

Sex and Relationships Policy

October 2017

We have based our school's sex education policy on the DfEE guidance document *Sex and Relationship Education Guidance* (ref DfEE 0116/2000). In this document, sex education is defined as: 'learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about understanding the importance of marriage for family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality, and sexual health'.

Sex education is part of the personal, social and health education curriculum in our school. While we use sex education to inform children about sexual issues, we do this with regard to matters of morality and individual responsibility, and in a way that allows children to ask and explore moral questions. We do not use sex education as a means of promoting any form of sexual orientation.

Objectives of Sex and Relationship Education

Our aims are:

- To enable our pupils to make responsible, informed and healthy decisions about their lives, both now and in the future.
- To teach our pupils to respect themselves and others so they can move confidently from childhood through to adolescence and into adulthood.
- To provide a supportive learning environment in which pupils can develop their feelings of self-worth and confidence, especially in relationship to others.
- To teach children about the physical development of their bodies as they grow into adults and to clarify and reinforce existing knowledge.
- To teach about the way humans reproduce.

- To develop respect for their own bodies and to understand the importance of sexual activity as part of a committed, long-term, and loving relationship.
- To develop respect and tolerance for their peers and people with different religious beliefs, disabilities and life-styles (see Inclusion and Equality Policy)
- To encourage debate and reflection on moral issues; for children to make informed personal decisions.
- To raise awareness of sex/physical abuse and where help can be found
- To develop communication and assertiveness skills to cope with the influence of peers and media.

Context

At Paddock Wood Primary School, Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) is underpinned by the ethos and values of our school and we uphold it as an entitlement for all our pupils. We recognise the need to work as a whole school community to ensure a shared understanding of SRE and the values under-pinning it and to deliver an effective programme that meets the needs of our pupils. In particular, we teach SRE to promote these main principles:

- Self respect
- Respect and tolerance towards others who may have different backgrounds, cultures, feelings, views and sexuality.
- An awareness of the way others feel.
- Mutual support and co-operation.
- Honesty and openness.
- The acceptance of the responsibility for and the consequences of personal actions.
- The right of people to hold their own views within the boundaries of respect for the rights of others.
- The right not to be abused by or taken advantage of by other people.
- The right to accurate information about relationships.
- The value of stable loving relationships.

CURRICULUM

We teach sex education through different aspects of the curriculum. While we carry out the main sex education teaching in our personal, social and health education (PSHE), we also teach some sex education through other subject areas,

particularly science, where we feel that this contributes significantly to a child's knowledge and understanding of his or her own body, and how it is changing and developing.

PSHE

The focus of learning is on developing strong relationships with peers and to acquire skills which enable children to work and play co-operatively and productively with one another. Respect and tolerance are encouraged and reinforced by all staff through assemblies, class lessons and the general day to day ethos of classroom and playtime routines.

Dedicated PSHE topics are integrated into the curriculum often forming part of the Year Group themes or topics. Road/fire safety, healthy lifestyles, stranger danger and cyber safety are themes which are covered frequently. A range of teaching methods are used which involve the children's full participation; these include the use of video, discussion and group activities, drama, role-play and a range of visitors including police, fire brigade, and local health authority experts.

Science and R,E

Some elements of Sex and Relationship Education are taught through other areas of the National Curriculum in each Key Stage.

Key Stage 1

Through work in science, children learn about the 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 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. They will focus on the physical, emotional and social changes at puberty which include personal hygiene. Children in year 6 will then learn how a baby is made and born. 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.

Published Programmes

The school currently uses the Channel 4 Living and Growing DVDs (Y6 only)

Role of Parents

The school is well aware that the primary role in children's sex education lies with parents and carers. We wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents of children at our school through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation. In promoting this objective we:

- inform parents about the school's sex education policy and practice
- answer any questions that parents may have about the sex education of their child
- take seriously any issue that parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy or the arrangements for sex education in the school

The school informs parents when key aspects of the sex and relationship are to be taught and provides parents with an overview of the content of these sessions.

Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their child from all or part of the sex education programme that we teach in school, although not the National Curriculum science content. If a parent wishes their child to be withdrawn from sex education lessons, they should discuss this with the Headteacher, and make clear what aspects of the programme they do not wish their child to participate in. The school will respect the parents' wishes.

Confidentiality

Teachers conduct sex education lessons in a sensitive manner and in confidence. However, if a child makes a reference to being involved, or likely to be involved in sexual activity, then the teacher will take the matter seriously and deal with it as a matter of child protection. Teachers will respond in a similar way if a child indicates that they may have been a victim of abuse. In these circumstances the child will immediately be referred to the Child Protection Team. (See also Child Protection Policy.)

The role of the Headteacher

It is the responsibility of the headteacher to ensure that both staff and parents are informed about the school's Sex and Relationship Education Policy, and that the policy is implemented effectively. It is also the Headteacher's responsibility to ensure that members of staff are given sufficient training, so that they can teach effectively and handle any difficult issues with confidence and sensitivity.

The Headteacher liaises with external agencies regarding the school's Sex and Relationship education programme, and ensures that all adults who work with children on these issues are aware of the school policy, and that they work within this framework.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring of this policy is the responsibility of the Headteacher who will report to governors when requested. The school will assess annually the effectiveness of the aims, programme content and methods of delivery, also taking into account parental feedback. Change will be implemented as required.

The governing body monitors and reviews the Sex and Relationship Policy on an annual basis. It will give serious consideration to any comments from parents about the sex education programme.

Review date: October 2020