



St Wilfrid's School - Sex and Relationship Education Policy

Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) is a lifelong learning about physical, sexual, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care for family life.

It involves forming positive beliefs, values and attitudes, acquiring information and developing skills.

Guiding Principles

We believe that Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) should:

- Be an integral part of the lifelong learning process, beginning in early childhood and continue into adult life.
- Be an entitlement for all our children.
- Encourage every child to contribute to our community.
- Support each individual as they grow and learn.
- Be set within the wider school context and support commitment to the family and love, respect and affection, knowledge and openness.
- Encourage children and adults to share and respect each other's views, to encourage the important values of love, respect and care for each other.
- Generate an atmosphere where questions and discussions on sexual matters can take place without any stigma or embarrassment.
- Recognise that parents/carers are the key people in teaching their children about sex, relationships and growing up. We aim to work in partnership with parents/carers and their children, consulting them about the content of programmes.
- Recognise that the wider community has much to offer and we aim to work in partnership with professionals from the health and social services.

There are three main elements which will come under consideration, whereby we will help the children to:

Attitudes and Values

- Learn the importance of values, individual conscience and moral choices.
- Learn the value of family life, stable and loving relationships and marriage.
- Learn about the nurturing of children.
- Learn the value of respect, love and care.
- Explore, consider and come to an understanding of moral dilemmas.
- Challenge myths, misconceptions and false assumptions about normal behaviour.

Personal and Social Skills

- Learn to manage emotions and relationships confidently and sensitively.
- Develop self-respect and empathy for others.
- Develop critical thinking as part of decision-making.
- Learn to make choices with an absence of prejudice.
- Manage conflict.
- Be enabled avoid inappropriate pressures or advances (both as exploited or exploiter)

Knowledge and Understanding

- Learn and understand physical development at appropriate stages.
- Understand human sexuality, reproduction, sexual health, emotions and relationships.
- Learn the reasons for delaying sexual activity and the benefits to be gained from such delay.

Aims

We aim

- To provide balanced factual information about human reproduction, together with consideration of the broader emotional, ethical, religious and moral dimensions of sexual health.
- To prepare our children for an adult life in which they can:
 - Develop positive values and a moral framework that will guide their decisions, judgements and behaviour;
 - Understand the consequences of their actions and behave responsibly within sexual and pastoral relationships.
 - Communicate effectively by developing appropriate terminology for sex and relationship issues.
 - Develop awareness of their sexuality and understand human sexuality; challenge sexism and prejudice and promote equality and diversity.

Organisation and content of Sex and Relationship Education

We deliver SRE through our PSHCE¹ programme, SEAL² programme, RE and Science lessons.

SRE lessons are set within the wider context of the PSHCE curriculum and focus more on the emotional aspects of development and relationships. The Science National Curriculum is concerned with the physical aspects of development and reproduction (in plants and animals up to and including Year 6) although the importance of relationships is not forgotten.

The PSHCE programme and the Science National Curriculum are taught in every year, though specific Sex Education sessions are delivered by Health professionals when the children are in Year 6, to include topics such as puberty, menstruation and reproduction.

Any SRE lessons may consider questions or issues that some children may find sensitive. Before embarking on these lessons ground rules are established which prohibit inappropriate personal information being requested or disclosed by those taking part in the lesson. When children ask questions, we aim to answer them honestly, within the ground rules established at the start of the sessions. When it is felt that answering a specific question would present information at a level inappropriate to the development of the rest of

¹ Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education

² Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning

the students, the question may be dealt with individually at another time. Ideally, we encourage the child, as always, to seek the answer from his/her own parents.

Inclusion

Right of withdrawal of students from Sex and Relationship Education

Some parents/carers prefer to take the responsibility for this aspect of their child's education themselves and we will respond to parent/carers' reasonable requests and concerns. They have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the Sex and Relationship Education (eg specific sex education lessons) except for those parts included in the statutory National Curriculum, (eg in Science lessons). The school would make alternative arrangements in such cases. However, parents/carers are encouraged to discuss their decisions with staff at the earliest opportunity. Parents/carers are welcome to review any SRE resources the school uses.

Ethnic and Cultural Groups

It is our policy to be sensitive to the needs of different ethnic groups.

Students with Special Needs

We will ensure that all our children receive sex and relationship education and we will offer provision appropriate to the particular needs of each of our students, taking specialist advice where necessary.

Sexual Identity and Sexual Orientation

We aim to deal sensitively and honestly with issues of sexual orientation, answer appropriate questions and offer support. All our children need to feel that sex and relationship education is relevant to them.

Confidentiality

All our work in school, none moreso than during SRE programmes and sessions, is completely confidential between the children and the adult who is working with them, unless maintaining confidentiality would compromise the child or the adult.

Monitoring and Evaluation of Sex and Relationship Education

It is the responsibility of the PSHCE co-ordinator to oversee and organise the monitoring and evaluation of PSHCE, in the context of the overall school plans for monitoring the quality of teaching and learning.

The Governors Curriculum committee is responsible for overseeing, reviewing and organising the revision of the Sex and Relationship Education Policy.

Signed ----- Head Teacher

Date -----

Signed -----Chair of Governors

Date -----