

Ridgeway Infant School is a safe happy, place where everyone does their best!

RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION POLICY



Date agreed: 19th July 2016

Minute Ref: FGB 15/141

Signature of Chair of FGB:

Review Due: SUMMER 2019

Responsibility of the Full Governing Body

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Our school's policy takes full account of the school's legal obligations and the DfEE document 'Sex and Relationship Education Guidance' (DfEE 0116/2000).
- 1.2 In the DfEE document, sex education is defined as 'learning about physical, moral and emotional development'. The guidance states, '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'.
- 1.3 Relationship and Sex education is part of the personal, social and health education (PSHE) curriculum in our school. At Ridgeway Infant School we use the Cambridgeshire PSHE Service Scheme, and due to the nature of the age and maturity of our children the work is based on Relationships.

2 Aims and objectives

- 2.1 We teach children about:
 - feelings and caring for friends and family
 - identifying and respecting differences and similarities between people
 - keeping themselves and their bodies safe
 - that humans have babies which grow up to be children and then adults

3 Context

- 3.1 We teach Relationship and Sex Education within the context of the school's aims and values.
- 3.2 During lessons the emphasis is on developing friendships and relationships and NOT sexual relationships. There is one lesson for year 1 and year 2 pupils taught every two years which does teach the correct names for the two external sexual parts of the body.

4 Organisation

- 4.1 We teach Relationship and Sex Education through different aspects of the curriculum. While we carry out the main parts in our personal, social and health education (PSHE) curriculum, we also do some teaching through other subject areas (e.g. science and PE) which we believe contribute significantly to children's knowledge and understanding of their own bodies, and how they are changing and developing.
- 4.2 In PSHE, we teach children about relationships, and we encourage children to discuss issues.
- 4.3 In Key Stage 1, we teach children about how animals, including humans, move, feed, grow and reproduce, and we also teach them about the main parts of the body. Children learn to appreciate the fact that people are not all the same, and that we need to respect each other.

5 The role of parents and carers

5.1 The school is well aware that the primary role in children's Relationship and Sex Education lies with parents and carers. We therefore wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents and carers of children at our school, through mutual understanding, trust and cooperation. To promote this objective, we:

- inform parents and carers about the school's Relationship and Sex education policy and practice and by making it available on the school website;
- answer any questions that parents or carers may have about the scheme of work;
- take seriously any issue that parents or carers raise with teachers or governors about this policy, or about the arrangements for Relationship and Sex education in the school;
- welcome parents and carers to view the school policy, scheme of work and individual session plans from the Scheme of Work;
- inform parents and carers at least 2 months prior to any sessions that may be more sensitive (Appendix 1)

We believe that through this mutual exchange of knowledge and information, children will benefit from being given consistent messages

5.2 Parents and carers have the right to withdraw their child from all or part of the Relationship and Sex Education programme that we teach in our school. If a parent wishes their child to be withdrawn from any lessons, they should discuss this with 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/carers in this regard.

7 The role of other members of the community

7.1 We encourage other valued members of the community to work with us to provide advice and support to the children with regard to certain aspects of their education. In particular, members of the Local Health Authority, such as the school nurse and other health professionals, give us valuable support.

8 Confidentiality

8.1 Teachers conduct Relationship and Sex education lessons in a sensitive manner, and in confidence. However, if a child makes a reference to being involved (or being likely to be involved) in sexual activity, then the teacher will take the reference 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. They will not try to investigate, but will immediately inform the named person for child protection issues about their concerns. The headteacher will then deal with the matter in consultation with health care professionals (see also our policy on Safeguarding).

9 The role of the headteacher

9.1 It is the responsibility of the headteacher to ensure that both staff and parents/carers are informed about our Relationship and Sex education policy, and

that the policy is implemented effectively. It is also the headteacher's responsibility to ensure that members of staff are given sufficient training, so that they can teach the curriculum effectively, and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity.

- 9.2 The headteacher liaises with external agencies regarding the school Relationship and Sex education programme, and ensures that all adults who work with our children on these issues are aware of the school policy, and work within its framework.
- 9.3 The headteacher monitors this policy on a regular basis, and reports to governors, when requested, on the effectiveness of the policy.

10 Monitoring and review

- 10.1 The Resources Committee of the governing body monitors the impact of our Relationship and Sex Education policy on an annual basis. This committee reports its findings and recommendations to the full governing body, as necessary, if the policy needs modification. The Resources Committee gives serious consideration to any comments from parents and carers about the Relationship and Sex Education programme, and makes a record of all such comments. Governors require the headteacher to keep a written record, giving details of the content and delivery of our Relationship and Sex Education programme.
- 10.2 This policy will be reviewed every two years, or earlier if necessary.

PSHE Subject Leader
Updated July 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,,

Children in Key Stage 1 follow the Cambridgeshire Scheme of Work for the area of the curriculum called Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE). As part of this work over the next term the children will be taught the correct names for parts of their bodies, including the sexual organs. This particular lesson is taught on a two year rolling programme for children in Year 1 and Year 2. They will learn about the external parts of the body including basic names for external sexual parts (these words will not be used we will say 'private'). We explain that these are names used by doctors for the body parts that girls and boys have, we will call these 'doctor words'. The 'doctor words' the classteacher will use are penis, testicles and vagina along with other more familiar body words such as knee, nose, ankle, shin (a full list of words can be copied for you if you request). All names the children use for these body parts at home will be accepted and terms penis, testicles and vagina will be introduced as the scientific terms. You may feel you would like to discuss these terms with your child before or after the work we complete in school, we will therefore inform you of the exact date this lesson will be taught.

In the lesson children will be taught by their classteacher. They will talk about the similarities and differences between boys and girls. There will be no photographs used in the lesson simply an outlined drawing of a young boy and young girl. The teacher will also say that sometimes we might use 'family' names for these body parts and that's ok too. If you require a copy of the actual lesson plan and resources to go with it please let us know and we will print of a copy for you to take away and read, along with our school Relationships and Sex Education Policy (a copy of which is available on our web site) and any other information you may require.

As part of our safeguarding education, the classteachers will talk about how we keep these body parts private and to ourselves, only a doctor or our mum/dad might ask to see them if we are poorly or unwell. We aim to empower our children to be confident and understand that they have the right to say no to anyone asking to see their private area.

I hope that this helps to explain the content of the lesson and ease any concerns that you may have. If you would like a lesson pack photocopied for you to read at home please do not hesitate to ask.

Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their child from this particular lesson, if this is something you would like to do then please inform either myself or Mrs Dale, Deputy Headteacher.

Thank you for your continued support,

Mrs C. Gray
Headteacher
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