



Poppyfield

Primary Academy

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Sex and Relationship Education Policy

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1. Aims

The aims of sex and relationship education (SRE) at our school are to:

- Provide a framework in which sensitive discussions can take place
- Prepare pupils for puberty, and give them an understanding of sexual development and the importance of health and hygiene
- Help pupils develop feelings of self-respect, confidence and empathy
- Create a positive culture around issues of sexuality and relationships
- Teach pupils the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies

2. Statutory requirements

SRE is not compulsory in primary schools. Academies do not have to follow the National Curriculum and are therefore not required to teach the elements of sex education in the science curriculum.

If primary academies do teach SRE, they are required by their funding agreements to have regard to [guidance](#) issued by the secretary of state as outlined in section 403 of the [Education Act 1996](#).

At Poppyfield Primary Academy we teach SRE as set out in this policy.

3. Policy development

This policy has been developed in consultation with staff, pupils and parents. Review - a member of staff pulled together all relevant information including relevant national and local guidance

4. Definition

SRE is about the emotional, social and cultural development of pupils, and involves learning about relationships, sexual health, sexuality, healthy lifestyles, diversity and personal identity.

SRE involves a combination of sharing information, and exploring issues and values.

SRE is not about the promotion of sexual activity.

5. Delivery of SRE

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

Pupils also receive stand-alone sex education sessions delivered by a trained health professional.

Across all Key Stages, pupils will be supported with developing the following skills:

- Communication, including how to manage changing relationships and emotions
- Recognising and assessing potential risks
- Assertiveness
- Seeking help and support when required
- Informed decision-making
- Self-respect and empathy for others
- Recognising and maximising a healthy lifestyle
- Managing conflict
- Discussion and group work

These skills are taught within the context of family life.

Teaching Methodologies

Ground Rules: SRE is taught in a safe, non-judgemental environment where adults and children are confident that they will be respected. Specific ground rules will be established at the beginning of any SRE work, in addition to those already used in the classroom. They will cover the following areas:

- Appropriate use of language
- The asking and answering of personal questions
- Strategies for checking or accessing information.

Answering Questions

We acknowledge that sensitive and potentially difficult issues will arise in SRE as children will naturally share information and ask questions. When spontaneous discussion arises, it will be guided in a way which reflects the stated school aims and curriculum content for SRE. As a first principle we will answer questions relating to the taught planned curriculum for that age group to the whole class. We will answer questions relating to areas beyond the taught planned curriculum for that age group, in a sensitive and age appropriate way only to the child or children who have asked the question. If a member of staff is uncertain about the answer to a question, or indeed whether they wish to answer it they will seek guidance from the Head of School. When answering questions, we shall ensure that sharing personal information by adults, pupils or their families is discouraged. Where a question or comment from a pupil in the classroom indicates the possibility of abuse, teachers will pass this information to the designated person for child protection in line with school policy.

Distancing Techniques

In order to protect children's privacy, we will employ teaching and learning strategies which enable them to discuss issues without disclosing personal experience. For example, we will use fiction, puppets, case studies, role-play, and videos to enable children to share ideas and opinions and to practise their decision-making skills in a safe learning environment.

Inclusion

We understand the importance of ensuring that all children in our school receive their entitlement to SRE. We will carefully consider special educational needs or disability, gender, sexual orientation and age, nationality, religion, cultural and linguistic background when planning and delivering SRE. In relation to nationality, sexual orientation, religion and cultural diversity, we value the different backgrounds of our pupils and, in addressing different views and beliefs, seek to promote tolerance and understanding. In order to ensure the SRE Curriculum meets the needs of all:

- We will not promote one particular lifestyle over another.
- We will not seek to gain consensus, but will accept and celebrate difference.

- We will encourage respect and discourage abuse and exploitation.
- We will not ask children to represent the views of a particular religious or cultural group to their peers, unless they choose to do so.

In relation to those with special educational needs or disability, we will review our SRE programme to ensure that provision is made for those with additional needs. We will consider:

- their level of vulnerability
- their need to learn and demonstrate appropriate behaviour
- their need to develop self-esteem and positive body image
- the need to involve all staff, including ancillary staff and carers, in policy development, planning and training
- the management of personal care
- clarity about sources of support for pupils.

Resources

We will primarily use Rising Stars Science resources when planning and delivering the SRE Curriculum. We will avoid a 'resource-led' approach to delivering SRE, instead focusing on the needs of the children and our planned learning objectives. We will carefully select resources which meet these objectives. We will carefully evaluate teacher resources, leaflets and videos, before using them. NHS Nurse led workshops also make a significant contribution to our planned SRE work.

We will select resources which:

- are consistent with the Curriculum for SRE
- relate to the aims and objectives of this Policy
- are suitable to the age, maturity, needs, linguistic proficiency and ability of the children
- appeal to adults and children
- are up-to-date in factual content
- are produced by a reputable organisation
- do not show unfair bias e.g. towards a commercial product
- avoid racial, gender and sexual stereotyping
- encourage active and participative learning
- conform to the legal requirements for SRE.

Use of Visitors to Support SRE

We believe that SRE is most effectively taught by those who know our pupils well and are aware of their needs. We encourage visitors to our school who may enhance, but never replace, our planned provision. We will work closely with visitors to ensure that the needs of our pupils are met.

We will follow this Code of Practice when working with visitors:

- The care and management of pupils is the responsibility of the school at all times.
- In class teaching situations, visitors will not be asked to work alone with pupils, but will be supported by a member of staff.
- The school will know whether visitors are CRB checked and arrangements will be made to accompany them as appropriate.
- All visitors will be made aware of the content and principles of this Policy, prior to their visit.
- All lessons will be planned in direct liaison with the Class teacher, taking account of the age and needs of the group and the context of the work within the SRE programme.
- Visitors will be reminded that, whilst contributing to SRE in a classroom setting, they must adhere to the same confidentiality code as staff members.
- Any resources which a visitor wishes to use or distribute will be discussed and agreed with the Class Teacher beforehand.
- The contributions of visitors will be regularly monitored and evaluated.

Confidentiality

- Staff are unable to offer absolute confidentiality.
- We will reassure children that staff will act in their best interests and that this may involve sharing information if the child is at risk of harm.
- Children will be told if information is to be shared (unless the child is very young or has significant special needs) and will be offered appropriate support.

Professionals, such as school nurses and youth workers, are bound by their professional codes of conduct when offering advice and guidance to individual pupils. This often involves offering a greater level of confidentiality to children than school staff are able to give. However, in a classroom and other teaching situations when they are contributing to our planned SRE programme, they will follow the school's Confidentiality Policy. Health

professionals will ensure that children are aware of the boundaries of confidentiality when beginning work with them.

Safeguarding and Child Protection

We recognise that because effective SRE may alert children to what is appropriate and inappropriate sexual behaviour, there is an increased possibility that a disclosure relating to abuse may be made. All staff are aware of the Safeguarding and Child Protection procedures and will report the disclosure to the designated person for child protection immediately.

6. Roles and responsibilities

6.1 Academy Council

The Academy Council has delegated the approval of this policy to the Head of School

6.2 The Head of School

The Head of School is responsible for ensuring that SRE is taught consistently across the school, and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from non-statutory components of SRE (see section 7).

6.3 Staff

Staff are responsible for:

- Delivering SRE in a sensitive way
- Modelling positive attitudes to SRE
- Monitoring progress
- Responding to the needs of individual pupils
- Responding appropriately to pupils whose parents wish them to be withdrawn from the non-statutory components of SRE

Staff do not have the right to opt out of teaching SRE. Staff who have concerns about teaching SRE are encouraged to discuss this with the headteacher.

6.4 Pupils

Pupils are expected to engage fully in SRE and, when discussing issues related to SRE, treat others with respect and sensitivity.

7. Parents' right to withdraw

Parents' have the right to withdraw their children from the non-statutory components of SRE.

Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing and addressed to the headteacher. A copy of withdrawal requests will be placed in the pupil's educational record. The headteacher will discuss the request with parents and take appropriate action.

Alternative work will be given to pupils who are withdrawn from SRE.

8. Training

Staff are trained on the delivery of SRE as appropriate to their needs.

The headteacher will also invite visitors from outside the school, such as school nurses or health professionals, to provide support and training to staff teaching SRE.

9. Monitoring arrangements

The delivery of SRE is monitored through:

- Planning Scrutinies
- Learning Walks

- Pupil voice
- Lesson observations
- Work Scrutinies

Pupils' development in SRE is monitored by class teachers as part of our internal systems.

This policy will be reviewed by the Head of School biannually, or more often if statutory requirements change.