

Birchgrove Primary School



Where every child is a star!

Sex and Relationships Education Policy

Chair of Governors Mrs Christine Salter

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Introduction

We have based our school's sex and relationship education policy on the ACAC guidance document Sex and Relationship Education Guidance (ref ACAC 2002). In this document, sex and relationship education is defined as 'learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about understanding the importance of stable and loving relationships for family life, respect, love and care. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality, and sexual health'.

Sex and relationship education is part of the personal and social education curriculum in our school. While we use sex and relationship education to inform children about sexual issues, we do this with regard to matters of morality and individual responsibility, and in a way that allows children to ask and explore moral questions. We embrace diversity and promote equality in all that we do.

Aims and objectives

The aim of SRE is to provide children with age appropriate information, explore attitudes and values and develop skills in order to empower them to make positive decisions about their health- related behaviour.

This should take place with consideration of the qualities of relationships within families.

- We aim to teach children about:
 - the physical development of their bodies as they grow into adults
 - the way humans reproduce
 - respect for their own bodies and the importance of sexual activity as part of a committed, long-term, loving, adult relationship
 - the importance and variety of family life
 - moral questions
 - relationship issues
 - respect for the views of other people
 - sexual abuse and what they should do if they are worried about any sexual matters

Organisation

Mr Volk is the designated teacher with responsibility for coordinating sex and relationship education throughout the school.

SRE is delivered through PSHE where children are taught about relationships and encouraged to discuss issues and to ask for advice if they need it.

A range of teaching methods which involve children's full participation are used to teach sex and relationship education. These include use of video, discussion and looking at case studies. SRE is usually delivered in mixed gender groups, however, there may be occasions where single gender groups are more appropriate and relevant. This is at the discretion of the class teacher.

In particular, we teach sex and relationship education in the belief that:

- sex and relationship education should be taught in the context of relationships, marriage and family life;
- sex and relationship education is part of a wider social, personal, spiritual and moral education process;
- children need to learn the importance of self-control.

While SRE in our school means that we give children information about sexual behaviour, we do this with an awareness of the values that underpin all our work in school. In addition SRE will promote self-esteem and emotional health and well-being and help them form and maintain worthwhile and satisfying relationships, based on respect for themselves and for others, at home, school, work and in the community.

In Year 5 and 6 we place a particular emphasis on health education, as many children experience puberty at this age. We liaise with the Local Health Authority about suitable teaching materials to use with our children in these lessons. Teachers do their best to answer all questions with sensitivity and care. By the end of Key Stage 2, we ensure that both boys and girls know how their bodies change during puberty, what menstruation is and how it affects women. We always teach this with due regard for the emotional development of the children.

We arrange a series of meetings for all parents and carers of children in Key Stage 2 to discuss the programme of lessons, to explain what the issues are and how they are taught, and to see the materials the school uses in its teaching. During this session we offer support and guidance in talking to their children.

Teachers and all those contributing to sex and relationships education work within agreed values outlined in this policy. The scheme of work for Sex and Relationships Education

sets clear parameters as to what will be taught and strategies are outlined in the scheme of work for dealing with situations where the parameters are challenged, including:

- establishing 'ground rules' with the pupils
- knowing how to deal with unexpected questions or comments from pupils
- encouraging reflection

All teaching staff are involved in reviewing the Sex and Relationships Education scheme of work. During the review, discussions are held with all staff regarding the content and delivery of sex and relationships education. This enables teachers to share and seek training and support where required. Alongside this, support and advice are available within year groups, from the PSE co-ordinator and the Headteacher.

Participation and Inclusion

The scheme of work for Sex and Relationships Education seeks to engage all children through planning a variety of activities, matching children's learning styles. Activities and discussions in single sex groups are used where appropriate, addressing the need for pupils from cultures where it is only acceptable to speak about the body in single gender groups.

For children with special educational needs or learning difficulties work will be planned in different ways in order to meet the individual needs of pupils.

The role of parents

We recognise that the primary role in children's sex education lies with parents and carers. We seek to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents of children at our school through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation. The school informs parents when aspects of the sex and relationship programme are taught and provides opportunities for parents to view the videos and resources being used.

In promoting this objective we:

- answer any questions that parents may have about the sex and relationship education of their child;
- take seriously any issue that parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy or the arrangements for sex and relationship education in the school.

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from all or part of the sex education programme that is not part of the national curriculum. If a parent wishes their child to be withdrawn from sex education lessons, they should discuss this with the class teacher concerned or the Headteacher, and make it clear which aspects of the programme they do not wish their child to participate in. The school always complies with the wishes of parents in this regard.

If a child misses lessons on sex and relationships education, for reasons other than parental withdrawal, parents are able to borrow resources from school to share with their children.

The role of other members of the community

We encourage other valued members of the community to work with us to provide advice and support to the children with regard to health education. In particular, health professionals, give us valuable support with our sex and relationships education programme.

Confidentiality

Teachers conduct sex education lessons in a sensitive manner and in confidence. However, if a child makes a reference to being involved, or likely to be involved in sexual activity, the teacher cannot promise confidentiality if concerns exist and will take the matter seriously and deal with it as a matter of child protection. Teachers will respond in a similar way if a child indicates that s/he may have been a victim of abuse. In these circumstances the teacher will talk to the child as a matter of urgency. If the teacher has concerns, they will draw their concerns to the attention of the Headteacher or Designated Child Protection Officer in line with the LA procedures for safeguarding. The matter will then be dealt with in consultation with professionals.

The role of the Headteacher

It is the responsibility of the Headteacher to ensure that both staff and parents are informed about our sex and relationships education policy, and that the policy is implemented effectively.

The Headteacher liaises with external agencies regarding the school sex and relationships education programme, and ensures that all adults who work with children on these issues are aware of the school policy, and that they work within this framework.

The Headteacher monitors this policy on a regular basis and reports to governors, when requested, on the effectiveness of the policy.