

SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION POLICY

What is Sex and Relationships Education?

It is lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about understanding the importance of marriage/partnerships for family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. It is also 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.

Policy Aims

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 will take place with consideration of the qualities of relationships within families. Information will be delivered in an accepting and honest way, which enables young people to contribute, and as deemed age-appropriate. Parents/Carers will be fully informed of policy and practice.

The Governing Body and Headteacher have developed this policy which has the following aims:

- To provide the knowledge and information to which all students are entitled;
- To raise students' self esteem and confidence, especially in their relationships with others;
- To help students develop skills (language, decision making, choice, assertiveness) and make the most of their abilities;
- To develop students' skills for a healthier safer lifestyle;
- To develop students' communication skills and assertiveness skills to cope with the influences of their peers and the media;
- To provide a description of how SRE is delivered, monitored and evaluated in the school;
- To help students learn to respect and care for their bodies;
- To prepare students for puberty and adulthood;
- To help students learn how to gain access to information and support.

SRE will focus on:

Attitudes and Values

- Learning about the values of family life and stable relationships.
- Learning the value of respect, love and care.
- Exploring, considering and understanding moral dilemmas.
- Developing critical thinking as part of decision making.

Personal and Social Skills

- Learning to manage emotions and relationships confidently and sensitively.
- Developing self-respect and empathy for others.
- Learning to make choices based on understanding of differences and with the absence of prejudice.
- Providing opportunities for young people to develop the ability to understand the consequences of their decisions and actions, and to manage conflict.

Knowledge and Understanding

- Information about healthier, safer lifestyles
- Physical development
- Emotions, relationships and reproduction.

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Curriculum Content

- Physical and emotional changes at puberty
- Looking after your body – keeping healthy during puberty
- Respect and responsibility
- Relationships – including marriage and parenthood
- Assessing risk
- Resisting pressure
- Body image and feeling good
- Influence of the media
- Accessing help and advice
- Influence of the media
- Sex and the law
- STIs, including HIV, and high- risk behaviours
- The links between sexual behaviour and alcohol
- Conception and contraception
- Sexuality
- Child exploitation

The organisation of Sex and Relationship Education

SRE is co-ordinated by the Deputy Headteacher (Curriculum) and other leading staff and is taught within the Guidance programme at Key Stages 3, 4 and 5. Biological aspects of SRE are taught within the Science curriculum and some moral aspects are taught within RE.

Other agencies/ visiting speakers may be invited to input into the programme. All linked agencies, as above, will be appraised of this policy and where they fit within the planned programme; there will be discussions before any input, including on confidentiality issues, and joint evaluation afterwards. No visitor will work with students in a classroom situation without a teacher present.

Teachers will answer student questions appropriately and using their professional judgement, in line with this policy. There is no expectation that any teacher delivering SRE will automatically answer student questions, as this may infringe personal boundaries. However, in this instance, students will be advised to talk to their parents/carers, another member of staff, or advised as to where they may be able to access information eg helplines, websites, leaflets etc.

Right to withdrawal

Parents/Carers do not have the right to withdraw their child from the SRE element of the National Science Curriculum. Reproduction is often taught within science. Further information on sex and relationships, skills development and values clarification are provided within PSHE.

Parents/Carers do have the right to withdraw their child from SRE provided within PSHE. If a parent/carer wishes to withdraw their child from aspects of the SRE programme then they need to write in the first instance to the Head teacher, stating their reasons for the request. Parents/Carers will be invited into discuss their relevant concerns regarding the programme with the relevant people in the school.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The programme of SRE will be evaluated by the relevant lead staff to ensure that it continues to meet the needs of the pupils and the school.

Both the policy and classroom delivery will be monitored and evaluated as part of the regular cycle of self review.

Policy Approved by Governors 15 December 2015