



## Sex & Relationships Education Policy For a Discovery Primary School

This policy is intended to support staff and colleagues in teaching of Sex and Relationships Education.

### Guidelines and Procedures

# Sex and Relationship Education Policy

## Background and aims

SRE is lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development starting with early years and extending beyond school. It is about the understanding of the importance of loving and caring relationships. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality and sexual health. It is not about promotion of sexual orientation or sexual activity.

Sex and relationship education will reflect the values of the Personal, Social, and Health Education (PSHE) and Citizenship programme. As part of our ongoing PSHE and science teaching at Discovery Primary School we are legally bound to include Sex and Relationship education (SRE). The policy will outline our aims curriculum coverage and approaches for the teaching and learning of SRE.

An introduction to SRE begins in Reception and continues throughout primary years, providing children with a sound basis for sex education which takes place in secondary schools. It initially involves children learning about themselves and their bodies, friendship, emotions and relationships with others in the context of home, school and the wider community. It evolves to include important teaching about puberty, sex, sexuality and sexual health. Information is always given in the context of a healthy, loving relationship and emphasis is placed on personal safety and emotional wellbeing.

*"Children and young people already receive information about sex and relationships, both formally and informally, from a variety of sources. These may include friends, family, the media, music and film. Some of these sources can be misleading and inaccurate". (Sex Education Forum, 2003)*

We aim to dispel myths and correct misinterpretations, ease concerns and embarrassment surrounding all aspects of relationships and growing up by providing not only a source of accurate information but an environment in which children feel secure and comfortable.

This policy has been formulated by the staff, governors and parents at Discovery School.

In addition we aim to make sure that children will:

- Develop positive values and moral framework that will help them to guide their decisions, judgements and behaviour.
- Have the confidence and self-esteem to value themselves and others.
- Behave responsibly within personal relationships.
- Communicate effectively.
- Neither exploit nor be exploited.
- Be able to access advice and support.
- Know about the changes they will face during puberty.
- Understand the process of conception within the context of a loving relationship.

The teaching programme for Sex and Relationship Education is a legal requirement. All schools must teach the following as part of the National Curriculum Science Orders, parents do not have the right to withdraw their child/children.

- Every child is entitled to receive SRE regardless of ethnicity, gender, religion, age, culture, disability, sexuality, language special needs, disadvantaged and looked after children.
- 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.

### Curriculum

The formal planning and teaching of SRE interlinks with PSHE, Citizenship and the science National Curriculum Their Year Group foci is clearly laid out and is strengthened by the schools participating in the PDP. Informally children are learning about relationships with others on a daily basis, guided by the teacher and teaching assistants towards forming and maintaining positive friendships.

Resources for teaching and assessment of SRE are stored in school along with PSHE resources. We also draw on outside resources such as the school Nurse. Teachers plan using the PDP programme and DFES Emotional Intelligence resources. A range of teaching methods which involve children's full participation are used to teach SRE. These include use of video, discussion, looking at case studies and drama.

#### **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 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 including birth of a baby in years 5 & 6.

Children are taught about the physical, emotional and social changes at puberty, which include personal hygiene. 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. Sex and relationship education should focus on the development of skills and attitudes not just the acquisition of knowledge. It will be taught in year 5 but will be revisited in year 6.

### **E-safety**

All children receive e safety education as part of the IT curriculum in school. The e safety curriculum will cover all aspects of keeping yourself safe on social media and on the web.

### **Awareness of Individuals**

SRE is usually delivered in mixed gender groups. However, there may be occasions where single gender groups are more appropriate and relevant.

**Children with special needs** have the right to be included in SRE. 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.

Children on the **Child Protection Register** will be treated with due awareness and sensitivity. Some areas of the SRE may be deemed unsuitable in certain cases. In such circumstances, class teacher will work alongside the school designated Child protection staff and assess the best course of action. 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 LEA procedures for child protection.

### **Parental involvement**

The school includes information on sex and relationship education in the school prospectus and full details are available on request.

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.

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 would be set.

However this rarely happens, by working in partnership with parents they recognise the importance of this aspect of their child's education.

### **Right to withdraw**

Aspects of SRE are covered jointly by the PHSE and Science curriculum. Whilst the science National Curriculum remains mandatory, parents have the legal right to withdraw their child from teaching which falls within the PSHE syllabus. If parents would like to discuss the withdrawal of their child's from particular lessons, an appointment with the Head teacher is advised in advance of the aforementioned teaching. Appendix 1.

### **Use of visitors and the wider community.**

When appropriate, visitors such as the school nurse may be involved in the delivery of SRE.

Working with the wider community, health professionals, parents and religion leaders and other visitors may also provide elements of SRE. People in the wider community have much to offer and bring a new perspective, offering specific knowledge, experience and resources.

"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

- **Links with other policies**

This policy is linked with the following policies:

PSHE & Citizenship

Equal Opportunities

Child Protection

Confidentiality

Behaviour

Anti Bullying

Cross Phase eg. Key Stage 3

These policies can be found in the Head teacher's policy folder.

- **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, provision would be made to meet the individual child's needs.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation of SRE**

Our Science and PSHE Co-ordinators will monitor teaching and learning in SRE as part of their co-coordinator roles. The effectiveness of the SRE programme will be evaluated by assessing children's learning and implementing change if required.

This policy will be reviewed by the Governors.

Adopted by Governors Summer 2015

Reviewed Summer 2016

Next Review Summer 2018

# DISCOVERY PRIMARY SCHOOL

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<b>DISCOVER</b>	<b>PARTICIPATE</b>	<b>SUCCEED!</b>
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To the Parents/Carers of Year 5 children

7<sup>th</sup> June 2016

Dear Parents/Carers

During this half term, children in Year 5 will be following a series of lessons covering sex education. The teachers will be using a DVD and worksheets which will cover changes associated with puberty and human reproduction.

The DVD will follow two friends and explore changes that take place in life, such as moving house, as well as the changes that will happen to their bodies during puberty. The scientific aspect of these changes is explored through cartoon animation and diagrams. However, there is also a short clip of a baby being born in a hospital.

If any parents wish to see a short clip of the DVD prior to the lessons, I am happy to organize this at either 2.30 pm or 3.30 pm on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June. Please complete the reply slip below if you wish to do this.

It is anticipated that everyone in Year 5 will take part in these lessons unless we hear from you, in writing, by Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June.

Yours sincerely,

Mr R Bridgeman  
Year 5 teacher



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## Year 5 Sex Education DVD

Child's Name ..... Class  
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I/We would like to see a short clip of the DVD on 14<sup>th</sup> June at 2.30 pm  or 3.30 pm

**Signed** ..... Parent/Guardian