



St. Mary's C. of E. Primary School

Sex and Relationship Education Policy

Rationale

Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) is lifelong learning about sex, sexuality, emotions, relationships and sexual health. It involves acquiring information, developing skills and forming positive beliefs, values and attitudes. SRE has a key part to play in the personal, social, moral and spiritual development of young people. It begins informally in the home with parents and carers long before any formal education takes place at school. Young people's entitlement to SRE is enshrined in the terms of the Education Act (1996).

We have based our school's SRE Policy on the DfE guidance document 'Sex and Relationship Education Guidance' (ref DfES 01116/2000). In this document, sex and relationship education is defined as 'learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about understanding the importance of marriage for family life as well as stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality, and sexual health.'

Aims

The following aims complement those of the Science curriculum:

- to have the confidence and self esteem to value themselves and others;
- to understand about the range of relationships, including the importance of family life, for the care and support of children;
- to develop confidence in talking, listening and thinking about feelings and relationships;
- to be able to name parts of the body and describe how their bodies work;
- to be prepared for puberty;
- to understand the consequences of their actions and behave responsibly within relationships;
- to be able to recognise unsafe situations and be able to protect themselves and ask for help and support;
- to understand the role the media plays in forming attitudes;
- to understand how safe practices can reduce the spread of viruses.

Content and Organisation

At St. Mary's C of E Primary School SRE is taught through both the Science and PSHE and Citizenship curriculum. We also teach some aspects through other subjects (for example, Religious Education and PE) where we feel they contribute significantly to a child's knowledge and understanding of relationships, feelings, their own bodies and how these are growing and developing.

In PSHE and Citizenship we teach children about relationships and we encourage them to discuss issues. In Science we teach about parts of the body and how these work. We also explain how the body changes as children approach puberty. We also discuss how people's emotions can change at this time and how to deal with their feelings towards themselves, their families and others in a positive way. We encourage the children to talk about their feelings and ask for help if they feel they need it.

In Science lessons at both key stages, teachers inform children about how their bodies change as they grow older and about how babies are born. Guidance material in the Science National

Curriculum is followed closely, with Key Stage 1 pupils being taught how animals, including humans, move, feed, grow and reproduce. Key Stage 1 pupils are also taught about the main parts of the body. Children learn to appreciate the differences between people and how to show respect for each other. In Key Stage 2 we teach about life processes and the main stages of the human life cycle in greater depth.

Specific aspects of SRE are taught in Years 5 and 6:

Year 5

In Year 5, as part of the science National Curriculum, pupils are taught about how their bodies will change during puberty. We liaise with 'Sirona Care and Health' about suitable teaching materials to use with pupils in these lessons, and the School Nurse works with the class teacher to support the teaching of this aspect of the curriculum. Parents are informed about the content of these lessons.

Year 6

In Year 6 pupils are taught about sexual relationships and sexual health in the context of an appropriate relationship. By the end of Key Stage 2 we ensure that both boys and girls know how babies are born, how their bodies change during puberty, what menstruation is, and how it affects women. 'Sirona Care and Health' provides guidance about appropriate teaching materials and the School Nurse works with the class teacher to deliver these sessions. Sexual relationships and sexual health (including HIV) are always taught with due regard for the emotional development of children.

We offer a meeting for all parents and carers of children in Year 6 to discuss the content of this particular sequence of lessons, and share the materials the school will be using to support its teaching and learning.

The Role of Parents and Carers

The school expects the primary role in children's SRE to lie with their parents and carers, and through mutual understanding, trust and cooperation, we work to develop a positive and supportive relationship with parents and carers. In promoting this objective we:

- inform parents and carers about the school's SRE policy and practice;
- answer any questions that parents and carers have about the SRE of their child;
- encourage parents and carers to be involved in reviewing the school policy and making modifications as necessary.

Procedures for Pupil Withdrawal from SRE

A pupil cannot be withdrawn from SRE education where this is taught as part of the Science National Curriculum. However, the school recognises that some parents and carers may wish to teach their children about sexual relationships within the context of their family / home setting. For this reason, parents and carers have the right to withdraw their children from the Y6 unit, which specifically teaches about sexual relationships and sexual health. However parents and carers are made aware that those children who are withdrawn from these sessions still receive biological information, but not taught in the context of relationships. In the instance that the right to withdrawal is exercised, parents and carers are also reminded that SRE could arise naturally from class discussion.

Children whose parents/carers exact their right to withdraw them from the Year 6 units that form part of our SRE programme, will be temporarily transferred to an alternative class.

The Role of Support Services

The school actively seeks advice about the content of SRE from 'Sirona Care and Health', Local Authority and DfE. The School Nurse also provides support in teaching about puberty, sexual relationships and sexual health.

Confidentiality

Teachers conduct SRE 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 the same way if a child indicates that they have been a victim of sexual abuse, notifying the designated teacher with responsibility for Child Protection, who will then deal with the matter as detailed in the school's Child Protection Policy.

Headteacher's Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of the Headteacher to ensure that both staff and parents/carers are informed about the school's SRE 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 to enable them to teach this area of the curriculum effectively and handle issues with sensitivity and due regard to the age of pupils involved.

The Headteacher monitors this policy on a regular basis and liaises with external agencies to ensure that its content meets statutory guidelines and is relevant to the needs of pupils currently attending St. Mary's.

Staff Responsibilities

To reassure parents, carers, pupils and governors that the personal beliefs and attitudes of staff will not influence the teaching of SRE; all those contributing to the programme are expected to work within the aims listed above.

Staff have a responsibility to ensure the safety and welfare of their pupils. They are in a particular position of trust (*loco parentis*). Sexual relationships involving children under 16 years of age constitute a criminal offence. A sexual relationship between a member of staff and any pupil at the same school is a breach of that trust. Such behaviour will be regarded as gross professional misconduct on the part of the member of staff and will result in disciplinary action. If a decision is made to dismiss, this may also lead to a member of staff being barred from further employment in the education service by the Secretary of State.

Monitoring and Review

The Governing Body's Curriculum and Standards Committee monitor and review the SRE Policy on an annual basis.

Date agreed by Curriculum and Standards Committee: February 2015

Review due:

February 2016