

SEX & RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION POLICY

Approved by : Directors February 2016

Effective From : November 2015

Review Date : December 2017

Next Review Date : December 2019

Introduction

All schools must have an up to date SRE policy which is made available for inspection to parents.

This policy will:

- Define sex and relationship education
- Describe how sex and relationship education is provided and who is responsible for providing it
- Say how sex and relationship education is monitored and evaluated
- Include information about parents' right to withdrawal
- Be reviewed regularly

This policy has been written using 'Sex and Relationship Education Guidance' (DfEE 0116/2000)

Sex and relationship education is lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of loving and caring relationships. It is about the teaching of sex, sexuality and sexual health. Research demonstrates that good, comprehensive sex and relationship education does not make young people more likely to become sexually active at a younger age.

Moral and Values Framework

Sex and relationship education will reflect the values of the PSHE and SEAL's programme as well as the schools Values. SRE is taught in the context of relationships. In addition SRE will promote self-esteem, emotional health and well being and help pupils form and maintain worthwhile and satisfying relationships, based on respect for themselves and for others, at home, school, work and in the community.

Aims and Objectives for Sex and Relationship Education

The aim of SRE is to provide children with age appropriate information, explore attitudes and values and develop skills in order to empower them to make positive decisions about their health related behaviour. This should take place with consideration of the qualities of relationships within families.

The objectives of Sex and Relationship Education are;

- To provide the knowledge and information to which all pupils are entitled
- To clarify/reinforce existing knowledge
- To raise pupils' self-esteem and confidence, especially in their relationships with others
- To help pupils understand their sexual feelings and behaviour, so they can lead fulfilling and enjoyable lives
- To help pupils' develop skills (language, decision making, choice, assertiveness) and make the most of their abilities
- To provide the confidence to be participating members of society and to value themselves and others
- To help gain access to information and support
- To develop skills for a healthier safer lifestyle
- To develop and use communication skills and assertiveness skills to cope with the influences of their peers and the media
- To respect and care for their bodies
- To be prepared for puberty and adulthood

The teaching programme for Sex and Relationship Education Legal requirements:

All schools must teach the following as part of the National Curriculum Science Orders, parents do not have the right to withdraw their child/children.

National Curriculum Science

Key Stage 1

- identify, name, draw and label the basic parts of the human body and say which part of the body is associated with each sense.
- notice that animals, including humans, have offspring which grow into adults.

Key Stage 2

- describe the life process of reproduction in some plants and animals.
- describe the changes as humans develop to old age.
- recognise that living things produce offspring of the same kind, but normally offspring vary and are not identical to their parents.

Every child is entitled to receive SRE regardless of ethnicity, gender, religion, age, culture, disability, sexuality, language special needs, disadvantaged and looked after children.

It is our intention all children have the opportunity to experience a programme of SRE at a level which is appropriate for their age and physical development with differentiated provision if required. Parents do not have the right to withdraw their child/children from these above aspects of the Science curriculum.

Such a programme can successfully follow the outline given below;

Foundation

Children learn about the concept of male and female and about young animals.

In ongoing PSHE work, they develop skills to form friendships and think about relationships with others.

Key Stage 1

Through work in science children learn about life cycles of some animals, understand the idea of growing from young to old and learn that all living things reproduce. They learn about the importance of personal hygiene to maintain good health. In RE and Citizenship children reflect on family relationships, different family groups and friendship. They learn about rituals and traditions associated with birth, marriage and death and talk about the emotions involved. They begin to co-operate with others in work and play and begin to recognise the range of human emotions and ways to deal with them. They also learn about personal safety.

Key Stage 2

In science children build on their knowledge of life cycles and learn about the basic biology of human reproduction including birth of a baby in years 5 & 6. Children are taught about the physical, emotional and social changes at puberty, which include personal hygiene.

In RE and Citizenship, they continue to develop an understanding of relationships within a family, between friends and the community and that there are different patterns of friendship. They will develop skills needed to form relationships and to respect other people's emotions and feelings. They will consider how to make simple choices and exercise some basic techniques for resisting pressures. Sex and relationship education should focus on the development of skills and attitudes not just the acquisition of knowledge.

This content has been agreed in consultation with Directors, parents and teaching staff.

The organisation of Sex and Relationship Education

Sex and relationship education is delivered through science (as part of topics), RE, PSHE, literacy activities and circle time. Sex and relationship education is taught by classroom teachers, teaching assistants and if appropriate, outside visitors such as the school nurse.

- A range of teaching methods which involve children's full participation are used to teach sex and relationship education. These include use of video, discussion, looking at case studies, drama and role plays.
- Sex and relationship education is usually delivered in mixed gender groups, however; there may be occasions where single gender groups are more appropriate and relevant.
- Resources to teach sex and relationship education includes: fiction, reference books, leaflets, extracts from videos, BBC Active - Sex and Relationship Education software and GoGivers resource.

Parental consultation

Parents and carers are the key people for their child's learning about sex and relationships and school should always work in partnership with home. Parents and carers need to know that the school's SRE programme will complement their role and support them in the education of their child regarding sex and relationships.

- The school includes information on sex and relationship education in the school prospectus and full details are available on request.
- The school informs parents when aspects of the sex and relationship programme are taught and provides opportunities for parents to view the videos and resources being used.
- Parents have the right to withdraw their children from those aspects of sex and relationship education, not included in the National Curriculum Science Orders. (If this occurs alternative learning will be provided.) However this rarely happens, by working in partnership with parents they recognise the importance of this aspect of their child's education.

Child Protection / Confidentiality

Teachers need to be aware that effective sex and relationship education, which brings an understanding of what is and is not acceptable in a relationship, may lead to disclosure of a child protection issue.

The staff member will inform the Executive Head Teacher /Designated Child Protection person in line with the LEA procedures for child protection. A member of staff cannot promise confidentiality if concerns exist.

Links with other policies

This policy is linked with the following policies:

PSHE
Equal Opportunities
Child Protection
Confidentiality
Behaviour
Anti Bullying

Dealing with difficult questions

Ground rules are essential to provide an agreed structure to answering sensitive or difficult questions. This framework facilitates the use of an anonymous question box as a distancing technique.

Teachers will endeavour to answer questions as honestly as possible but if faced with a question they do not feel comfortable answering within the classroom, provision would be made to meet the individual child's needs.

Use of visitors

"Visitors should complement but never substitute or replace planned provision.

It is the PSHE co-ordinator's and teacher's responsibility to plan the curriculum and lessons." *Sex and Relationship Guidance DfEE 0116/2000 P29 6.11*

When appropriate, visitors such as the school nurse may be involved in the delivery of sex and relationship education, particularly in Key Stage 2.

Children with special needs

Teaching and resources will be differentiated as appropriate to address the needs of these children in order for them to have full access to the content of sex and relationship education.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The school will assess the effectiveness of the aims, content and methods in promoting students' learning by lesson observation, sampling teachers planning, questionnaires to teachers and children and feedback from parents. The effectiveness of the SRE programme will be evaluated by assessing children's learning and implementing change if required.

This policy document is available on request following approval by the Directors.

SRE training and issues will be included in the induction programme for all new members of staff.