



Leighfield Academy

Sex and Relationships Education Policy

Adopted by the Governing Body February 2015

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Sex and Relationships Education Policy

Sex and relationship education is lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of loving and caring relationships. It is about the teaching of sex, sexuality and sexual health. Research demonstrates that good, comprehensive sex and relationship education does not make young people more likely to become sexually active at a younger age.

The Department for Education recommends that all primary schools should have a sex and relationship education programme tailored to the age and the physical and emotional maturity of the children. It should ensure that both boys and girls know about puberty and how a baby is born - as set out in Key Stages 1 and 2 of the National Science Curriculum and this should be rooted in the PSHE framework.

Moral and Values Framework

Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) is taught in the context of loving relationships. It will promote self esteem and emotional health and well being and help them form and maintain worthwhile relationships, based on respect for themselves and for others, at home, school, work and in the community.

Aims and Objectives for Sex and Relationship Education

The aim of SRE is to provide children with age appropriate information, explore attitudes and values and develop skills in order to empower them to make positive decisions about their health related behaviour.

This should take place with consideration of the qualities of relationships within families.

The objectives of Sex and Relationships Education are;

- To provide the knowledge and information to which all pupils are entitled
- To clarify existing knowledge
- To raise pupils' self esteem and confidence, especially in their relationships with others;
- To help pupils understand their sexual feelings and behaviour, so they can lead fulfilling and enjoyable lives;
- To help pupils' develop skills (language, decision making, choice, assertiveness) and make the most of their abilities.
- To provide the confidence to be participating members of society and to value themselves and others;

- To help gain access to information and support
- To develop skills for a healthier safer lifestyle
- To develop and use communication skills and assertiveness skills to cope with the influences of their peers and the media
- To respect and care for their bodies
- To be prepared for puberty and adulthood

The teaching programme for Sex and Relationship Education

Legal requirements

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from all or part of the sex and relationship education provided, except for those parts included in the National Curriculum.

National Curriculum Science

Key Stage 1

- identify and name parts of the body
- know that animals, including humans have offspring which grow into adults
- know the importance of hygiene for humans

Key Stage 2

- explain the life-cycles of mammals
- describe the process of sexual reproduction in animals
- describe the changes as humans develop from birth to old age
- learn about evolution and inheritance
- know how to keep their body healthy

PSHE

- Every child is entitled to receive SRE as part of their PSHE education, regardless of ethnicity, gender, religion, age, culture, disability, sexuality, language special needs, disadvantaged and looked after children.
- It is our intention all children have the opportunity to experience a programme of SRE at a level which is appropriate for their age and physical development with differentiated provision if required.

Early Years Foundation Stage

Children learn about the concept of male and female and about young animals. In ongoing PSHE work, they develop skills to form friendships and think about relationships with others.

Key Stage 1

Through building on their work in science, children learn about life cycles of some animals, understand the idea of growing from young to old and learn that all living things reproduce. They learn about the importance of personal hygiene to maintain good health. Children reflect on family relationships, different family groups and friendship. They learn about rituals and traditions associated with birth, marriage and death and talk about the emotions involved.

They develop skills to help them co-operate with others in work and play to recognise the range of human emotions and ways to deal with them. They also learn about personal safety.

Key Stage 2

Children build on their knowledge of life cycles and learn about the basic biology of human reproduction including birth of a baby in year 6.

Children are taught about the physical, emotional and social changes at puberty, which include personal hygiene. They continue to develop an understanding of relationships within a family, between friends and the community and that there are different patterns of friendship. They will develop skills needed to form relationships and to respect other people's emotions and feelings. They will consider how to make simple choices and exercise some basic techniques for resisting pressures.

Sex and relationship education focuses on the development of skills and attitudes not just the acquisition of knowledge.

The organisation of Sex and Relationship Education

The headteacher is the designated teacher with responsibility for coordinating sex and relationship education.

Sex and relationship education is delivered through science, RE, PSHE and literacy activities. Sex and relationship education is taught by classroom teachers, teaching assistants and if appropriate, outside visitors such as the school nurse.

A range of teaching methods which involve children's full participation are used to teach sex and relationship education. These include use of video, discussion, looking at books, case studies, drama and role-play.

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

Sex and relationship education is monitored and evaluated by the headteacher and SMT as part of the school's ongoing monitoring and evaluation. As a result of this, changes will be made to the sex and relationship education programmes as appropriate.

Specific Issues

- **Parental consultation**

Full details of the policy are available to parents on request.

The school informs parents when aspects of the sex and relationship programme are taught in Year 6 and provides opportunities for parents to view the videos and resources being used.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from those aspects of sex and relationship education, not included in the National Curriculum Science Orders. Alternative work would be set for those not taking part.

A permission slip is sent home before the programme begins. If a child is to be withdrawn, the headteacher will contact the parents to explain the aspects they will be withdrawn from.

- **Safeguarding / Confidentiality**

If a pupil discloses to a member of staff that he or she is in a situation that gives cause for concern for their safety, the member of staff will make clear to the pupils that they cannot guarantee confidentiality given the seriousness of the situation. Any disclosures will be treated with the upmost sensitivity within our Safeguarding procedures, which will be followed for any pupils thought to be at risk. There is a designated person for Child Protection in the school.

- **Dealing with difficult questions**

Ground rules are essential to 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.

- **Use of visitors**

Visitors should complement but never substitute or replace planned provision. It is the PSHE co-ordinator's and teacher's responsibility to plan the curriculum and lessons.

When appropriate, visitors such as the school nurse may be involved in the delivery of sex and relationship education, particularly in Key Stage 2.

- **Children with special needs**

Teaching and resources will be differentiated as appropriate to address the needs of these children in order for them to have full access to the content of sex and relationship education.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring is the responsibility of the head teacher and governors.

The school will assess the effectiveness of the aims, content and methods in promoting students' 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.

This policy will be reviewed by the headteacher and governors in 2018.