, as well as helping them to understand their developing bodies and feelings. At Balderstone St Leonard's, sex education is taught in the context of relationships and encouraging respect for self and others. The programme concerns the whole person and is developmental, covering many aspects from 4-

11 years. Partnership with parents is considered vital in maximising the success of the programme as an integral part of the learning for pupils at our school.

The Diocese of Blackburn and North Lancashire Methodist District recommend that primary schools include sex education in their curriculum and welcome the Government's commitment to the importance of Personal, Social and Health education and Citizenship as part of the National Curriculum. There is particular support for the aim to teach pupils about the 'role and importance of marriage in family relationships' and the wider commitment to the 'enduring values' of 'truth, justice, honesty, trust and a sense of duty'.

### **Preparation of this policy**

A group representing the school's staff, parents and governors were chosen in order to provide a range of experience and reflect a wider view of the community. A questionnaire was issued to all parents to allow parents to air their views and ask questions. Close consideration was given to the document *Guidelines on the Provision of Sex Education in Church Primary Schools* (September 2000), produced by Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education and North Lancashire Methodist District and also the DfEE Guidance Document *Sex and Relationship Education* (July 2000).

### **Aims for Sex and Relationship Education**

Sex Education is part of the wider responsibility of the school to help individuals to develop following in the example of Christ. It is an integral part of the wider school policy to promote in pupils:

- Positive and secure personal identity and sense of their own value
- Attitudes of respect and concern for others, founded on Christ's example of self-giving love.
- Acceptance of those who differ, yet challenging those behaviours and attitudes which exploit others and do not reflect Christian values;
- Reconciliation and forgiveness

The School Sex Education programme aims:

- To encourage children to appreciate that sexual feelings and activity are an integral part of human experience and an expression of God's creative love

- To prepare children for, and enable them to cope with, the changes to their own bodies and those of the opposite sex as they enter puberty, including instincts and feelings and an accurate and acceptable vocabulary.
- To help children to understand that they have rights and should have control over who touches their bodies; to ensure that children can ask for help and support if needed
- To provide an opportunity for children to become more confident in talking, listening and thinking about sexual feelings and relationships
- To teach in such a way as to promote a sense of personal value and self-respect in all children irrespective of their family, religious and cultural background

### Objectives

The Scheme of Work for Sex and Relationships Education is delivered in a variety of ways, including:

- Classroom lessons, topics, story time, circle time, discussions, question and answer sessions
- National Curriculum Science (KS1 and KS2) which covers life processes, including human reproduction and living things.
- Collective worship and assemblies
- The invitation of suitable visitors

The scheme is sequenced so that the style of classroom activities reflects children's intellectual, emotional, moral and spiritual maturation. A broad strategy is to raise topics in the classroom before children pick up messages of a kind that the school might wish to challenge.

### Responsibility and Content

Sex Education is organised by the PSHE Co-ordinator and is monitored by the Head teacher. Responsibility for delivery of the school's programme rests with all staff.

### Key Stage 1 and Reception

#### Proposed main concepts

- Each child is made and loved by God
- Each child is part of a family
- Each child is a unique person
- Each child has a particular physical appearance
- Each child has individuality and special talents
- Each child has his/her own thoughts and feelings
- Each child learns about family and friends
- Each child learns to love and respect others

#### Other aspects

- That physical difference between boys and girls exist
- The need to use proper names for sexual organs
- The needs of growing babies
- The simple acknowledgement that babies are born of mothers

#### Key Stage 2

- Our bodies are growing
- Our feelings develop
- We are getting to know ourselves and others
- We are getting to know God
- Meaning of relationships
- The myth of the 'perfect body'
- Physical, emotional and spiritual changes
- Healthy growing at our own rate
- Marriage is the best context for sexual relationships
- Growing means changing
- The birth of a baby

- Love helps to 'create' us
- Fairness and discrimination

During Years 5 and 6 the programme will provide teaching about:

- Menstruation and the connection with child bearing
- Erection and wet dreams
- Sexual intercourse
- Emotional changes that accompany growth in self-awareness

#### Equal Opportunities and Gender Roles

Pupils are taught either in their class, or in smaller groups. Boys and girls are taught together except where there are particular reasons for separation. The school considers it is important for both sexes to begin the long endeavour to understand each other's needs. The school tries to familiarise pupils with ways in which perceptions of gender differences may sometimes limit children's opportunities to distort their view of themselves and others. The school seeks to emphasise that a Christian view of each individual as created in God's image precludes any form of prejudice, discrimination or stereotyping, which denies that unique individual worth.

Attention will be given to:

- Gender roles in families and in society, in literature and the media
- Christian perspectives on male and female roles

#### Sensitive Issues requiring Special Consideration

At Balderstone St Leonard's one of the aims is for our SRE programme to allow children to talk honestly and openly, however we will also respect their pace of maturation and as such the following issues will not be delivered in this programme:

- Homosexual relationships - but we acknowledge they exist and are part of our community. Homophobic bullying will be subject to the terms and conditions laid out in the anti-bullying policy, and thus will be explained to the children as unacceptable.

- Sexually transmitted Infections - there will be no direct teaching on this subject. However, we will highlight to the children that they exist outside monogamous marriages.
- Masturbation - we will acknowledge that this exists but will not discuss it with the children.
- HIV/AIDS - there will be no direct teaching on HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections, however the teacher may give factual answers to children's questions, taking account of age, maturity and background.
- Contraception - it will be discussed in the terms of a family planning technique within marriage. Different methods of contraception will be named.
- Teenage pregnancy will be discussed fully, with the aim of helping to reduce the numbers of children who become pregnant. Abstinence will be identified as one of the best methods of contraception.

Sensitive issues, such as those highlighted and others will be dealt with in accordance with DfES guidance on 'classroom ground rules'. Sometimes, in the classroom, a child will ask an explicit question on a permitted topic which may lead into sensitive, difficult or controversial areas.

It is the policy of the school that such questions do not have to be answered directly or immediately. The teacher may answer the child later and individually, or decide to refer the question to parents. The school expects teachers to use their professional discretion and skills in such cases and always keep in mind the age and maturity of the child, as well as the aims, values and procedures set out in the policy document. In the case of a teacher being concerned or in doubt, he/she will consult with the Head teacher. In some cases, a question may indicate the child to be at risk or in danger, in which case appropriate action will be taken in accordance with the school's policy and procedures for Child Protection. This also means that if a child puts a private question to a teacher or other member of staff and expects secrecy, no promise of secrecy or confidentiality will be given, but with the reassurance that any steps taken will always be in the child's best interests.

Staffing

The school's staffing policy is to appoint teachers with a Christian commitment and that class teachers will deliver the sex education programme. They will all have been appropriately trained and briefed about the school's distinctive approach. From time to time, this school uses visiting speakers to contribute to sex education. Such visitors will be suitably experienced and qualified to support the school's programme. They may include members of the LEA Health team, persons recommended by the Diocesan Board of Education, health professionals and the school nurse. A teacher remains in the classroom when visitors are with the children. Visitors will be issued with a copy of this policy and must agree to its terms before speaking to the children.

### Resources

At present we have the 'Live and Learn Well' scheme in school to support our whole PSHE programme. The SRE project loan may be borrowed from the PHSE team at LPDS. The internet may be used but teacher led sites only. Other books can be found in the teacher resource area.

### Special Educational Needs and Equal Opportunities

Sex and Relationships Education will be taught regardless of ability, ethnic origin or gender. Please refer to the SEN and Equal opportunities policies.

### Right of Withdrawal

Parents have the legal right to withdraw their child from all or any part of the school's programme for Sex Education, except those elements which are required by the National Curriculum Science Orders.

We ask that parents who may be considering the exercise of this right should first make an appointment with the Head teacher to discuss what such a decision may involve. Parents must be aware that although a child may be withdrawn from a lesson they will still be with their peers at other times of the day and conversations cannot be monitored.

### Monitoring and Evaluation

The school has procedures for monitoring and evaluating all curriculum areas by the relevant subject leader. This policy will be reviewed biennially by the PSHE/SRE co-ordinator with consultation from teaching staff and governors. Resources used will be evaluated for their usefulness and effectiveness by

staff delivering the programme, and feedback will be taken from the children also.

## Appendix 1

In February 2000, the Church of England Board of Education and the Roman Catholic Education Service sent the following joint statement to the Secretary of State for Education and Employment: *Christian Expectation of Guidance on Sex and Relationship Education*

1. Pupils should be taught from an early age to understand human sexuality and to respect themselves and others. They should be given accurate information. This will enable them to understand difference and help to remove prejudice.
2. Human sexuality is a gift from God and finds perfect expression within loving life-long marriage. Any other physical sexual expression falls short to some degree of that ideal. It follows that human sexuality is not fulfilled in self-gratification or in promiscuous or casual relationships
3. Traditional Christian marriage should be promoted as the fundamental building block of society and of family life and as the proper context for the nurture of children.
4. Pupils have a right to develop without being subject to any physical or verbal abuse about sexual orientation or to the encouragement of sexual activity.
5. Life-long celibacy can be fulfilling. In this way of life an individual's sexual instincts may be channelled into generous love and service of others
6. Life-long human friendships are an important gift and should be honoured and cherished.
7. Human beings fall short of the ideal but the admission of failure can bring forgiveness and reconciliation. People can change their behaviour. Couples working through problems within marriage can find deepened love and strengthened character.