

Should we teach Sex Education in our Church of England/Methodist primary school? (Decision-making questions for school leaders)

Introduction

The DfE RSHE statutory guidance says that Sex Education is not compulsory in primary schools.

Before starting this decision-making exercise remember there are no right and wrong answers from the perspective of the DfE or Ofsted. Each leadership team and governing body will need to make up its own mind.

You will need to consider what you believe is in the best interests of the children in your care and the natures of the community you serve and of its parent body.

The central topic of inclusion for primary Sex Education is **Sexual Intercourse and Conception**. The Year 5 Science curriculum includes puberty and the gestation of animals including humans; it does not cover how the animals or humans begin life. **Reproduction** is in the Science curriculum at KS3

If the school decides to include Sex Education then it is important to remember that it will be best placed in Years 5 or 6 following on from Puberty (which is in both the Science curriculum and KS2 Health Education).

If the school makes the decision to include Sex Education then it is important that it is taught within the vision and values of the school. Sex Education in a CE/Methodist primary school is **best taught as part of Relationships Education** and not as a merely factual stand-alone.

Pupils should be reminded of the school's belief that all people are made in the image of God and so humans can be nurturing and appreciative of one another and be encouraged to observe and delight in the glory of human nakedness as part of accepting vulnerability.



Diocese of Bristol

Children should be taught about the legal age for sexual intercourse; that sexual intercourse is for adults and not children. They will be encouraged to see sex as a special part of the giving and receiving of human love, most securely experienced within the context of faithfulness.

