

Elmstead Primary School



Sex and Relationship Education Policy

Approved by Governors: Summer 2016

Review Date: Summer 2019

Aims of the policy

In line with the Department for Education Guidance, we define Sex and Relationship Education to mean teaching children within Elmstead about physical, moral and emotional development. This includes understanding stable and loving relationships, including marriage, respect, love, care, as well as morality and individual responsibility.

We do not use Sex and Relationship Education as a means of promoting any form of sexual orientation.

Elmstead Primary School promotes the ideal that Sex and Relationship Education is an educational entitlement of all pupil and an integral part of each pupil's emergence into adulthood. We aim to teach children about Sex and Relationships in a way that will ensure that they remain safe and assists them in developing self-awareness and enhances their emotional well-being.

Sex and Relationship Education at Elmstead Primary School

Sex and Relationship Education has three main categories to it:

Attitudes and values

- learning the importance of values and individual conscience and moral considerations;
- learning the value of family life, marriage, and stable and loving relationships for the nurture of children;
- learning the value of respect, love and care;
- exploring, considering and understanding moral dilemmas and
- developing critical thinking as part of decision-making.

Personal and social skills

- learning to manage emotions and relationships confidently and sensitively;
- developing self-respect and empathy for others;
- learning to make choices based on an understanding of difference and with an absence of prejudice;
- developing an appreciation of the consequences of choices made;
- managing conflict and
- learning how to recognise and avoid exploitation and abuse.

Knowledge and understanding

- learning and understanding physical development at appropriate stages;
- In the transition year before moving to secondary school, children must learn about the changes in the body related to puberty, such as periods and the voice breaking and how a baby is conceived and born.

How is Sex and Relationship Education delivered at Elmstead Primary School?

Sex and Relationship Education is a sensitive topic area and is delivered according to pupils' needs. It is not taught in isolation and the children will have met parts of Sex and Relationship Education in many areas of the school curriculum including Personal, Social Health Education (PSHE), citizenship and Science throughout their school career. In order to prepare children to be able to cope with the physical and emotional changes and challenges of growing up, it is taught as a discrete subject in year 5 and year 6.

Special Educational Needs

At Elmstead Primary School, we recognise that Sex and Relationship Education is an educational entitlement of all pupils and so children with Special Educational needs must have the same opportunities as all other children. The Sex and Relationship Education will be appropriately differentiated to meet the needs of all children.

Involving parents and the wider community

The school is well aware that the primary role in children's sex and relationship education lies with parents and carers. We wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents of children at our school through mutual understanding, trust and cooperation.

In promoting this objective we:

- Inform parents about the school's sex education policy and practice
- Answer any questions that parents may have about the sex education of their child and give them opportunities to discuss their views and beliefs.

The wider community may be involved in Sex and Relationship education. The wider community encompasses health professionals, social workers, youth workers, peer educators and visitors who will all abide by our Sex and Relationship Education Policy.

Parents right to withdraw their child

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the sex and relationship education provided at school except for those parts included in the statutory National Curriculum which are:

National Curriculum Science Key Stage 1

1. That animals including humans, move, feed, grow, use their senses and reproduce.
2. To recognise and compare the main external parts of the bodies of humans and that humans and animals can produce offspring and these grow into adults.
3. To recognise similarities and differences between themselves and others and treat others with sensitivity

National Curriculum Science Key Stage 2

1. That the life processes common to humans and other animals include nutrition, growth and reproduction.
2. About the main stages of the human life cycle

Safeguarding and confidentiality

We will uphold our safeguarding duties by following the Child Protection Policy if any disclosures are made within this setting. Children will be reassured that their best interests will be maintained during these sessions, however they will be reminded that unconditional confidentiality cannot be offered. If confidentiality does need to be broken for safeguarding reasons, then the child will be informed and appropriate support given.

Monitoring and Evaluation of Sex and Relationship Education

It is the responsibility of the PSHE Co-ordinator to oversee and organise the monitoring and evaluation of PSHE, in the context of the overall school plans for monitoring the quality of teaching and learning.

Ofsted is required to evaluate and report on spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of students. This includes evaluating and commenting on the school's sex and relationship education policy, and on support and staff development, training and delivery.

Terminology

OfSTED guidance recommends that it is important for children to learn the language associated with body parts so that children are able to talk to health professionals.

Therefore, teachers will use the anatomically correct language for body parts, while acknowledging common terms used by some people. Correct language for body parts will be gradually introduced from Year 1.

Dealing with Difficult Questions

Ground rules are essential to provide an agreed structure to answering sensitive or difficult questions. At Elmstead Primary School we make 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. This may involve referring the child back to their parent/carer; school health advisor/school nurse or seeking advice from the PSHE coordinator. Questions relating to specific sex education issues will be referred back to families.