

# Whole School Policy for: **SRE**

Sex and Relationship Education

Ratification date: January 2019

Review date: January 2020

EC Claxton

(PSHE Leader)

(Headteacher)

(Chair of Governors)

## **Policy Statement**

**Through the development of this policy and the teaching of SRE, we aim to provide a supportive learning environment in which pupils can develop their feelings of self-worth and confidence, especially in relationship to others.**

*"Sex and Relationships Education is lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about understanding the importance of marriage for family life; stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality and sexual health. It is not about the promotion of sexual orientation or sexual activity."*

(DFE July 2000)

Children learn about sex and relationships from the very youngest age, even if we don't talk with them. Some of the things they learn are incorrect, confusing and frightening. In a world where sex is used to sell things from food to fast cars, and celebrities' lives become everyone's business, we should talk to our children to help them make sense of it all.

Effective SRE does not encourage early sexual experimentation – but it does enable young people to mature, to build up their confidence and self-esteem and to make responsible, informed and healthy decisions about their lives, both now and in the future. It teaches children to respect themselves and others so they can move confidently from childhood through to adolescence and into adulthood.

Parents and carers are the key people for their child's learning about sex and relationships and schools should always work in partnership with home. Parents and carers need to know that the school's SRE programme will complement their role and support them in the education of their child regarding sex and relationships. Orchards Primary School will ensure that parents' and carers' views are heard and that taught SRE is culturally appropriate and inclusive of all of our children.

## **Ethos and Values**

Sex and relationship education (SRE) will reflect the values of the PSHE and Citizenship programme. SRE will be taught in the context of relationships. In addition SRE will promote self-esteem and emotional health and well-being and help them form and maintain worthwhile and satisfying relationships, based on respect for themselves and for others, at home, school, work and in the community.

At Orchards, we aim to provide a holistic education for all children. Every pupil will receive their full entitlement to SRE regardless of their educational ability, gender, race, disability, sexual orientation, ethnicity or faith. We aim to support children in their emotional, cultural and social, as well as academic development.

## **Definition**

According to the Sex and Relationship Education Guidance (DfE 0116/2000, SRE is '*lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of loving and caring relationships.*'

## **Aims**

Contributing to the foundation of PSHE, the school's SRE programme aims to 'explore attitudes and values with children about relationships, emotions, self-esteem and personal safety.' Children will develop skills in order to make positive decisions about their health related behaviour. During SRE children will 'develop personal and social skills and a positive attitude to growing up'.

## **Objectives**

The school aims to provide a graduated, age-appropriate SRE programme emphasising the social and emotional aspects of relationships.

Education about relationships **for 3-7 year olds** will focus on the building of self-esteem and confidence by encouraging learners to:

- Respect, value and care for themselves and others,
- Value recognise and communicate their feelings,
- Form friendships, relationships and develop an understanding of diversity.
- Respect boundaries – their own and other peoples.
- Begin to develop an understanding of different family dynamics
- Gain an understanding of the importance of personal safety and what to do or to whom to go when feeling unsafe.

SRE will teach **7-11 year olds** to understand:

- The range of their own and others' feelings and emotions,
- To develop and use communication skills and assertiveness skills to cope with the influences of their peers and the social media,
- To learn how to access risks and keep strategies for keeping safe.
- To be prepared for puberty and adulthood, including physical and emotional changes that take place at puberty, including conception, pregnancy and birth.
- To develop an understanding of the value of family life and an appreciation of the many different types of families.
- To develop good relationships and respect the differences between people without prejudice.

## **Implementation**

Sex and Relationship Education is delivered through science, RE, PSHE, citizenship, ICT, literacy activities, and 'circle time'. A planned and co-ordinated approach to each subject can provide an appropriate framework for SRE to take place providing pupils with a consistent message.

SRE is taught by classroom teachers, teaching assistants and if appropriate, outside visitors such as the school nurse. A range of teaching methods include use of video, discussion, looking at case studies, drama and role-play.

Sex and relationship education is usually delivered in mixed gender groups; however, there may be occasions where single gender groups are more appropriate and relevant

The minimum statutory requirement for SRE is that schools must deliver the **National Curriculum for Science** to all children within school:

### **Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum**

- NSPCC underwear rule
- Name and talk about basic body parts
- To develop an understanding of the value of family life and an appreciation of the many different types of family.

### **Key Stage 1**

- Animals, including humans, move, feed, grow, use their senses and reproduce.
- Children should name and recognise the main external parts of the human body.
- That humans can produce offspring and these grow into adults.
- Children should recognise similarities.
- To develop an understanding of the value of family life and an appreciation of the many different types of family.
- NSPCC UNDERWEAR RULE

### **Key Stage 2**

- That the life processes common to humans and other animals include nutrition, growth and reproduction.
- The main stages of the human life cycle, including puberty.
- To develop an understanding of the value of family life and an appreciation of the many different types of family.
- NSPCC UNDERWEAR RULE

### **Dealing with difficult topics / questions**

All teachers are aware of the ground rules which provide an agreed structure to answering sensitive or difficult questions. Teachers will endeavour to answer questions as honestly as possible but if faced with a question they do not feel comfortable answering within the classroom, provision would be made to meet the individual child's needs.

#### **'Silly questions'**

Children are testing boundaries and have no interest in the answer. In this case, teachers will not answer questions, and explain that they are inappropriate.

#### **'Concerning questions'**

These could possibly be indicative of safeguarding issues. In this case, teachers will follow the school safeguarding procedures.

### **'Genuine questions'**

The child has a genuine but age inappropriate question. In this case, the child's question will be acknowledged, with a promise to return to it later. The class teacher will then consult with the child's parents, and discuss if they would like to answer, or they want school to answer, in the case of the latter, it will be discussed with parents how much information they are happy for their child to have.

### **Parental Consultation**

The Sex and Relationship Education policy is shared on the school website and full detail are available on request. The school informs parents when aspects of the sex and relationship programme are taught and will be given an outline of the lessons in advance so they are able to make an informed decision.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from those aspects of sex and relationship education, not included in the Science National Curriculum. However this rarely happens, by working in partnership with parents they recognise the importance of this aspect of their child's education.

*'If the parent of any pupil in attendance at a maintained school requests that he may be wholly or partly excused from receiving sex education at the school, the pupil shall, except so far as such education is comprised in the National Curriculum, be so excused accordingly until the request is withdrawn.'*

Education Act 1996 (Section 405)

### **Safeguarding / Confidentiality**

Teachers need to be aware that effective sex and relationship education, which brings an understanding of what is and is not acceptable in a relationship, may lead to disclosure of a child protection issue.

- The staff member will inform the Head Teacher /Designated Child Protection person in line with the LA procedures for child protection.
- A member of staff cannot promise confidentiality if concerns exist.

### **Monitoring, Assessing and Reviewing**

To ensure that the policy is adhered to and is effective, it will be monitored, reviewed and evaluated regularly. The school will assess the effectiveness of the aims, content and methods in promoting pupils' learning by lesson observation, sampling teachers planning, questionnaires to teachers and children and feedback from parents. The effectiveness of the SRE programme will be evaluated by assessing children's learning and implementing change if required.