



**This Policy was adopted by the Governing Body of the
Northam Schools Federation on:
25th April 2016**

OUR PRIMARY SCHOOL SEX AND RELATIONSHIP POLICY

Introduction

Our primary school promotes health in its widest sense; attending to the physical, social and psychological development of its pupils and the maintenance of good health for all pupils and staff. As part of this it is considered that the development of the emotions and self-esteem is central to its aims and a key element of this is a carefully considered and constructed Sex and Relationship Education Policy for all children in the school's care.

Sex and Relationship Education should happen in partnership with parents. It has become increasingly recognised that Sex and Relationship Education should not be something that is simply 'bolted on' as children go through puberty, but should be gradually developed as an integral part of the curriculum in a way that is appropriate to the age of the child. It is an entitlement for all children, as part of the curriculum requirements of science (Life process and living things) and health education. The potentially sensitive nature of the subject means that schools must add moral and social questions alongside. Sex and Relationship Education is not just about reproduction and sexual health, but must also strive to enable children to act responsibly in making and maintaining relationships

with others, to feel good about themselves and the choices they make. To develop assertiveness skills and the ability to respect themselves and others.

In the context of this the School Sex and Relationships Policy aims to:

- Give clear and appropriate information and knowledge by answering children's questions openly, honestly and appropriately.
- Promote positive attitudes and values promoting self-esteem and fostering of individual well being.
- Promote the necessary skills for effective communication, long and happy relationships and positive behaviour and development.
- Challenging beliefs - often complicated by mis-information.

These objectives can only be achieved as a developmental process beginning at the early years at an appropriate level and progressing through childhood and adolescence into adulthood.

Strategy for Implementation

Sex and Relationship Education is taught as part of the PSHE and Science curriculum and will therefore be part of the teaching programme in key stage 2.

In Year 3/4 the pupils cover the 'Animal and Humans' unit in Science; in PSHE, they look at how they change and grow from birth and explore friendships and family relationships. In Year 5 Science, the pupils continue to explore how the changes in humans to old age, including gestation periods of animals and humans. In PSHE, children learn about the changes in puberty, know the correct terminology for body parts and continue to explore friendships and wider relationships. In Year 6 the pupils will study physical and emotional changes experienced in puberty, including the importance hygiene for boys and girls. The school nurse will deliver a session around sexual exploitation.

In Year 6, there will be an opportunity for girls to talk to a female member of staff and boys to talk to a male member of staff during this course of work. The school nurse works in partnership with the school to develop the SRE planning and comes into school to discuss issues with the children as appropriate.

The programme we provide provides the framework for effective health and relationship education which relates to the children's stages of development with activities presented in the context of family life, loving relationships and respect for others.

Parents are invited to view the planning, presentations and the supporting material. If there are any parental concerns we will be happy to discuss them.

Inclusion

This policy is written with the inclusion of all pupils in mind. Its content will be differentiated to accommodate all levels of ability.

We will respect the beliefs of parents who wish to withdraw their child from a sex education programme.

Parents cannot however withdraw their children from aspects of sex education which are part of the National Curriculum. We will engage in a positive dialogue with a view to illustrating to parents the relevance and importance of such a programme to their child.

Parents who still wish to exclude their child from a sex and relationship education programme will be asked to do so in writing to the Headteacher.

Finally

Sexual development is a natural process, just one aspect of growing up emotionally, socially and physically. Each is an integral part of growing to adulthood and independence.

Our policy enables children to make comparisons with their own development and to reflect on their own relationships in positive ways.

Ultimately the teaching and learning is about the promotion of self-esteem and the fostering of individual well-being. Children will be given credit for their ideas and opportunities to reflect upon their own experiences and review their learning.

SEX EDUCATION GUIDELINES

- We believe that sex education should happen in partnership with parents. As with all other areas of our school, a positive effort will be made to inform and involve parents at all stages of the sex education scheme of work delivered in our school. We also hope to provide advice to parents, where appropriate.
- It is recognised that sex education is part of the more general area of Personal and Social Education and that this area is considered important and valuable throughout the school.
- It is also recognised that there are appropriate bodies of knowledge for an appropriate age or stage of readiness.
- Sex education in our Primary School will deal with sexuality in the broader context of the individual life and society. It will respect the family as a context for procreation growth and maturing.
- We will respect the beliefs of parents who wish to withdraw their child from a sex education programme. Parents cannot, however, withdraw their children from aspects of sex education which are part of the National Curriculum.
- We will attempt to convince parents of the relevance and importance of such a programme to their child.
- Parents, who still wish to exclude their child from a sex education programme, will be asked to do so in writing to the Headteacher.