



*Fellowship, Courage and Creativity*

Policy Title: Sex and Relationship Education Policy

Date approved: Autumn 2 2018

Date for Review: Autumn 2 2019

Review Period: 1 Year

Ownership: Teaching and Learning Committee

Policy Type: Statutory

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ (Headteacher)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Chair of Governors)

This policy can also be made available in approved formats as listed in the Policies File, on request to the School Office

## **Introduction**

We have based our school's sex and relationships education policy (SRE) on the DfEE guidance document 'Sex and Relationship Education Guidance' (ref DfEE 0116/2000).

SRE is an integral part of our Personal, social and health education (PSHE) programme throughout both Key Stages. The learning focuses on physical, moral and emotional development, including sex and drug education (appendices). The curriculum at Whitewater C of E Primary School develops the children's understanding of their own bodies, instincts and feelings within the context of relationships, based on love and respect.

## **Aims**

Sex and relationships education has three main elements:

### **Knowledge and understanding**

- learning and understanding physical development at appropriate stages;
- understanding human sexuality, reproduction, sexual health, emotions and relationships;

### **Attitudes and values**

- learning the importance of values and individual conscience and moral considerations;
- learning the value of family life, marriage, and stable and loving relationships;
- learning the value of respect, love and care;
- exploring, considering and understanding moral dilemmas; and
- developing critical thinking as part of decision-making.

### **Personal and social skills**

- learning to manage emotions and relationships confidently and sensitively;
- developing self-respect and empathy for others;
- learning to make choices based on an understanding of difference and with an absence of prejudice;
- developing an appreciation of the consequences of choices made;
- managing conflict; and
- learning how to recognise and avoid exploitation and abuse.

## **Teaching programme**

SRE is taught within the personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education curriculum. Biological aspects of SRE are taught within the science curriculum.

Pupils also receive stand-alone sex education sessions in upper Key Stage 2.

Particular aspects of the school's curriculum, relating to SRE include:

### **Early years**

- awareness of the way bodies grow and change
- uniqueness of their body
- where living things come from
- family and other special people who care for them

### **Middle stages of primary school (Years 1 to 4)**

- exploring changes in the body
- being part of a family, the importance of family life
- dealing with bullying situations.
- the importance of their bodies
- caring for themselves and others

### **Upper stages of primary school (Years 5 & 6)**

- physical and emotional changes at puberty

- body image and self-worth
- understanding of own developing sexuality, respect for their own bodies and the importance of sexual activity as part of a committed, long-term, and loving relationship
- developing an awareness of gender identity
- changing nature of friendship
- dealing with sexual feelings
- menstruation, pregnancy and birth.

### **Context**

We teach Sex and Relationship Education in the context of the school's aims and values. While Sex and Relationship Education 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 Sex and Relationship Education in the belief that:

- Sex and Relationship Education should be taught in the context of marriage and family life;
- Sex and Relationship Education is part of a wider social, personal, spiritual and moral education 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.

### **Organisation**

We teach Sex and Relationship Education through different aspects of the curriculum. While we carry out the main Sex and Relationship Education teaching in our personal, social and health education (PSHE) curriculum, we also teach some Sex and Relationship Education through other subject areas (e.g. science), where we feel that they contribute significantly to a child's knowledge and understanding of his or her own body, and how it is changing and developing.

In PSHE we teach children about relationships, and we encourage children to discuss issues.

Within the Year 5 and 6 programme, we explain what will happen to their bodies during puberty and how to deal with these changes. This teaching and learning focuses on positive body image and self-worth alongside the changing nature of friendships.

The science curriculum in school follows the statutory objectives within the relevant section of the National Curriculum.

### **The role of parents/carers**

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

- inform parents about the school's Sex and Relationship Education policy and practice;
- answer any questions that parents may have about the Sex and Relationship Education of their child;
- take seriously any issue that parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy or the arrangements for Sex and Relationship Education in the school;
- share communications with parents so that there is a mutual exchange of knowledge and information on SRE.

Whitewater C of E Primary School will write to parents of Years 5 and 6 at least three weeks before the film, used in specific SRE, is shown to the children. These parents will also be invited to a parents information meeting which includes an opportunity to view the film.

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from all or part of the Sex and Relationship Education programme that we teach in our school, except for those parts included in the statutory National Curriculum. If a parent wishes their child to be withdrawn from Sex and Relationship Education 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. If a parent chooses to withdraw their child then this should be confirmed in writing.

### **Confidentiality**

Teachers conduct Sex and Relationship Education lessons in a sensitive manner and in confidence. However, 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 DSL (Designated Safeguarding Leader). The DSL will then deal with the matter in consultation with health care professionals.(See also Safeguarding Policy.)

### **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 Education 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 Education 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.

### **Monitoring and review**

The Teaching and Learning Committee of the governing body monitors our Sex and Relationship Education policy on an annual basis. This committee reports its findings and recommendations to the full governing body, as necessary, if the policy needs modification. The Teaching and Learning Committee gives serious consideration to any comments from parents about the Sex and Relationship Education programme.

### **Linked Policies**

This Plan will contribute to the review and revision of related school policies, e.g.

- Safeguarding Policy
- SEN policy
- Equalities policy

### **Equal Opportunities**

All children will have equal opportunity to access the course of lessons about Sex and Relationship Education, regardless of their protected characteristics.