

E.P.R. Policy

"Jesus said 'I have come so that they may have life, and have it to the full' John10:10

"We must protect our children from ignorance and they should be given all necessary information and correct answers to their questions. Within the Christian community there is a real need for giving gradual and positive sexual education to our children. Each school, in consultation with Governors, teachers and parents, should have or build a developmental programme which aims to help our young people to have a properly formed conscience, to enable them to make right judgements, and to take the right actions in the many and varied situations in which they may find themselves" Laying the Foundations for Education in Personal Relationships (Published by Bishop's Conference.)

This policy was written after the Governing Body decided that the school should provide Sex Education as part of the curriculum and it was decided to deliver this as part of an Education for Personal Relationships Policy. Mrs Fogarty was involved in developing a working group which comprised: the religious education co-ordinator, science co-ordinator, teachers from both the infant and junior department, a governor and the school nurse. Following the work started several years ago, the E.P.R. policy was reviewed as well as the equal opportunities statement. Staff developed a programme which delivered the elements of the E.P.R. policy mainly through R.E. and Science. The Curriculum group of the governing body was also involved in the development of this policy and guidelines.

General Aims:

To lead children to an awareness of God's plan for growth and His relationship with His creation.

To provide a secure atmosphere for the development of Christian ideals, encouraging communication, free of embarrassment between teacher, parent and pupil.

To encourage healthy development of mind and body.

To equip children to cope with the pressures of living in a multi-cultural and materialistic world.

Personal Development

1. Every child will be helped to develop a positive self-image so that they might feel valued, cared for and respected.

2. Every child will be helped towards self-awareness, be able to express their feelings and learn to cope with success/failure.

3. All children need to learn to make choices in everyday situations and to develop a Christian conscience.

4. Children will be helped towards developing self-control and exercising self-discipline.

Social Development

1. Children will be encouraged to be co-operative, caring and sharing.
2. Children will be encouraged to respect one another and to listen to one another.
3. Children will be encouraged to be friendly and welcoming to newcomers and to appreciate and accept differences of sex, race, creed, culture, appearance and behaviour.
4. Assistance will be given in the development of techniques to resolve conflict.

Sexual Development

1. Children will be given sexual education appropriate to their age, in a Christian context
2. Children will be reassured that body changes, physical, emotional and social are normal and acceptable.
3. We will promote an atmosphere where questions about reproduction can be treated in a Christian and caring way - myths can be dispelled, correct vocabulary learned.
4. We will help children to understand that they have rights and have control over who touches their bodies.
5. Children will be made aware of the dangers of going with strangers.
6. We will encourage parents to understand the nature of sex education at the primary level and develop their own skills as sex educators.

The Content Headings

The 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.

The content of the sex education has been drawn from the HEA Primary Project for health education and the Family Planning Association Sex Education: Why, What and How.

Organisation:

E.P.R. will be co-ordinated by the R.E. co-ordinator and the Science co-ordinator.

Delivery:

- as topics
- through planned aspects of religious education, science, , creative language work, humanities or mathematics.
- pastoral time
- assemblies
- occasional visits from school nurse, carers, younger or older siblings.
- use of stories.

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.

Resources:

The range of material used will be available for review on request to Mrs Fogarty. Books are available to the children in the library.

Assessment and Evaluation:

Elements of E.P.R. in the R.E., Science, Humanities, Language and Maths curriculum will be assessed formally. A variety of informal evaluation activities will be used throughout the programme.

Specific Issues

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 contained in the science National Curriculum.

Parents wanting to exercise this right are invited to see the headteacher. She will explore the concerns of parents and the possibilities of adjusting the programme or approach and will discuss any impact that withdrawal may have on the child. She will talk with the parents about the child's possible negative experiences or feelings that may result from exclusion and the ways in which these can be minimised. Once a child has been withdrawn they cannot take part in sex education until the request for

withdrawal has been removed.

Reviewed Oct. 2014.