

# **Sex and Relationship Education Policy**

## **1. Introduction**

### **What is Sex and Relationships Education (SRE)?**

"What is lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development? It is about the understanding of 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." (Sex and Relationship Education Guidance)

Sex and Relationships Education forms part of the PSHE and Science Schemes of Work. This policy should be read in conjunction with the policies on PSHE, Science, Teaching and Learning, plus the school aims etc. This policy has been ratified following consultation with advisors, healthcare professionals, staff, parents and governors.

### **Rationale**

Sex and Relationships Education is an important part of a child's life – which we believe should be taught through a partnership between parents, carers and the school.

Primary school children are often already aware of sexual issues through the television, other media forms and their peers. They form their own perceptions and misconceptions in an effort to explain the world around them. Questions related to sex and relationships education arise naturally as part of family life, plant and animal studies, literature and religious education. Children want and need to know about the physical changes that take place or are taking place in their bodies and how these may affect them physically and emotionally.

SRE enable pupils to mature, to build up their confidence and self-esteem and understand the reasons for delaying sexual activity.

Educating children about sex and relationships helps to prevent unplanned pregnancies and the spread of sexually transmitted infections. It also equips children with an understanding of the features of healthy relationships and some strategies for negotiation in relationships.

### **Aims**

To develop the children's self-esteem and knowledge to enable them to move with confidence from childhood through adolescence to adulthood.

To meet the needs of pupils through the provision of a balanced programme providing accurate and appropriate information, developing skills and exploring attitudes at each stage in a pupil's development.

To provide a sensitive climate in which aspects of sex and relationships education can be discussed, in an open and honest manner, where children's appropriate questions are answered frankly and factually with due regard to their age and maturity.

To encourage communication by providing a vocabulary of accurate terms for discussing matters without embarrassment or offence.

To ensure that discussions reflect the value of family life.

To provide SRE in a way that takes into account the different needs and backgrounds of children, in line with our Policy on Equal Opportunities.

To inform parents of our aims and ensure that the carefully considered progression of the planned programme and the sensitive and caring approach to SRE at St Mark's encourages parents not to exercise their right to withdraw their children from SRE lessons.

We will work towards our aims in partnership with parents.

## **2. Teaching methods**

All teachers are expected to leave aside any of their own values or judgments, and adhere to the moral framework as outlined above.

A carefully planned scheme of work provides activities that are co-ordinated, differentiated, progressive and challenging.

A wide range of materials/resources are available to each year group ensuring continuity and progression.

The National Curriculum programme of study for Science is used to plan sex and relationships education schemes of work. The governing body regularly reviews, monitor and approve materials and teaching of sex and relationships education.

Sex and relationships education is taught primarily by the class teacher or another permanent member of staff who the children know very well. Visitors such as the school nurse may contribute to the programme. Emphasis is placed on a sensitive, supportive and caring delivery of this subject. The children take an active part in all sessions and time is given for reflection and discussion.

Most aspects of the subject are taught to whole class groups, but smaller groups, single-sex groups and individual conference are available when required.

## **3. Entitlement & differentiation**

All children are entitled to access the Sex and Relationships Education programme at a level appropriate to their individual needs. This is achieved by differentiation, with appropriate scaffolding, to ease access to objectives, tasks, teaching methods and resources for children with special educational needs. All children are expected to reach the same outcome.

Exceptionally able pupils are challenged with tasks that provide opportunities to tackle more complex issues and use a wider range of resources.

Research shows that children with low self-esteem and low academic abilities are often those who are later affected by teenage pregnancy issues and STIs. We will therefore endeavour to boost children's low self-esteem and ensure lower ability children have grasped the key messages in each module.

## **4. Child Protection and confidentiality**

We have a Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy in place. Where issues of possible child sexual abuse may arise as part of the Sex and Relationships Education Programme, staff are directed to follow the agreed procedure as outlined in the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

As a general rule, the child's right to confidentiality will be respected by all staff at all times, unless it is felt that the child is in danger.

## **5. Parental involvement**

The SRE Policy and scheme of work is available to parents on request. News letters to parents will inform them of the planned programme. They may request to view resources used with the children and raise any queries or concerns with the Headteacher.

## **Withdrawal**

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from all or part of the Sex and Relationships Education curriculum except those parts that are covered by the National Curriculum Science programmes of study.

If parents decide that they do not wish for their child to be taught the planned programme they are required to discuss their concerns with the headteacher and confirm any decision to withdraw in writing.

As sex education is a part of Sex and **Relationships** Education, work on feelings, values and relationships will be available to all children and are not covered by withdrawal procedures.

## **6. Monitoring and evaluation**

Sex and Relationships Education is monitored by:

- Year group evaluations of planning
- The PSHE co-coordinator who may discuss the programme with staff or groups of children
- The possible use of questionnaires or conferencing for children or parents
- The Headteacher