



The Keys Academy Trust

Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) Policy

Date: July 2018

Review: Spring 2020

EARLEY ST PETERS C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

POLICY FOR SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION (SRE)

(1) AIMS OF THE POLICY

The aims of this policy are to

- (i) Provide a statement on the aims, principles and strategies for the teaching of Sex and Relationships Education at St Peters School
- (ii) Provide guidance and a point of reference for Staff, Governors, parents and other bodies/individuals who may wish to know about the teaching of Sex and Relationships Education in our school
- (iii) Ensure Sex and Relationships is taught consistently throughout the school

(2) INTRODUCTION

Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) introduces children to the physical and emotional changes and adult relationships that they will experience as they mature.

We have based our school's sex education policy on the DfEE guidance document Sex and Relationship Education Guidance (ref DfEE 0116/2000). In this document, sex education is defined as 'learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about understanding the importance of stable and loving relationships, marriage for family life, respect, love and care.

Sex Education is part of the Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) curriculum in our school. While we use sex education to inform children about sexual issues, we do this with regard to matters of morality and individual responsibility, and in a way that allows children to ask and explore moral questions. We do not use sex education as a means of promoting any form of sexual orientation.

(3) KEY POINTS

(i) Content

We teach children about:

- the physical development of their bodies as they grow into adults;
- the way humans reproduce;
- respect for their own bodies and the importance of sexual activity as part of a committed, long-term, and loving relationship;
- the importance of family life;
- moral questions;

- relationship issues;
- respect for the views of other people.

We teach sex education in the context of the school's aims and values. While SRE in our school means that we give children information about sexual behaviour, we do this with an awareness of the moral code and values which underpin all our work in school.

In particular, we teach SRE in the belief that:

- SRE should be taught in the context of marriage and family life;
- SRE is part of a wider social, personal, spiritual and moral learning process;
- children should be taught to have respect for their own bodies;
- children should learn about their responsibilities to others, and be aware of the consequences of sexual activity;
- it is important to build positive relationships with others, involving trust and respect.

(iii) Organisation:

SRE will be taught both directly, as part of our programme for Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE), and also through other subjects when appropriate – for example, some aspects of the Science curriculum will have a strong and obvious link to SRE themes.

For direct teaching of SRE the school has adopted the 'Jigsaw' scheme. The scheme covers key aspects of SRE, with each year group having a folder of lesson plans and activities for the entire year. Having one integrated and coherent scheme helps us to ensure that all SRE topics are fully covered in an appropriate fashion for the age and stage of each year group.

We liaise with the Local Health Authority about suitable teaching materials to use with our children in these lessons. Teachers do their best to answer all questions with sensitivity and care. By the end of Key Stage 2 we ensure that both boys and girls know how babies are conceived, born, how their bodies change during puberty, what menstruation is, and how it affects women. We always teach this with due regard for the emotional development of the children. Prior to teaching this aspect of SRE we arrange a meeting for parents and carers to discuss the lessons, explain what the issues are and how they are taught, and to see the materials the school uses in its teaching.

We do not teach about Homosexuality, Sexually Transmitted Diseases or Sexual Abuse. However, should any child mention these issues they will be dealt with in a sensitive way by the adult delivering the lesson.

(iv) The role of parents

The school is well aware that the primary role in children's sex education lies with parents and carers. We wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents and carers of children at our school through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation. In promoting this objective we:

- inform parents about the school's sex education policy and practice;
- answer any questions that parents may have about the sex education of their child;
- take seriously any issue that parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy or the arrangements for sex education in the school;
- inform parents about the best practice known with regard to sex education, so that the teaching in school supports the key messages that parents and carers give to children at home.

We believe that, through this mutual exchange of knowledge and information, children will benefit from being given consistent messages about their changing body and their increasing responsibilities.

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from all or part of the sex education programme that we teach in our school. If a parent wishes their child to be withdrawn from sex and relationship lessons, they should discuss this with the headteacher, and make it clear which aspects of the programme they do not wish their child to participate in. The school always complies with the wishes of parents in this regard. However, it should be noted that the elements of SRE that are taught through Science are mandatory.

(v) The role of other members of the community

We encourage other valued members of the community to work with us to provide advice and support to the children with regard to health education, for example members of the Local Health Authority, such as the school nurse and other health professionals.

(vi) Confidentiality

Teachers conduct sex education lessons in a sensitive manner. If a child makes a reference to being involved in sexual activity, then the teacher will take the matter seriously and deal with it as a matter of child protection. If the teacher has concerns, they will draw their concerns to the attention of the Headteacher. The Headteacher will then deal with the matter in consultation with health care professionals. (See also Safeguarding Policy.)

(vii) The role of the headteacher

It is the responsibility of the Headteacher to ensure that both staff and parents are informed about our Sex and Relationship policy, and that the policy is implemented effectively. It is also the Headteacher's responsibility to ensure that members of staff are given sufficient training, so that they can teach effectively and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity. The Headteacher liaises with external agencies regarding the school Sex and Relationship programme, and ensures that all adults who work with children on these issues are aware of the school policy, and that they work within this framework.

(viii) Sensitive/Controversial Issues

The school recognises that by its very nature there may be instances where controversial and sensitive issues are raised. In order for lessons to take place effectively, teachers and

other staff may need to overcome their own anxieties and embarrassment. There are a number of strategies that can help-

- Establishing ground rules and using distancing techniques
- Knowing how to deal with unexpected questions and comments from pupils
- Using discussion and appropriate materials
- Encouraging reflection

(ix) Monitoring and review

The Child Development Committee of the Governing Body monitors our SRE policy on a bi-annual basis. This committee reports its findings and recommendations to the full governing body, as necessary, if the policy needs modification. The Committee also gives serious consideration to any comments from parents about the school's sex education programme.