

Whimble Primary School Relationships and Sex Education

Consultation with our School Community



New Guidance

- ▶ 20 years since the last review of the curriculum- the world (and how we interact with each other) has changed
- ▶ New- Relationships Education in Primary Schools
- ▶ Previous recommendations for teaching Personal, Social, Health Education, are now part of the National Curriculum.
- ▶ Sex Education taught beyond the National Curriculum for Science in Primary Schools remains optional, though in Year 5 & 6 the science curriculum forms part of what might be considered as sex education- puberty and reproduction.

Science Curriculum

As part of the Science curriculum we teach the following statutory objectives that build understanding about growth and reproduction:

Key Stage One

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 they should not be expected to understand how reproduction occurs.

Key Stage Two

Describe the life process of reproduction in some plants and animals. They should learn about the changes experienced in puberty.

Where and how did you learn about sex and relationships? For young people, their learning comes from...

Mobile phones



TV



School



Parents & Carers

Friends & Older Siblings

Internet



Why is Relationships and Sex Education important?

- Entitlement
- Puberty is starting earlier- for some children by age 9
- Unwanted conceptions
- Sexually transmitted infections
- Safeguarding
 - Grooming
 - Child Sexual Exploitation
 - Abuse
 - Sexting
 - Online pornography

What is effective Relationships & Sex Education (RSE)?

- Age appropriate
- Based on needs of pupil (see later slides)
- Progressive
- Inclusive
- Delivered by trained staff in a safe environment
- Prepares children adequately for puberty in a timely way
- Prepares children for adult life
- Promotes positive relationships

Does it work? What's the evidence?

Those receiving good quality RSE are more likely to:

- Delay their first sexual experience**
- Use condoms for contraception**
- Have fewer sexual partners**

Kirby 2007

Ofsted review of existing RSE nationally

- A third of schools required improvement in their provision as it was not systematic enough
- Children were not adequately prepared for puberty
- In Primary Schools, too much emphasis was placed on friendships and relationships

Your rights as a parent:

- To be informed of the RSE curriculum and policy
- To be consulted about changes to these
- To withdraw your child from Sex education lessons (that are outside of/ additional to the Science National Curriculum)

Findings from children about what they already know/ need to know about Relationships and Sex :

- What do they need to know now? (What do they view as age appropriate?)
- What do they need to know at the age of 13?

In addition they were asked:
'Tell me about this picture....'



What did children say?

What children feel they need to know about now:

Year 2:

- Making friends, how to be nice to each other and keeping safe

Year 4:

- Being lonely and friendships, keeping safe including stranger danger, use of seat belts, road safety, what might change when they get older

Year 6:

- Different kinds of love and relationships - including sharing relationships online safety, road safety, body changes

What did children say they needed to know later?

Year 2:

- Internet safety
- Being an adult and having babies
- First Aid

Year 4:

- How to cook good food
- Internet safety
- Having babies
- How to get jobs - what we will do when older

Year 6:

- How to avoid pregnancy
- How to get a job

Where did children think the baby had come from?

Year 2:

- Mummy's tummy
- Dad's make babies
- A seed from daddy
- Staying in bed
- Not sure



Year 4:

- Mummy's tummy
- The parents
- From two people
- Can adopt
- A man and a girl like each other and might have a baby, may not get married

Year 6:

- Lots of giggling
- ... more giggling!
- Come from a sack, nurse put a nail in and blew it out
- Out of the girl, mum's tummy
- I feel I might be too young
- Good to know about at a young age (7-8)
- It's not important - if you want a baby it is

How does the baby get out?

Year 2:

- Push it out
- Out of the bum
- At hospital

Year 4:

- Their bottom
- Their tummy
- An egg or seed grows and hatches
- Go to hospital and sit in a chair and push
- It comes out this way - from vagina
- They have to cut the belly open

Year 6:

- You know you are in labour because of contractions and the water breaks
- It comes out of the parts (don't know names but watched on the movies)
- Watched brother being born



Other observations:

- Giggles/ embarrassment (Year 6)
- Year 6 preferred to be taught in single sex groups
- Boys generally had less awareness of how their bodies changed and knew very little about the girls (and weren't interested)
- Struggle to name body parts
- Some talked to parents/ carers
- Gender stereotypes
- Wanted Teachers to deliver the learning (Y6)

Recommendations for Changes/ Schools:

- Introduce children to the correct scientific terms to describe body parts in Key Stage 1
- Explore/ challenge gender roles/ stereotypes
- Begin to explore puberty changes in Year 5
- Deliver RSE in a progressive way across the school
- Ensure that children in Year 5 and 6 receive RSE input around changes during puberty so that they are prepared as soon as possible for its onset
- For some sessions on Sex Education, consider single gender sessions

Summary

- Parents have the right to withdraw children from Sex Education lessons at Primary School that go **beyond** the content in the Science National Curriculum. We have chosen to only teach the content within the science curriculum.
- Topics covered related and linked to the Science Curriculum are statutory and not optional to teach. This is as follows:
 - In Key Stage 1, children learn that animals, including humans, have offspring that grow into adults. They should be introduced to the concepts of reproduction and growth but not how reproduction occurs.
 - In Upper Key Stage 2 (Year 5/6), children are taught about the life cycles of humans and animals, including reproduction. They also learn about the change that happen in humans from birth to old age. This includes learning about what happens in puberty.
- School's have the right and obligation to teach RSE topic to prepare children for life when they leave school.
- The curriculum on Relationships and Sex Education should complement, and be supported by, the school's wider policies on Behaviour, bullying and safeguarding (PSHE; Online-Safety, Relationships etc.)

Next Steps:

- Please look at the materials on the school website:

https://www.whimble-primary.devon.sch.uk/website/relationships_and_sex_education/522030

- Please respond to the survey:

<https://forms.gle/PnH4omsskgoVW3x47>

We are interested in your views about when to tackle different concepts and any areas you might like further support with at home. I am aware that there will be differences of opinion, but we will take your views into account when we finalise our policy and curriculum plan.

We will share this with you later in the summer term.