

RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION AT CHANTRY CP SCHOOL

What is Sex and Relationships Education?

'Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) is the learning about our bodies, reproduction and puberty within the context of emotions, relationships and healthy choices. It lays the foundations for future work on sexual and reproductive health and so helps to prepare children for adulthood. It contributes to the emotional and social development of children, helps them to develop a secure sense of identity and to function well in the world' - Sex Education Forum.

Sex and Relationships Education is important because it can:

- help and support our children in their physical, emotional and moral development
- help them to learn to respect themselves and others
- help them to move with confidence from childhood through adolescence into adulthood

SRE at Chantry CP School will help our children to have

Personal and Social Skills - so that they:

- develop confidence in talking and thinking about feelings and relationships
- understand the need to manage their own emotions and to respect themselves and others
- learn to be sensitive to the needs of others
- recognise and avoid unacceptable behaviour and manage conflict
- learn how to protect themselves and ask for help and support
- have a critical awareness of the messages delivered by the media or within their peer group

Positive Attitudes and Values - so that they:

- learn the value of respect, love and care in sustaining good relationships
- understand moral dilemmas
- appreciate the value of good relationships, family life and the responsibilities of parenthood
- understand that the family unit can take various forms

Knowledge and Understanding - so that they:

- are able to name parts of the body, including the reproductive organs and describe how their bodies work
- understand about emotions, relationships and basic human reproduction
- learn and understand each stage of their emotional and physical development and are prepared for puberty

Legal Requirements

The law requires schools to provide Sex and Relationships Education. The biological content of SRE is mandatory for all pupils, as part of the National Curriculum for Science. This includes:



KS1 - knowing that animals, including humans, move, feed, grow, use their senses and reproduce

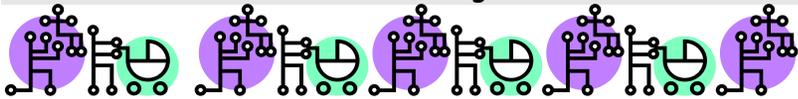
- recognising and comparing the main external parts of the bodies of humans
- knowing that humans and animals can produce offspring and these grow into adults

KS2 - that the life processes common to humans and other animals include growth, nutrition and reproduction
- about the main stages of the human life cycle

The DfE recommends that SRE is delivered as part of PSHEE and that all children know about puberty before they experience the onset of physical changes.



The law gives parents the right to ask for their child to be removed from specific sex education lessons, although not those that fall within the Science Curriculum. If you are considering doing so, please discuss the matter with your child's teacher or the head teacher. At Chantry we strongly recommend that all children take part in all lessons to give them the best possible understanding and support as their bodies and emotions develop and change.



A Whole School Community Approach

SRE is a gradual developmental process that is supported by a partnership between home and school and will provide a foundation for further work at secondary school.

Outside agencies, health professionals, drama groups and other speakers may from time to time be involved in SRE through the PSHEe programme. The school will only work with agencies and speakers who are judged to be suitable to the children's needs. We work in partnership with them to plan their input.

An opportunity will be provided for parents to view the materials we use for SRE in school and the teaching staff are happy to meet with those who may have particular concerns. Consultation about your thoughts and opinions will be occurring in the future so please take the time to help us so that we can deliver the best quality SRE to our pupils, your children.

Organisation for Learning

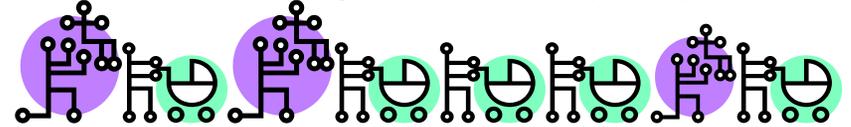
Teaching and learning in SRE is conducted in a safe learning environment. Pupils are not put on the spot or expected to discuss personal issues in class.

Where it is regarded as beneficial, pupils are divided into single gender groups. (e.g. when being given detailed information about menstruation and/or body changes during puberty).

Celebration of Achievement

Reflection is crucial in SRE as it encourages children to consolidate what they have learned, clarify understanding and learn new skills and attitudes. In SRE lessons, children make responses in a variety of ways including discussion, role play, answering questions, writing or pictures.

Emotional progress and ability to sustain relationships is reported to parents at Parents' Evenings and in the end of year report.



Answering Questions

We believe that children should have opportunities to have genuine questions answered in a sensible and matter-of-fact manner.

However, occasionally a pupil may ask a particularly explicit, difficult or embarrassing question in class. Teachers use their professionalism and discretion to decide whether to answer in class and, if so, how. They may decide to answer at a later time, in private, or refer the child to their parents.

If a question or statement is too personal, teachers remind children about the ground rules for the sessions and, if needed, point out appropriate sources of support. All staff will make it clear to children that they cannot promise absolute confidentiality. If a teacher is concerned that a child is 'at risk', s/he will follow child protection procedures.

Frequently Asked Questions

How do teachers make decisions about what they consider to be appropriate?

Teachers make judgements and decisions about how to answer children's questions on a wide range of issues every day. They will always use their professional judgement when responding to children's questions about sex and relationships.

If any parents or carers have particular concerns about what they would want their child to hear or learn about, it would be helpful if they could take an opportunity to speak to their child's teacher early in each school year.

Doesn't SRE sexualise children?

Research shows that good sex education helps to delay rather than accelerate the age at which young people start to become sexually active. These findings support a programme of SRE that begins at Key Stage 1 and continues to build on previous learning, through personal, social, health and citizenship education, with the concept of 'relationships' at the heart of what is taught.



Won't this destroy the innocence of 5 year olds?

Innocence is not the same as ignorance. Children make sense of information as they need to.

Children learn about sex and relationships from an early age, even if we don't talk to them. Some of the things they pick up from advertising and the media are incorrect, confusing and possibly frightening. Children are not isolated and they pick up lots of information and misinformation. It is better that they have the opportunity to hear what is factually correct, presented sensitively, with consideration given to each child's stage of development.



How are varying religious perspectives considered in the delivery of SRE?

It is important to respect each other's beliefs about what children should learn at school about Sex and Relationships. For this reason, parents and carers are given the opportunity to:

- talk to teachers about the content of the SRE programme for their child
- know what vocabulary will be taught
- view the videos and other resources that their child might be shown



Should you require further clarification about our Sex and Relationships Programme, please contact either your child's class teacher or the co-ordinator for Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education.

What will children be taught about sensitive issues?

- **Menstruation**

Towards the end of Year 4, teachers hold *girls only* sessions, during which they learn about menstruation. As part of these sessions they are given information about what to do if they begin their period at school, who can help them and where and how they can change and dispose of their sanitary protection.

If teachers are kept informed about menstruating girls, they are better able to make arrangements for helping. A quick word, phone call or note in the morning would help us. If you would like to speak to anyone about this please call into school.

- **Contraception**

Year 6 children learn that steps can be taken to reduce the risk of pregnancy by the use of condoms and the contraceptive pill. They will probably have heard information about these through television adverts and some programmes. They will also be told, for example, that it is not possible to conceive by kissing and cuddling, to alleviate fears that pubescent girls often have. Detailed information about contraception is given in SRE at the beginning of their secondary education.

- **HIV / AIDS / Safer Sex / Abortion**

Many children have heard about HIV and AIDs; they are often referred to in news and television programmes. Detailed information is not given, but questions will be answered honestly and sensitively. Abortion, as a means of birth control, is covered at secondary school.

- **Homosexuality**

A variety of personal relationships, including gay and lesbian, are acknowledged in years 5 and 6. Questions will be answered honestly and sensitively and Homophobic bullying will be covered here and in the wider PSHE Curriculum. SRE is not about the promotion of sexual orientation or sexual activity.

- **Masturbation**

This will not be discussed in detail, but should children ask about it, any questions will be answered sensitively. The videos we use identify the clitoris, stating that '...it feels nice when you touch it' and the penis '...sometimes gets hard and this feels nice.'

- **What about the use of slang words?**

We encourage the children to know and use the correct terminology. However, slang expressions may be referred to in order to help children understand why the use of some words may be inappropriate.



What do we teach?

Differences

baby boy different
male man penis sex parts

Year Two

female girl
vagina woman

How Did I Get Here?

breast fertilisation foetus
pregnant testicles vagina

Year Three

ovaries penis
womb

Growing Up

baby growing living grown-up suckling
teenager toddler

Changes

egg ovaries puberty scrotum sexual
relationship sperm testicles vagina

Year Four

How Babies Are Made

caring conception egg fertilisation friend love
making love sexual relationship sperm womb

Year Five

How Babies Are Born

fertilisation foetus labour oxygen pregnancy pregnant
ultrasound umbilical cord womb menstruation period

Boy Talk

erection ejaculation girlfriend puberty
relationship shaving spots wet dream

Let's Talk About Sex

gay gender lesbian media
relationship stereotype

What resources do we use?

Some of the range of resources we select from to teach SRE will be available for you to view at your child's welcome meeting so please make sure you attend to get the full information. You can also have a look at the resources we use online. They are as follows:

- *The Christopher Winter Project*
- *National Children's Bureau - Laying the Foundations*
- *Living and Growing*
- *NSPCC - Sense, Growing Up and Keeping Safe*