

Sex and relationships education policy

Introduction

Sex and relationship education (SRE) is compulsory from age 11 onwards. It involves teaching children about reproduction, sexuality and sexual health. It does not promote early sexual activity or any particular sexual orientation.

The availability of SRE is an entitlement for all children whose parents agree, regardless of race, culture, gender, or ability. It is an important aspect of the broad and balanced curriculum, which prepares the child for the wider world, while providing the protection of a safe environment in which to discuss sensitive issues. Differentiation, continuity and progression should be based on an awareness of individual experiences, knowledge and skills already acquired.

Some parts of sex and relationship education are compulsory - these are part of the national curriculum for science. Parents can withdraw their children from all other parts of sex and relationship education if they want.

Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) contributes to promoting the spiritual, moral, cultural, emotional and physical development of pupils. It also helps to prepare young people for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life. Effective sex and relationship education teaches young people to understand the human body and sexuality and to respect themselves and others. It enables young people to mature, build up their confidence and self-esteem and understand changes when approaching adulthood.

SRE is lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It involves teaching about sex, sexuality and sexual health, as well as the importance of stable and loving relationships and family life.

We are fully aware of the moral, legal, cultural and ethnic dimensions of the subject. Equally, we understand the importance of parents'/carers' views in relation to SRE. Information regarding the structure of sex education lesson and materials available and the school's policy is always available for any parent to view.

Philosophy of sex and relationships education at TVS

Sex and Relationship Education is a sensitive topic and is delivered according to pupils' needs. By providing SRE for pupils at The Village School, we aim to promote respect for themselves and others and prepare pupils to cope with the physical and emotional challenges of growing up. SRE is about relating to other people, respecting rights and feelings of others and developing loving and caring relationships as friends, parents and members of the family. At The Village School we respect and celebrate cultural diversity.

SRE is vital in supporting young people with complex needs to identify situations which could be harmful, unsafe or abusive. Pupils with learning needs are vulnerable and 85% more likely to be victims of abuse. This includes raising awareness about bullying, domestic violence, female genital mutilation, and other harmful practices.

Aims of sex and relationship education at TVS

- To be aware of their own bodies and familiar with the terminology of human body parts □ To understand the difference between 'Private and Public'.
- To feel comfortable with their own bodies and various biological functions.
- To have an awareness of changes through puberty and understanding of 'growing up' process.
- To promote understanding and respect between people.
- To understand the process of reproduction in human beings
- To understand and value the differences in relationships; friendship, romantic attachment, marriage
- To respect people and show all people in line with our equality policy including for example people in same sex relationships, transgender people □ To teach pupils strategies to keep themselves safe. □ To communicate when they feel unsafe.
- To look out for their friends and peers
- To understand what bullying is and its different forms e.g. (cyber bullying, homophobic bullying) □ To know what to do if they feel they or their friends are being bullied.

Diversity

Pupils understand that all life is of equal value regardless of race, sex, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender or wealth. All pupils in the school have opportunity to access SRE appropriate to their age and developmental level.

Pupils from all faiths and cultures have an entitlement to SRE and effective SRE is sensitive to the range of different values and beliefs within a multi-faith and multi-cultural society. The Village School will promote all pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development to enable them to participate fully in a democratic modern world.

Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual (LGB)

All families are different so staff at The Village School will avoid using languages which focuses on the conventional 2-parent family structure and instead talk about families more broadly. Pupils will be provided with the opportunities to learn about different family structures. For Key Stage 4, when discussing sexual relationships and partners, references and resources are used that relate to LGB people.

Sexual orientation is a protected characteristic in the 2010 Equalities Act, so the curriculum will cater for LGBT and heterosexual pupils. The Village School is proactive in the prevention of all bullying (including homophobic bullying) and wants to ensure all pupils feel included.

14 – 16 year olds attending Further Education (FE)

Settings for part of their education, some The Village School pupils attend an FE College for part of their educational provision. The college will communicate to The Village School details of an SRE to be delivered to 14-16 year olds. Equipped with these details of provision, The Village School will inform parents of any non-statutory SRE that is included in the college programme to allow parents the right to exercise their option of withdrawing their child from that provision.

The teaching of SRE at the TVS

We aim to provide an environment at The Village School where young people can develop and flourish. SRE is a fundamental part of our SMSC programme, preparing students for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life. SRE at The Village School focuses on relationships and issues that arise from relationships. In delivering SRE it is our aim for pupils to develop a healthy, safer lifestyle.

We are aware as a school that teaching staff may need extra support and training in order to deliver an SRE curriculum that deals with sensitive issues and confidently in the classroom. The Village school works with staff to highlight and support these needs. As a school we recognise the importance of helping our young people develop confidence in communication, listening and thinking about sex and relationships.

The Village school in alignment with SRE guidance 2006 recognises that both boys and girls should be prepared for puberty, and where appropriate Young people need to learn where they can access information, be aware of risks and how they can keep themselves safe.

The statutory requirement for community schools is that SRE is taught within the Science National Curriculum. At The Village School it is taught additionally through the PSED, SRE curriculum from key stage 3 upwards. Please see the document 'Statutory requirements for National Curriculum Science' on the DfE website for further information. Please be advised that at The Village School we modify all curriculum areas to meet the needs of our pupil population.

The village school is aware that in many situations parents and carers are the key people in teaching their children about sex, relationships and growing up. We are also aware that in some situations parents find it difficult to talk to their children about sex and relationships and as a school create opportunities to both support the parents in their role as educators and work in collaboration to produce curriculum content.

Parents' rights to withdraw a child from SRE Section 405 of the Education Act 1996 enables parents to withdraw their children from sex education other than the sex education that is in the National Curriculum (such as the biological aspects of human growth and reproduction that are essential elements of National Curriculum Science).

Some parents and carers of children with special educational needs may find it difficult to accept their children's developing sexuality. Some pupils will be more vulnerable to abuse and exploitation than their peers, and others may be confused about what is acceptable public behaviour. These children will need help to develop skills to reduce the risks of being abused and exploited, and to learn what sorts of behaviour are acceptable.

Our curriculum planning is informed by the Department of Education document 'Keeping Children

Safe in Education' 2014. Individual pupil priorities are reached through agreement with the Child Protection and designated leads. Some teaching may be in smaller single sex groups in order to provide pupils with an environment where they feel comfortable in order to enable pupils to get the maximum benefit from each session. For example Sex Education may be delivered in smaller single sex groups.

The Village school also works in collaboration with the wider community to deliver an effective SRE curriculum including where appropriate health workers, social workers, youth workers, peer educators and visitors, all who must abide by this policy and linked guidance.

Confidentiality

The Village school in alignment with SRE guidance 2006 understands that teachers cannot offer or guarantee pupils unconditional confidentiality. The Village School is aware that teachers are not legally bound to inform parents of any disclosure unless directed by the head. All staff are to follow child protection procedures as stated in the policy if they have any concerns regarding abuse. All health professionals will also follow schools policy whilst in a classroom setting.

Ref DFE , SRE Guidance July 2006

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Revision history

Date	Details	Author
July 2016	Updated	Sue Jones (Dpty Head) & Herman Farrington
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