

Ravenswood Community Primary School

Policy for the learning and teaching of Sex and Relationship Education

Aims and objectives

At Ravenswood Community Primary School the aim of sex and relationship education (SRE) is to provide children with age appropriate information, explore attitudes and values and develop skills in order to empower them to make positive decisions about their health related behaviour. This should take place with consideration of the qualities of relationships within families.

The objectives of Sex and Relationship Education are;

- To provide the knowledge and information to which all pupils are entitled
- To clarify/reinforce existing knowledge
- To raise pupils' self esteem and confidence, especially in their relationships with others;
- To help pupils understand their sexual feelings and behaviour, so they can lead fulfilling and enjoyable lives;
- To help pupils' develop skills (language, decision making, choice, assertiveness) and make the most of their abilities.
- To provide the confidence to be participating members of society and to value themselves and others;
- To help gain access to information and support
- To develop skills for a healthier safer lifestyle
- To develop and use communication skills and assertiveness skills to cope with the influences of their peers and the media
- To respect and care for their bodies
- To be prepared for puberty and adulthood

Rationale

We believe that effective SRE is essential if children are to make responsible, informed and healthy decisions about their lives, both now and in the future.

We want our policy to outline the strategies in place for teaching SRE outside the National Curriculum science and the sensitive issues that might arise during SRE lessons.

What is sex and relationship education?

In the DFE document 'Sex and Relationship Education Guidance(SRE) is defined as:

'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'. While we use sex education to inform children about sexual issues, we do this with regard to matters of morality and individual responsibility, and in a way that allows children to ask and explore moral questions. We do not use sex education as a means of promoting any form of sexual orientation.

Provision

Within school children will receive relevant sex and relationship learning through the whole school Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) Framework according to their age, for example, younger children will learn about family units and social groups of which they are members. Class teachers will deliver the programme either in other subject areas, e.g. Science (according to National Curriculum guidelines) or as part of a PSHE lesson within the themes of Health and Relationships.

The role of parents

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 child from all or part of the sex education programme, but not from teaching the biological aspects of human growth and reproduction necessary under national curriculum Science. If a parent wishes their child to be withdrawn from sex education lessons, they should discuss this with the Head teacher, 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 in this regard.

Child protection and 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 LEA procedures for child protection. A member of staff cannot promise confidentiality if concerns exist.

Dealing with difficult questions

Ground rules are essential when answering sensitive or difficult questions. Teachers will have an anonymous question box in their classroom 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 including the use of advice from outside agencies.

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 (see provision).

Monitoring and evaluation

Provision will be monitored and evaluated annually. There will also be on-going opportunities for staff to discuss with the PSHE leader any issues they may have regarding the learning and teaching of SRE. Resources to support the provision of sex and relationship education will be reviewed and updated by the PSHE subject leader.

This policy is to be reviewed, evaluated and ratified every three years.

October 2011
Reviewed October 2014