

We held a Coffee Afternoon on 16th May for parents and carers to hear about our approach to teaching Relationships, Health and Sex Education. We have compiled questions that were asked and provided responses for reassurance.

Questions

What if anything is taught about LGBTQ+?

Can you provide any more information regarding how questions and issues of gender and gender identity are taught and dealt with in school? It is currently a very contested area and the government has changed it's policy this week. How will this impact your approach?

As a Church of England school, how will these things be distinctly taught compared to a non Church of England school? For instance in the section where acceptance and tolerance for all relationships/family set ups are addressed, will the Bibles view on a man and a woman in marriage be addressed whilst still upholding love and equality of all people who think differently.

We are clear about the Church of England teaching. The Church of England does welcome people of either sex, any sexual orientation or any gender identity. Church schools are expected to have a curriculum which meets the requirement of the law – in this case as given in the Equality Act (2010) – to prepare our pupils for life in modern Britain. This means having a curriculum which teaches about difference in a positive way, whether that be disability, gender assignment or LGBTQ+ matters. Whatever an individual's feelings may be, Birmingham Diocesan Board of Education hold the view that Church schools are required by law to be preparing pupils for life in a plural British society, where it is allowable to choose one's identity and whom one loves. To do this well means talking about equality issues with our children. It is also equally important to communicate clearly to pupils and families that holding traditional faith perspectives of sexuality is not counter to the schools aims and ethos, but that expressing hatred, negativity and hostility to another is unacceptable.

In talking about acceptance of difference and providing curriculum opportunities where difference is explored, same sex relationships and parenting is mentioned as a fact of some people's lives (for a child with homosexual family members this will be a signal of recognition that will be a signal of recognition that will encourage self-esteem).

You can find further information on our website.

When the relationships, sex and health education topics are delivered, are parents/carers informed so that we are singing from the same hymn book?

Are we going to be informed when lessons start?

Do parents have to reemphasise these lessons at home to make sure the children get the extra support they need? If so, what is the best way to go about it so that we don't end up confusing them?

Relationships, health and sex education will begin after half term. An overview of what is covered each week will be posted on Class Dojo so that parents/carers will be aware. It is always useful to reemphasise the teaching at home so that we are working in partnership and that children feel comfortable to speak openly.

If my child watches something inappropriate on YouTube, how can I support?

We would advise that parental locks are used on devices that children have access to. An information guide for internet controls will be posted on Class Dojo if you need support. However, there are still times that even with controls, children can be exposed to inappropriate content. It is important to let your child know that they haven't done anything wrong so that they do not have feelings of shame. Should this happen, school are also able to support.

Can you post the information shared today in full on Class Dojo?

The slides from the Coffee Afternoon have been shared on ClassDojo.

Feedback from the Coffee Afternoon

'Thank you for organising this workshop. I was anxious about what you were going to teach our children but I feel more assured that all the intentions are for the benefit of my child.'

'We think it is good to inform parents.'

'The session was actually brilliant and will be great for helping the kids understand not just personal health but also develop a healthy self esteem and body image. Well done!'

'Thank you for putting on the session and explaining your approach. It seems to be a sensible approach to teach human reproduction in Years 5 and 6 in the context of scientific understanding.'

'Really great approach. Love the drip feed method and focus on friendships. Also agree, it's important to start young to prevent misinformation. Great job and seems like a healthy way of tackling it all.'