

Sex and Relationships Education Policy

1. Philosophy

At Brookwood Primary School, we greatly value the contribution that the PSHCE (Personal, social, health, citizenship and economic) curriculum provides for all our learners. We believe that the personal development of our pupils plays a significant role in their ability to lead a happy and healthy life. We believe that Sex and Relationship Education should form a key part of this PSHCE curriculum and the PSED (Personal, Social and Emotional Development) curriculum in the Early Years Foundation Stage. Sex and Relationship Education is essential in preparing pupils for responsibility, opportunities and experiences in their lives now and in the futures as young adults, adults and parents.

Our school perceives its role to be providing Sex and Relationship Education which offers a platform for parents then to discuss the subject further and more personally in the home environment so that they are prepared for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life. Teachers are in an ideal position to help children understand growth and development alongside the science curriculum, as well as helping the children feel comfortable discussing feelings related to relationships and changes that they will go through before and during puberty. These changes include that of friendships, family dynamics and personal relationships alongside the physical changes associated with growing up and education begins in reception and is continued throughout the school.

In teaching SRE, teachers will be mindful of our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and the content of Keeping Children Safe in Education. It is through SRE specifically, and PSHCE generally, that we raise children's awareness of healthy and unhealthy relationships, contributing to their safety.

2. Aims and objectives

Through the PSHE curriculum and our school ethos, our pupils will:

- Feel supported through their physical and emotional development
- Develop confidence in talking, listening and thinking about feelings, relationships and changes in their own body
- Understand the different pubertal changes that the human body will go through and that these are normal and acceptable
- Feel prepared with knowledge and understanding about the changes associated with puberty, before the onset of their own physical development
- Accept that changes occur differently, and at different rates and times
- Be provided with appropriate vocabulary for all parts of the body including the reproductive systems
- Become part of an environment where questions can be asked and answered about reproduction and relationships
- Learn the basic facts of life, dispelling any playground myths and tales
- Be able to explain human reproduction in gradual increasing detail
- Understand how to remain safe from harm and know what to do if they feel unsafe or hurt in any way
- Begin to understand the nature of marriage and its importance to family life as well as recognising other strong and mutually supportive relationships outside of marriage that are equally valuable
- Understand how to promote their own safety, including the danger of going with strangers and of inappropriate internet use
- Feel supported in ongoing emotional and physical development during their transition to secondary school
- Understand the importance of respecting differences in both physical changes and relationships people form
- Be presented with positive, diverse role models
- Have a safe environment in which to discuss fears and issues around growing up.

3. Teaching and Learning

At Brookwood Primary School, Sex and Relationship Education is taught through a developmental programme, as part of the PSHCE curriculum, where children can build upon their prior learning. For the most part, it will be taught discretely, through PSHCE lessons, but it will also be given coverage through the RE curriculum. Sex and Relationship

Education is taught within the context of the requirements of the National Curriculum for Science and the non-statutory guidance for PSHCE. The scheme of work is structured incorporating the objectives contained within these documents.

Through our Sex and Relationship Education, we recognise the importance in helping children to identify and respond appropriately to feelings and emotions that they may experience. We encourage children to use these to guide their thoughts and actions to help them become confident effective communicators and to form and maintain a happy and healthy lifestyle. Canvassing pupils own attitudes, levels of knowledge and behaviour before embarking on activities ensures the relevance and appropriateness of Sex and Relationship education.

Teachers are sensitive to differences and diversity issues that effects the provision of Sex and Relationship Education e.g. cultural beliefs, family values etc. However should parents feel that this depth of Sex and Relationship Education is unsuitable, they retain the right to withdraw their child from the non-science elements of the Sex and Relationship Education provision. Pupils who have missed elements of the Sex and Relationship Education due to absence will be encouraged to catch up on missed activities and literature through a liaison with parents.

Parents are informed of the objectives and topics covered in PSHCE in topic webs and are given information regarding the intention to begin Sex and Relationship Education linked to puberty and growing up in Year 5 through a letter which contains the specific areas of learning which will take place in the lessons. Parents are encouraged to come in and see the class teacher if they have any concerns or issues with the subject and are welcome to come into school to view sections of the film clips which will be watched by the children. Parents are given the opportunity to opt out of the PSHCE lessons; any withdrawal will be followed up by class teachers and discussed with parents.

4. Resources

We use a scheme to support the main Year 5 topic: BBC Active Sex and Relationship Education. This includes interactive materials, worksheets and a number of film clips. Opportunities are given for single sex discussions arising from the Sex and Relationship Education when this is considered to be appropriate.

This, and other Sex and Relationship Education resources, reflect the needs, ages and cultural diversity of pupils. They are regularly reviewed and updated to ensure appropriateness. Sex and Relationship Education resources challenge stereotypes and contain non-stereotypical images including different and diverse people

The school also ensures that females (adults and KS2 girls) have access to suitable sanitary disposal facilities and sanitary towels located in the office.

5. Equal Opportunities

All children should have equal opportunity of access to the National Curriculum regardless of sex, race or ability as defined in our Equality Policy.

6. Role of the Co-ordinator

The role of the co-ordinator includes:

- Attending courses, collecting information and distributing it to staff
- Providing a variety of literature and knowledge based support
- Assisting colleagues in the effective implementation of the Sex and Relationship Education curriculum
- Identifying and addressing any needs and concerns
- Organising resources and the budget
- Monitoring and evaluating the teaching of Sex and Relationship Education
- Co-ordinating a policy
- Ensuring the development of Sex and Relationship Education reflects and enhances the school's philosophy and ethos.

7. Links with Home and Outside Agencies

The class teacher and other members of teaching staff will be primarily responsible for Sex and Relationship Education as they will have built up a secure and comfortable relationship with the children. Some year groups may involve outside visitors, such as a school nurse or a new mum and baby to aid education, but will only be used when appropriate and valuable.

This policy has been issued to and acknowledged by all teaching staff. It will be reviewed biennially or as government or circumstances direct, taking into account new knowledge, or other changes affecting the school and its provision of Sex and Relationship Education as part of the PSHCE curriculum.

8. Confidentiality

Teachers conduct SRE 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, then the teacher 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 they may have been a victim of abuse.

In these circumstances the teacher will talk to the DCPO as a matter of urgency. The headteacher will then forward the matter to the appropriate Authority, usually Social Services and/or the Police. The school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy offers further information on this process.

Reviewed at Curriculum and Pupil Wellbeing Committee: June 2018

To be ratified by governors on 28th September 2018

Date for next review: June 2020