

NONSUCH PRIMARY SCHOOL

SEX AND RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION POLICY



This policy is linked with the following policies: PSHE, Equality, Safeguarding, Behaviour and Anti Bullying

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Policy Information

Sex and Relationship Education: what must be taught in maintained schools

All maintained secondary schools must provide sex and relationship education as part of the basic curriculum, and must meet the requirements of National Curriculum Science. Governing bodies and head teachers of maintained primary schools must decide whether sex and relationship education, beyond that set out in National Curriculum Science, should be included in the school's curriculum, and if so what it should consist of and how it should be organised.

The Department for Education (DFE)'s popular questions website provides the following information on the current position relating to sex and relationship education (SRE) in schools (Updated 9 October 2014):

Sex and relationship education

Sex and relationship education (SRE) is compulsory from age 11 onwards. It involves teaching children about reproduction, sexuality and sexual health. It doesn't promote early sexual activity or any particular sexual orientation. Some parts of sex and relationship education are compulsory - these are part of the national curriculum for science. Parents can withdraw their children from all other parts of sex and relationship education if they want. All schools must have a written policy on sex education, which they must make available to parents for free.

Schools are currently required to have regard to the *Sex and Relationship Education Guidance*, published in 2000. For quick reference, some key guidance included within it is reproduced below. This information is not meant to be comprehensive, but instead to give a brief introduction to what the guidance recommends.

Primary Schools

1.12 The Department recommends that all primary schools should have a sex and relationship education programme tailored to the age and the physical and emotional maturity of the children. It should ensure that both boys and girls know about puberty and how a baby is born – as set out in Key Stages 1 and 2 of the National Science Curriculum. Section 3 gives further information on what should be taught at these stages and how this should be rooted in the PSHE framework.

1.13 All children, including those who develop earlier than the average, need to know about puberty before they experience the onset of physical changes. In the early primary school years, education about relationships needs to focus on friendship, bullying and the building of self-esteem. [...]

What is sex and relationship education (SRE)?

"Sex and Relationships Education is lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about understanding the importance of marriage for family life; stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality and sexual health. It is not about the promotion of sexual orientation or sexual activity." (DFE July 2000)

Our children learn about sex and relationships from the very youngest age, even if we don't talk with them. Some of the things they learn are incorrect, confusing and frightening. In a world where sex is used to sell things from food to fast cars, and celebrities' lives become everyone's business, we should talk to our children to help them make sense of it all.

As well as this, in the UK we have the highest rates of teenage pregnancy in Western Europe. We also have high rates of sexually transmitted infections (STIs). Effective SRE does not encourage early sexual experimentation - but it does enable young people to mature, to build up their confidence and self-esteem and to understand the reasons for delaying sexual activity until they are ready.

Parents and carers are the key people for their child's learning about sex and relationships and schools should always work in partnership with home. Parents and carers need to know that the school's SRE programme will complement their role and support them in the education of their child regarding sex and relationships. Willow Brook Primary School will ensure that parents' and carers' views are heard and that taught SRE is culturally appropriate and inclusive of all of our children.

Aims

The objectives of Sex and Relationship Education at Nonsuch Primary School are:

- To enable our pupils to make responsible, informed and healthy decisions about their lives, both now and in the future.
- To teach our pupils to respect themselves and others so they can move confidently from childhood through to adolescence and into adulthood.
- To provide a supportive learning environment in which pupils can develop their feelings of self-worth and confidence, especially in relationship to others.

Sex and Relationships Education in the context of the National Curriculum:

Legal requirements

Nonsuch Primary School has a statutory duty to teach the following as part of the National Curriculum Science Orders
Key Stage 1

- notice that animals, including humans, have offspring which grow into adults

Key Stage 2

- describe the differences in the life cycles of a mammal, an amphibian, an insect and a bird
- describe the life process of reproduction in some plants and animals.
- describe the changes as humans develop to old age.
- recognise that living things produce offspring of the same kind, but normally offspring vary and are not identical to their parents

Parents do not have the right to withdraw their child/children from these above aspects of the Science curriculum.

Organisation

Nonsuch Primary School has linked this policy into the PSHE Association's PSHE Education Programme of Study for KS1 to 4. This Programme of Study covers Key Stages 1 and 2 and is based on three core themes within which there will be broad overlap and flexibility:

1. Health and Wellbeing
2. Relationships
3. Living in the Wider World

Foundation Stage

Children learn about the concept of male and female and about young animals. In ongoing PSHE work, they develop skills to form friendships and think about relationships with others.

Key Stage 1

Through work in science, children learn about the life cycles of some animals, understand the idea of growing from young to old and learn that all living things reproduce. They learn about the importance of personal hygiene to maintain good health. In RE and Citizenship, children reflect on family relationships, different family groups and friendship. They learn about rituals and traditions associated with birth, marriage and death and talk about the emotions involved. They begin to co-operate with others in work and play and begin to recognise the range of human emotions and ways to deal with them. They also learn about personal safety.

Key Stage 2

In science, children build on their knowledge of life cycles and learn about the basic biology of human reproduction. In RE and Citizenship, they continue to develop an understanding of relationships within a family, between friends and the community and that there are different patterns of friendship. They will develop skills needed to form relationships and to respect other people's emotions and feelings. They will consider how to make simple choices and exercise some basic techniques for resisting pressures.

The Sex and Relationships Education Programme (SRE) is organised by Ms Hawker (head teacher). Specific SRE lessons are delivered in Years 5 and 6 and cover the following themes.

Year 5

'Changes'

These sessions cover understanding the physical changes that take place during puberty, why they happen and how to manage them.

Year 6

'How Babies are Made'

'How Babies are Born'

These sessions explain how babies are made within the context of a stable, loving relationship. They show the children how a baby develops in the womb and how a baby is born.

'Girl Talk'

'Boy Talk'

These sessions further explore the physical and emotional changes that take place to both boys and girls during puberty.

SRE is taught by the class teacher. A range of teaching methods are which include use of video, discussion and looking at case studies.

Sex and relationship education is usually delivered in mixed gender groups. However, there are occasions where single gender groups are more appropriate and relevant.

Resources to teach sex and relationship education include fiction, reference books, leaflets and extracts from videos. We use: Channel 4 Living and Growing - Units 2 & 3 (Available from Channel 4 Learning)

Consulting Parents

Materials which will be used in the school's SRE Programme can be seen by parents prior to being taught to the children. The school informs parents when aspects of the sex and relationship programme are taught and provides opportunities for parents to discuss the content of the lessons and to view the videos and resources being used. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from those aspects of sex and relationship education not included in the National Curriculum Science Orders - alternative work will be set.

Sex and relationship Education-policy and practice

The Head Teacher will have overall responsibility for the provision of the programme, for monitoring developments within sex education and for recommending to governors any amendments that she feels necessary and appropriate.

- Parents will receive prior notification of the SRE Programme to enable them to discuss issues with staff or their own children.
- Materials used in the SRE Programme will be available to parents on request.
- Parents may withdraw their children from all or part of the school's SRE Programme if they wish.
- The SRE Programme will cover aspects of personal hygiene, puberty, menstruation, pregnancy and birth.
- The children will be taught in both single and mixed gender groups as appropriate.
- If questions are asked by children outside the SRE Programme, the designated sex education teacher will use her discretion in answering them in an appropriate manner and at an appropriate and suitable time.
- Every child – including those with protected characteristics (see Equality Policy) is entitled to receive SRE.
- It is our intention all children have the opportunity to experience a programme of SRE at a level which is appropriate for their age and physical development with differentiated provision if required.
- The school's SRE Policy is subject to review every three years unless affected by changes in statute.

Dealing with difficult questions

Ground rules are essential to provide an agreed structure to answering sensitive or difficult questions. This framework facilitates the use of an anonymous question box as a distancing technique. Teachers will endeavour to answer questions as honestly as possible but if

faced with a question they do not feel comfortable answering within the classroom or one which is beyond the Key Stage 2 objectives, provision will be made to meet the individual child's needs.

Use of visitors

"Visitors should complement but never substitute or replace planned provision. It is the PSHE co-ordinator's and teacher's responsibility to plan the curriculum and lessons."

Sex and Relationship Guidance DfEE 0116/2000 P 29 6.11

When appropriate, visitors such as the school nurse may be involved in the delivery of sex and relationship education, particularly in Key Stage 2.

Children with special needs

Teaching and resources will be differentiated as appropriate to address the needs of these children in order for them to have full access to the content of sex and relationship education.

Child Protection / Confidentiality

Teachers need to be aware that effective sex and relationship education, which brings an understanding of what is and is not acceptable in a relationship, may lead to disclosure of a child protection issue. The staff member will inform the Head Teacher /Designated Child Protection person in line with the school's procedures for child protection. A member of staff cannot promise confidentiality if concerns exist.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring is the responsibility of the head teacher, named governor and all teachers with responsibility for sex and relationship education. The effectiveness of the SRE programme will be evaluated by assessing children's learning and implementing change if required. This policy document will be available to Parents via our website or via requesting a paper copy from the school office.