

Oakley Lower School
Sex and Relationships Education Policy
(SRE)

Rationale

Sex and relationships Education describes the teaching and learning we offer to the young people in our school, helping them to understand their own and others sexuality and to develop skills for relationships and informed decision making. We believe that SRE is the entitlement of all young people and we are committed to deliver it within the context of a broad and balanced programme of health education, supporting them in learning about different faiths and cultures and underpinned by values promoting equality and respect.

Aims

SRE in this school will contribute to the requirements of the DfEE Guidance (2000), the recommendations from the OFSTED Report, 'Sex and Relationships' (2002), and will be firmly rooted within the framework for Personal, Social, Health Education (QCA, PSHE 2000). It is also in line with recommendations for best practice, as part of the National Healthy School Standard. In our school we aim through implicit and explicit learning experiences to:

- Ensure that Sex and Relationships Education is integrated into the curriculum and not isolated, taken out of context or over emphasised in any way
- Foster self esteem and respect for others as the cornerstone of good health education and of therefore, effective sex and relationships education
- Nurture a partnership between caring adults – governors, teachers, ancillary staff and parents – to ensure sensitive support for young people as they grow and mature
- Encourage young people to have the ability to accept their own and others' sexuality
- Encourage young people to enjoy relationships based upon mutual trust and respect, free from any abuse
- Generate an atmosphere where questions and discussion on sexual matters can take place without embarrassment
- Adopt a whole school approach to SRE
- Promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental, physical and social development of pupils at the school and of society
- Prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life

The school will work towards this aim in partnership with its young people and parents.

The aim of the SRE policy is to clarify the content and the manner in which SRE is delivered in this school.

Teaching and Learning

Within the taught and broader curriculum, including whole school opportunities i.e. the whole school environment, pupils will be given frequent and regular opportunities to work on feelings and to practise personal and interpersonal skills. We value and respect the learning that occurs in the community and in the home, believing that these, alongside school links, are essential dimensions of sex and relationships education. It is important to involve and to inform parents. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from SRE provided outside the National Curriculum Science.

SRE has three main elements, some of which are addressed at Oakley Lower School:

1. 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 for the nurture of the children
- learning the value of respect, love and care
- exploring, considering and understanding moral dilemmas
- developing critical thinking as part of decision making

2. 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
- learning how to recognise and avoid exploitation and abuse

3. Knowledge and understanding

- learning and understanding physical development at appropriate stages

Organisation

• Delivery

Is through planned aspects within Science, PSHE and Religious Education curriculum, addressing moral and ethical issues, which may arise from apparently unrelated topics in all National Curriculum subjects. Within this category, as long as any discussion takes place within the context of the National Curriculum subject, it will not be deemed to be part of the SRE programme and therefore not subject to the parental right of withdrawal.

• Teaching Approaches

A variety of approaches are used to give pupils relevant information; to enable moral issues to be explored through discussion; and to acquire appropriate skills.

• Pupil Groupings

Mixed ability grouping, but when appropriate, single sex groups, which will both be subject to the same information.

• Assessment

Progress and learning in SRE will be regularly assessed against the appropriate learning outcomes.

Specific Issues

The following issues may occur as part of SRE. Staff, parents and pupils will follow the school's procedure:

Confidentiality and advice

This will include:

- Making sure that pupils and parents or carers are aware of the school's Confidentiality Policy and how it works in practice
- Reassuring pupils that their best interests will be maintained
- Encouraging pupils to talk to their parents or carers and giving them support to do so
- Ensuring that pupils know that teachers cannot offer unconditional confidentiality
- Reassuring pupils that, if confidentiality has to be broken, they will be informed first and then supported as appropriate
- If there is any possibility of abuse, following the school's Child Protection Procedure
- Making sure that pupils are informed of sources of confidential help, for example, the school nurse, counsellor, GP or local young people's advice service
- Using ground rules in lessons

Relationships

Within the context of talking about relationships, children should be taught about a wide range of relationships and different family arrangements, and emphasising the positive qualities of family life in all its variety and forms. They must be taught to recognise the need for commitment, trust and love in meaningful relationships.

Focus on boys and young men as well as girls and young women

The programme will focus on meeting the gender SRE needs of boys and girls.

Special Educational Needs

Young people with special educational needs will not be withdrawn from SRE, but will be given help to develop skills to reduce the risks of being abused and exploited, and to learn what sorts of behaviour are, and are not acceptable. Work may be planned in different ways in order to meet the individual needs of young people with special educational needs.

Right of Withdrawal

Oakley Lower School seeks to be an inclusive community, however we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children from Sex and Relationships Education. The school expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the Headteacher and/or PHSE coordinator followed by written confirmation of withdrawal.

However delivery may be through planned aspects within Science, PSHE and Religious Education curriculum, addressing moral and ethnic issues, which may arise from apparently unrelated topics in all National Curriculum subjects. Within this category, as long as any discussion takes place within the context of the National Curriculum subject, it will not be deemed to be part of the SRE programme and therefore not subject to the parental right of withdrawal.

Links to other policies

These will include:

- PSHE and Citizenship
- Equal Opportunities
- Child Protection
- Anti-bullying

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