



SEX EDUCATION POLICY

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May 2014	MC	May 2017

Sex, Relationship Education (SRE) Policy

Policy Statement

SRE is lifelong learning process of acquiring information, developing skills and forming positive beliefs and attitudes about sex, sexuality, relationships and feelings (Sex Education Forum 1999).

Effective SRE can make a significant contribution to the development of the personal skills needed by pupils if they are to establish and maintain relationships. It also enables young people to make responsible and informed decisions about their health and well-being.

The 1996 Education Act consolidates all relevant previous legislation and states that all primary schools must provide an up to date policy that describes the content and organisation of SRE provided outside the National Curriculum Science Order. The DfEE Sex and Relationship Education Guidance (2000) supports this legislation and recommends that all primary schools should have a sex and relationship education programme tailored to the age and physical and emotional maturity of the children.

Other related policies and documents include the PSHE & Citizenship policy, Anti-Bullying Policy, Drug Education Policy and the Child Protection Policy.

Aims and Objectives

The key aims of SRE are to:

- 1 Provide accurate and relevant information about the physical and emotional changes that children and young people will experience through their formative years and into adulthood.
- 2 Establish an awareness of the importance of stable family life and relationships, including the responsibilities of parenthood and marriage.
- 3 Foster self-awareness and self-esteem.
- 4 Develop a sense of responsibility and respect for themselves and others.

This policy is a working document which provides guidance and information on all aspects of SRE in the school for staff, parents/carers and governors. To be accessible to all of these groups the document needs to be available on request and presented in a way that is easy to understand.

Moral and Values Framework

The SRE programme at Bishops Lydeard Primary School reflects the school ethos and demonstrates and encourages the following values:

- Respect for self;
- Respect for others;
- Responsibility for their own actions;
- Responsibility for their family, friends, schools and wider community.

Equal Opportunities Statement

The school is committed to the provision of SRE to all of its pupils. Our programme aims to respond to the diversity of children's cultures, faiths and family backgrounds. Equal time and provision will be allocated for all groups but there may be occasions where pupils with Special Educational Needs are given extra support from SEN staff.

Purpose

The purpose of Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) is to provide knowledge and understanding of how the human body changes during puberty and the processes of human reproduction, within the context of relationships based on love and respect. It should develop understanding and attitudes which will help pupils to form relationships in a responsible and healthy manner and to appreciate the value of stable family life, including the responsibilities of parenthood and marriage.

If young people can start their transition into adulthood with good information and the confidence and knowledge to understand what is happening to them, they will hopefully grow into confident and healthy adults able to make positive choices. This can start with learning the basics about growing up and the sessions in school may reinforce what you are already doing at home.

Content

In Key stage 1 pupils learn to recognise similarities and differences between themselves and others, identify and share their feelings with each other, recognise safe and unsafe situations and identify and be able to talk to someone they trust (such as their class teacher, teaching assistant or the school's pupil support advisor). All staff are trained in procedures for safeguarding and follow guidelines set out in school with regards to reporting concerns to the Child Protection Officer or Headteacher.

In Key stage 2 pupils learn to express their opinions about relationships and bullying and to listen to and support others, including respecting other people's viewpoints and beliefs.

They learn to recognise their own worth and identify positive things about themselves and try to balance the stresses in life in order to promote their own mental health and wellbeing of others. Life processes are discussed including the physical changes that take place at puberty, why they happen and how to manage them.

A range of materials are drawn upon to ensure SRE is delivered to all children throughout the school and is tailored to each child's needs and level of understanding.

The SRE programme includes watching DVDs from the Channel 4 *Living and Growing* series and input from the class teacher.

The Year 5 & 6 programme will cover:

- 1 Love, Marriage and Relationships
- 2 Puberty
- 3 Menstruation
- 4 Personal Hygiene
- 5 Reproduction

Organisation

SRE should not be delivered in isolation but firmly embedded in all curriculum areas, including Personal, Social Health Education (PSHE) and citizenship. At Bishops Lydeard Primary School the main content is delivered in PSHE lessons.

SRE is normally delivered by class teachers in mixed gender groups other than when it is deemed more appropriate for topics to be covered in single sex groups. Active learning methods which involve children's full participation are used.

Occasionally, appropriate and suitably experienced and/or knowledgeable visitors from outside school may be invited to contribute to the delivery of SRE in school.

The Role of Visitors in regards to SRE

- Visitors are invited in to school because of the particular expertise or contribution they are able to make;
- All visitors are familiar with and understand the school's SRE policy and work within it;
- All input to PSHE lessons are part of a planned programme and negotiated and agreed with staff in advance;
- All visitors are supervised/supported by a member of staff at all times;
- The input of visitors is monitored and evaluated by staff and pupils. This evaluation informs future planning.

Bishops Lydeard Primary School believes in the importance of training for staff delivering SRE. Staff are encouraged to access appropriate training and support to help them deliver effective SRE.

Specific Issues within SRE – Withdrawal

Parents/Carers have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the sex and relationships education provided at school except for those parts included in statutory National Curriculum. Those parents/carers wishing to exercise this right are invited in to see the Headteacher who will explore any concerns and discuss any impact that withdrawal may have on the child. Once a child has been withdrawn they cannot take part in the SRE programme until the request for withdrawal has been removed.

Dealing with Questions

Both formal and informal SRE arising from pupils' questions are answered according to the age and maturity of the pupil concerned. Questions that are not covered as part of SRE programme, children will be asked to discuss their question at home with their parents.

Assessing and Monitoring

The SRE policy is to be reviewed every 2 years and appropriate amendments to be made where needed. Information from staff, survey results and quantitative data will all feed in to the review of the SRE policy to ensure effectiveness and relevance.

*Mary Clothier
May 2014*