

Sex and Relationship Education Policy

Reviewed May 2017

Definition – Sex and Relationship Education is lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development, embedded in a context that enhances the self-worth and confidence of each individual and encourages mutually respectful relationships and empathy for others.

Aims

Our aims fall into three categories:

Attitudes and values:

To enable children to:

- Recognise and understand the value of family life, marriage and stable and loving relationships for the nurture of both children and adults
- Develop a respect for oneself and others through loving and caring for oneself and others
- Explore, consider and understand moral dilemmas
- Develop critical thinking skills as part of decision making

Personal and Social Skills

To enable children to:

- Strengthen self-esteem and self-confidence through learning to understand and manage emotions and relationships confidently and sensitively.
- Make choices based on an understanding of difference and without prejudice
- develop an understanding of the consequences of choices, thus be informed decision makers
- Develop skills to be assertive, manage conflict and communicate when making choices

Knowledge and Understanding

To enable children to:

- Learn and understand about physical development at appropriate stages and deal with issues of gender and stereotyping
- Build a knowledge about sexuality, reproduction, sexual health, emotions and relationships
- Learn about reasons to delay sexual activity and the benefits to be gained from such a delay as appropriate to the needs of the children.

How will sensitive issues be managed at Sheredes?

Delivering a sex and relationship education involves the possibility of covering issues that are likely to be sensitive or controversial such as: sex education, family lifestyles and values. At Sheredes, we believe it is important that teachers' beliefs and attitudes should not influence the teaching of SRE within the PSHE &C framework.

- **Puberty and Menstruation**

This area of PSHE &C is delivered in the Summer term of Year 6 as part of Health Education. The work is delivered through discussions based on BBC Sex Education. Opportunities are given for the children to formulate their own questions to be answered in whole class, single sex groups or individual situations – depending on the needs of the children.

- **Contraception, HIV and Sexually transmitted diseases, abortion.**

If children ask about these during the course of sex and relationship lessons within the PSHE &C curriculum teachers refer the children back to their parents.

Ground Rules

- No one has to answer a personal question
- Personal questions specifically aimed at embarrassing others are discouraged
- No one is forced to participate in a discussion
- Only correct names for body parts are used, if slang words are mentioned they are explained
- Meanings of words are explained clearly and factually
- Respect for differences between pupils is maintained

Responding to unwelcome questions or comments

- If a question is too personal, the teacher can offer to respond privately, remind the children of ground rules or refer the pupil to an appropriate colleague, parent, or school nurse.
- If a teacher does not know the answer to a question, this should be acknowledged and the correct answer provided in a later lesson as appropriate.
- If a question is too explicit, the teacher makes this clear and refers children to their parents.
- If a question raises concern about a child's safety, child protection procedures need to be followed.
- Pupils need to be clear about the procedures that follow a disclosure. Remember, not to promise confidentiality in this situation.

Organisation of Sex and Relationship education at our school

In nursery sex and relationship education is provided through following the early learning goals.

In Reception through to Year 6, Sex and Relationship Education is taught as part of PSHE &C and through science topics.

In Year Six, a programme of work is followed in the Summer term that allows for the children to discuss questions in single and mixed sex groups. Knowledge and understanding of a long-term loving relationship, and changes in puberty are taught through use of video material and discussions. The work is covered as part of the children's work on Health Education.

Parents

At Sheredes, we acknowledge that parents are key people in teaching their children about caring and loving relationships. Parents of Year 6 children are invited to view the materials that are used for SRE education and to discuss how it is taught. Parents can withdraw their child from SRE in Year 6.

Assessment, Monitoring and Reporting.

Talking to children, observations, sampling work, looking at planning by science and PSHE &C co-ordinators.

SRE forms part of PSHE &C and science teaching and is reported on in these sections as part of the Annual Report to parents.

This policy is annually reviewed and is used as a basis for identifying where the school is and where it wants to be with SRE. This informs the yearly school improvement plan.