

Willerby Carr Lane Primary School



SEX AND RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION POLICY

Introduction

The DfEs 'Sex and Relationship Guidance' (2000) recommends that 'Effective sex and relationship education is essential if young people are to make responsible and well informed decisions about their lives'. The school has a key role, in partnership with parents/carers, in providing SRE.

Sex and relationship education (SRE) is lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It reflects the values of the PSHE and Citizenship. It is taught in the context of stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. In addition SRE promotes self-esteem and emotional health and well-being and helps children form and maintain worthwhile and satisfying relationships, based on respect for themselves and for others, at home, school, work and in the community.

Research has shown that young people who feel good about themselves, and are knowledgeable and confident about sex and relationships, are more likely to be more discerning in their relationships and sexual behaviors and to have fulfilling relationships.

This policy provides information on how we provide Sex and Relationship Education as part of the Personal, Social and Health Education and Citizenship framework. This is in addition to the statutory National Science Curriculum topics.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the sex and relationship education curriculum provided at school except for those parts included in the statutory National Curriculum. Any parent wishing to withdraw their child should be encouraged to make an appointment with the Headteacher to discuss the matter.

This policy is made available to all staff and parents/carers. It is also available on the school's web site.

Aims and Objectives

This school believes that the essential aim of sex and relationship education should be to provide pupils with the knowledge and skills to enable them to make informed and responsible choices now and in later life, emphasising the benefits of a healthy lifestyle. We think that sex and relationship education should contribute to promoting the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at school and of society and preparing pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

During PSHCE lessons throughout KS1 and KS2 children will be taught about managing emotions, controlling risk, relationships and being assertive. Through circle time, PSHCE and the positive relationships the pupils have with adults at Willerby Carr Lane we also endeavor to build the children's self esteem. All of these things will help to shape the children's lives in many ways, including when it comes to making sexual choices later in life.

We have prioritised the following objectives;

- To promote pupils' self-esteem and confidence, especially in their relationships with others.
- To give accurate information about puberty, reproduction and contraception and to promote the skills to build positive personal relationships.
- To give students opportunities to explore and clarify some of their attitudes towards friendships, sexuality and gender.
- To encourage exploration of values and moral issues, hearing the points of view of others and respecting their own and other people's decisions, rights and bodies.
- To encourage the development of communication and decision making skills.
- To help young people to develop skills to negotiate and resist unwanted pressure.
- To give students a chance to explore ideas about family, marriage, parenting and the ways in which people care for each other, and the benefits of stable relationships
- To be responsive to differing needs and backgrounds.
- To prepare young people for transitions and later life.
- To fulfill statutory requirements and meet local targets.

Management and Co-ordination

In accordance with government guidance this school has a co-ordinator for PSHCE (Mrs Clipson) and SRE (Mr Smith).

The Co-ordinator will ensure that:

- The sex and relationship education policy is disseminated to all members of the school community and is thoroughly discussed and understood
- Clear roles and responsibilities for policy implementation are identified
- The underpinning aims, values and attitudes of sex and relationship education are made explicit
- The development of good relationships is promoted within and beyond the school
- Equality of opportunity is promoted
- Provision is made for ongoing professional development and training within the field of sex and relationship education
- The link between sex and relationship education and other school policies and curriculum areas is identified and made
- They are aware of supporting information and local and national resources that support PSHE and the teaching of SRE
- They foster relationships with local health services to support the curriculum

Staff Development

All staff, including support staff, should have access to professional development and support that relates to the sex and relationship education curriculum and its style of delivery, should they require it.

Individual staff development needs will be identified through performance management and discussion with the SRE co-ordinator.

Curriculum organisation and planning

Sex and relationship education will be delivered in this school through a combination of planned curriculum opportunities and whole school approaches. This will take the form of:

Discrete curriculum time

- SRE will be taught as part of the PSHCE curriculum in Years 5 and 6.
- The school nurse will help to deliver SRE.
- In year 5 the focus will be on growing up, puberty, changes that occur to the body, and how the children can manage some of these changes.
- In year 6 the focus will be more specifically on sex education and will be partly delivered using the Busy Bodies Programme:
www.healthpromotion.ie/health/inner/busy_bodies

Through and in other curriculum areas

Life cycles and reproduction are taught as part of the primary science curriculum.

The responsibility for the provision of sex and relationship education is held by the headteacher and governors

The responsibility for the taught sex and relationship education programme is held by the co-ordinator. In this role the co-ordinator, in consultation with staff, will develop plans and organize visits from the school nurse taking into account the National Curriculum requirements, school priorities for the personal and social development of the pupils, local priorities and initiatives, racial and cultural differences, DfEE guidance on SRE, the special needs and maturity levels of individual pupils.

We will endeavor to record the names of young people who have missed vital units of work through absence (illness, holiday or exclusion) and provide future opportunities for them to re-visit these themes.

Curriculum Delivery

Teaching about sex and relationships is generally best provided as part of an integrated programme of Personal, Social and Health Education and Citizenship. This programme is relevant to the needs and experiences of all pupils, is flexible and develops as pupils grow older. The programme is developed within a positive climate in which pupils and adults feel able to talk openly and honestly.

In order to cover effectively all the aspects of sex and relationship education, a wide range of teaching and learning styles will need to be employed.

Resources, which support this area of the curriculum, will be up-to date, relevant to pupils and presented in ways that are consistent with the fundamental aims of PSHE and Citizenship. Overall responsibility for sex and relationship education resources is held by the co-ordinator.

The school will draw on resources from the Busy Bodies Programme:
www.healthpromotion.ie/health/inner/busy_bodies

The school values and encourages the involvement of **external agencies and services** in supporting the delivery of this area of the curriculum. Where other professionals are to be involved their contribution will be properly planned as part of the overall programme with formal agreement on content, delivery styles and monitoring processes. Their contribution will compliment other teaching and be appropriate to the age and maturity of the pupils involved. Teachers will always be involved so they can deal with questions and concerns.

Parents/ Carers right to withdraw

The Sex and Relationship Education policy is shared on the school website and full details are available on request. The school will inform parents when aspects of the sex and relationship programme are taught and parents will be given an outline of the lessons in advance so they are able to make an informed decision.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from those aspects of sex and relationship education, not included in the Science National Curriculum. However by working in partnership with parents we aim to avoid this wherever possible.

'If the parent of any pupil in attendance at a maintained school requests that he may be wholly or partly excused from receiving sex education at the school, the pupil shall, except so far as such education is comprised in the National Curriculum, be so excused accordingly until the request is withdrawn.'

Education Act 1996 (Section 405)

Equality of Opportunity

Pupils need to be given accurate information and helped to develop skills to enable them to understand difference and respect themselves and others to prevent and remove prejudice.

In accordance with school and LA policy, a commitment to Equal Opportunities will be built into all aspects of sex and relationship education. This policy links closely with the Equal Opportunities Policy, the Bullying Policy, the LA guidelines on Child Protection and PSHCE policy. We intend to meet individual student's needs to enable them to achieve academically and in their personal relationships. This may involve providing particular support for individual pupils. It is well documented that students are sometimes bullied because of their perceived sexual orientation. This school takes this and all forms of bullying seriously.

In line with DfE guidance, teachers will be able to deal honestly and sensitively with sexual orientation, answer appropriate questions and offer objective and helpful support.

Dealing with difficult topics/questions

Teachers will endeavour to answer questions as honestly as possible within the age-appropriate bounds of topics covered within the curriculum. If faced with a question they do not feel comfortable answering within the classroom:

- **'Silly questions'** Children are testing boundaries and have no interest in the answer. In this case, teachers will not answer questions, and explain that they are inappropriate or advise that the child may wish to ask their parents/ carers.
- **'Concerning questions'** These could possibly be indicative of safeguarding issues. In this case, teachers will follow the school safeguarding procedures.
- **'Genuine questions'** The child has a genuine but age-inappropriate question. In this case, the child's question will be acknowledged, with a promise to return to it later. The class teacher will then consult with the child's parents, and discuss if they would like to answer, or they want school to answer. In the case of the latter, it will be discussed with parents how much information they are happy for their child to have.

Assessment, Recording and Reporting

The assessment, recording and reporting of sex and relationship education will take place in accordance with whole school policy.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

Provision for sex and relationship education, including the personal development of pupils, will be monitored, evaluated and reviewed by Senior Management and the PSHE and Citizenship/SRE co-ordinator. This will be done by checking that whole school sex and relationship education objectives are met, standards of teaching and learning expected are achieved, there are adequate resources and Schemes of Work are being taught appropriately

Confidentiality

In accordance with the DfE 'Sex and Relationship Education Guidance' we will:

- ensure that all staff, pupils and parents/carers are aware of our policy on confidentiality, how it works in practice and understand individual rights to confidentiality.
- ensure that pupils are informed of the limits of confidentiality that may be offered by teachers.
- use ground rules in lessons including the limits of confidentiality.
- ensure that pupils are informed of sources of confidential support, for example, the school nurse, GP or local young person's advice service.
- encourage pupils to talk to their parents or carers and give them support to do so.

We will always follow the school's safeguarding procedures if there is any possibility of abuse.