

BUNTINGSDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY



Relationship and Sex Education Policy

Buntingdale Primary School is working towards the Rights Respecting Schools Award. The Articles relevant to this policy are: Articles 2, 5, 12, 13, 15 and 24.

Approved Date: 21st January 2016

Review Date: January 2018

Buntingsdale Primary School & Nursery

Relationship and Sex Education Policy

1. Introduction

The school's sex education policy is based on the DfEE guidance (ref DfEE 0116/2000) and the 2014 supplementary guidance. We refer to RSE (Relationship and Sex Education) and we place the emphasis on relationships and supporting pupils understanding and skill in developing positive and healthy relationships. The School's definition is that this work is a lifelong learning process; it is about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about understanding the importance of marriage, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. It involves teaching about sex, sexuality and sexual health.

RSE in school is part of the personal, social and health education curriculum. The School recognises that RSE is the responsibility of all staff and should be an integral part of teaching and learning processes. Education for personal growth and self-esteem, including sex and health education, complements and overlaps with the personal, social and emotional development of the child and the general life of the school.

2. Definition

Ofsted 2002 recommendations have informed this policy and practice, in particular: 'A caring and developmental SRE programme needs to be more than just biology and the fundamentals of reproduction. Young people want reassurance about their body image, behaviour, feelings and relationships. They also need knowledge and skills appropriate to their level of maturity and developmental needs'.

The Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education (Sex and Relationship Guidance: A Christian Perspective 2008) states that 'Sex and Relationship Education is part of a child's broad, balanced curriculum, integral to the basic curriculum of the school and part of the child's all round development'.

This policy for Relationship and Sex Education is written in accordance with this philosophy. In planning and presenting an RSE programme the school provides an opportunity for pupils to express themselves within a trusted and safe environment. Central to this PSHE programme is the development of pupils' self-esteem. If young people feel positive and good about themselves, they are more likely to take care of themselves, think positively of other people, and therefore develop non-exploitative, caring relationships. They are also less likely to be exploited by others.

The School's policy and practice is based upon national guidance and good practice, consistent with Shropshire Council recommendations. This policy is cross-referenced

and consistent with other policies such as Safeguarding, Bullying, Equal Opportunities etc. (amend and include as appropriate reference to other policies).

3. Aims

RSE in the school is part of the personal, social and health education curriculum. This is integrated within the wider school curriculum and complements and overlaps with the general ethos and life of the school.

To provide a planned, age appropriate scheme of work, designed to capitalise on the fascination and interest that children have about themselves, their own growth and development and to offer reassurance that such changes are normal and natural.

In planning and presenting an RSE programme the School provides the opportunity for pupils to express themselves within a trusted and safe environment, following agreed ground rules. The School wants to reassure children of their value and self-worth including aspects of dignity, self-respect and self-restraint, help them to have a responsible attitude towards personal relationships including mutual respect and care, and to develop sensitivity towards the needs of others, providing knowledge of loving relationships and the human reproductive process.

The School aims to inform children on matters of personal hygiene and related health issues, encourage exploration of values and moral issues taking into account physical and moral risks associated with certain behaviour, educate against discrimination and prejudice and help prepare children to make informed choices about relationships.

We offer a planned and appropriate scheme of work, devised to meet the following statutory requirements:

Equal Opportunities

At Buntingsdale Primary School the notion of equality of opportunity is highly valued. The RSE curriculum should offer children the opportunity to clarify and develop their attitudes and values relating to: gender roles, stereotyping, taking into account equality issues (sex, race and culture, disability, ability, religion and sexual orientation).

Child Protection

The Child Protection procedures as laid down by Shropshire County Council will be followed. All referrals, whatever their origin will be taken seriously and will be considered with an open mind, which does not pre-judge the situation. The procedures adopted for handling cases of neglect, physical, emotional, sexual abuse and failure to thrive involving children and young persons, are based on the principle that the interests and welfare of the child or young person are of paramount importance.

Confidentiality must not prevent action if the child is 'at risk'. Teachers will listen sympathetically to anything a child tells them in confidence. However, if a teacher feels that a child is at risk then the appropriate people will be contacted in accordance with the Child Protection Procedures, a copy of which is available for parents in school.

Moral and Values Framework

The Relationship and Sex Education Policy will be sensitive towards the established morals and values framework of all the major world religions and philosophies. The RSE Policy is complimentary with the Religious Education Policy and the Personal, Social and Health Education Policy.

The Social, Ethnic and Religious Mix of the School

The School aims to fulfil the educational needs of the children who are represented in the local community. The children come from a varied cross section of the local community and represent different social, ethnic and religious values, beliefs and customs.

Disability

If the school has any children with special needs who require special assistance their needs will be fully considered. Their parents will be consulted.

4. Whole School approach

The School recognises that RSE is the responsibility of all staff and is integral to teaching a broad and balanced curriculum, educating the whole child and adhering to the 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' statutory guidance.

Pupils' questions will be responded to by all staff (teaching and non-teaching) as they arise in a straightforward way. Factual, simple and correct information will be provided using correct terminology for body parts and functions appropriate to the age of the child.

School staff have the right not to feel under pressure to answer difficult questions on the spot and will use distancing techniques such as referring the question to a question box. This allows time for reflection about the most appropriate way to respond. Staff have been provided with a process for responding to questions.

Any concerns arising concerning a child or any indications that a child or children are at risk of harm or in danger will be discussed with the head teacher or child protection lead in accordance with the Child Protection Policy.

The use of sexualised language, swear and slang terms, including homophobic language will be addressed with pupils and as appropriate parents/carers.

This policy also supports The Children Adult Mental Health Service Transformation plan which will be effective from April 2016.

5. Organisation

The main delivery of RSE is through PSHE, but some aspects are also taught through other subject areas such as science and PE. It is taught by the class teacher, and other members of staff to provide a gender balance, whenever possible. There will be opportunities for children to work in mixed and single gender groups and exercises will be adapted to take into account different levels of maturity and ability.

The Shropshire Respect Yourself: Eat Better, Move More, RSE programme will be used. This teaches children to understand and respect themselves and their bodies as part of a healthy lifestyle approach. The RSE topic has three sections; Choices and Challenges, Changes and Care and Commitment. In year 5 & 6 there is a greater emphasis on the changes that occur in puberty. Year 6 uses the Shropshire RSE Transition Programme.

Pupils are taught about relationships and encouraged to discuss issues; and the parts of the body, using the correct terminology, how these work and how we change as we grow. Children are encouraged to ask for help, providing reassurance that change is part of life's cycle.

In science lessons in Key Stage 1 the children are taught about how humans change and grow and how a baby is born. The focus is on changes and growing, keeping our bodies and ourselves healthy and safe. For this aspect we follow the guidance material in the national scheme of work for science will be followed. In Key Stage 2 children will be taught about life processes and the main stages of the human life cycle in greater depth.

6. Our Scheme of work aims to:

- Raise and promote positive self esteem
- Help pupils develop their skills and confidence in making decisions, communication, assertiveness, self-expression, respect for themselves and others
- Help pupils communicate and understand their feelings and emotions
- Provide pupils with skills necessary to keep themselves happy and safe
- Prepare pupils for the physical and emotional changes of growing up
- Offer opportunity for pupils to develop and clarify their attitudes and values
- Counteract myths and misinformation

- Challenge media stereotypes, oppression and prejudice and promote equal opportunities
- Explain the meaning of words in a sensible and factual way, using correct names for body parts and functions
- Provide reassurance that change is part of the life cycle and help pupils accept variations
- Develop the confidence to seek help, support and advice.

7. *The purpose of relationship and sex education includes the following:*

- To understand the value of family life, the implications of parenthood and the need for the proper care of all young things
- To develop skills in personal relationships, e.g. communication, assertiveness, decision-making
- To build and develop the self-esteem of all young people
- To promote equal opportunities for all
- To help pupils to accept the variation in rates of growth and development and to provide reassurance that change is part of life's cycle; to give support in adjusting to these changes
- To counteract misleading folklore, myth, playground rumours and false assumptions
- Develop the confidence to seek help, support and advice.

8. Home-school Partnership

Children are exposed to information and messages from T.V., Internet, film, music videos, books and magazines. They are influenced by family and friends and significant adults. Part of our role is to ensure that children are able to understand and interpret the information they receive.

Parents have the primary role in delivering relationship and sex education. The School aims to provide a programme in partnership with parents, ensuring all pupils receive high quality provision in line with national good practice recommendations and statutory requirements.

It is expected that the school curriculum and ethos of the school complements and enhances home teaching & values, giving regard to the value of family life & loving, stable relationships.

Parents will be provided with opportunities to discuss the school's policy and practice. Parents will be informed about the timing of the delivery and offered an opportunity to look at resources. Parents are encouraged to discuss and ask questions.

Under the terms of the 1996 Education Act, parents have the right to withdraw their child from part, or whole of the RSE programme that does not form part of the national curriculum. If a parent wishes to do this they should discuss this with the head teacher. Parents are encouraged to discuss any concerns at the earliest opportunity with form teacher and head teacher. The Head teacher will discuss the implications and likely consequences of withdrawal from the non- statutory part of the curriculum.

Parents should make it clear which aspect of the programme they do not wish their child to participate in and may be asked to put this in writing. Resources and information regarding further support and help will be made available. Any parents with concerns about this policy should discuss this directly with the head teacher.

9. Role of Head Teacher

It is the responsibility of the Head teacher to ensure that:

- policy and practice is developed in accordance with good practice guidelines and recommendations
- the policy is reviewed and monitored and approved by governors
- staff and parents are informed about policy
- staff receive appropriate training and support

10. Complaints Procedure

If parents have any cause for concern about this RSE Policy they will be asked to come into school to resolve the problem. In the unlikely event that the concern cannot be dealt with by the Head teacher, parents can contact the Chair of Governors and use the Complaints procedure.

11. Monitoring and review

The Curriculum and Standards Committee of the governing body monitors this relationship and sex education policy on a regular basis. This Committee reports its findings and recommendations to the full governing body, as necessary, if the policy needs modification.

The Curriculum Committee gives serious consideration to any comments from parents about the relationship and sex education programme, and makes a record of all such comments.

Governors require the Head teacher to keep a written record, giving details of the content and delivery of the relationship and sex education programme that is taught in this school.

This policy has been reviewed and updated with teaching and support staff, and approved by the school governors. It will be reviewed every 2 years.

12. Key websites:

www.teachersnet.gov.uk/pshe

www.pshe-association.org

www.ncb.org.uk/sef

Appendix 1 Overview of scheme of work

Appendix 2 Sample letter to parents

Appendix 3 Governors statement

Appendix 4 Definitions of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

Appendix 5 Top Tips for LGBT Inclusive Relationships and Sex Education

Appendix 6 LGBT inclusive SRE Resources: EYFS and KS 1 and 2

Appendix 7 Suggested reading to support an LGBT inclusive approach

Buntingsdale Primary School

Governors' statement on the Shropshire Respect Yourself programme with reference to Relationship and Sex Education policy and practice

We are required to ensure the school delivers a broad and balanced curriculum as an entitlement for all pupils and adhere to section 36 of the statutory Department of Education guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education'. In making this statement Governors have taken account of the National Curriculum documents for science and guidance for PSHE and Citizenship.

Sex education includes such concepts as growing and changing, the life cycle, puberty and reproduction. It is also about emotions, relationships and responsibilities and how we care for each other. We therefore refer to this work as relationship and sex education (RSE), placing the emphasis on relationships.

RSE aims to help children understand their feelings, emotions and bodies, how they are growing and changing, and how they will change in the future. It aims to enhance the emotional and social development of children, helping them to understand the benefits of caring relationships and to be aware of pressures and possible dangers.

The work is integrated within science and PSHE and taught as a progressive curriculum in an age-appropriate way through the age ranges. We use the Shropshire Respect Yourself scheme of work and recommended resources. This is a national, award-winning programme, which is cross-curricular, providing consistency of approach for our pupils.

The class teacher will deliver the lessons. The work will be integrated into the ordinary life of the class so that both boys and girls will have a clear understanding of, and be in sympathy with, the changes involved for those of a different gender. Some single gender work or small group exercises will be used as appropriate. Depending on availability the school nurse may offer question and answer sessions.

Parents are invited to comment on the Schools' policy and also to attend parents' meetings to preview resources and discuss the programme of work. The Headteacher and Governors are available to discuss any concerns. Parents will be informed of their right to withdraw their children from sex education additional to that required by the National Curriculum Science Order. The policy will be reviewed every two years. Governors will seek the views of teachers, pupils and parents.

Sample letter to send to parents

Dear Parents and Carers

Shropshire Respect Yourself: Eat Better, Move More, Relationship and Sex Education Programme

As part of the statutory National Curriculum, aspects of relationship and sex education are taught to all pupils. This includes understanding growth, life cycles and reproduction for animals/mammals and naming of body parts. We believe that this biological approach needs to be balanced with an emphasis on relationships, feelings, and values. We are particularly concerned to ensure our children know how to keep themselves safe and healthy and develop confidence and self-esteem to ensure they are not vulnerable or exploited in any way.

This year we are using new materials as part of personal and social health education. We are delivering the Shropshire Respect Yourself: Eat Better, Move More, Relationship and Sex Education programme. This programme has been nationally recognised, is informed by good practice guidance and has received the quality Kitemark from the Personal, Social Health Education Association (PSHE). It includes the transition programme for year 6, which ensures continuity and age-appropriate progression with the Shropshire secondary programme.

As part of our planning for the delivery of this programme we have ensured that there is consistency with our school's ethos and related policies, such as safeguarding, equalities and bullying.

The programme will be delivered by classroom teacher(s). There will be opportunities for the children to work in mixed and single gender groups and exercises will be adapted to take into account different levels of maturity and ability. We encourage pupils to ask questions, seek further information and complete activities at home. We see this work as a partnership between school and home.

If you would like to come in to discuss the programme with us and/ or you think that you would like to exercise your parental right to withdraw your child from the RSE programme then please make an appointment to meet with Mrs Alcock or Mrs Elkes.

Yours sincerely

Mrs H Alcock
(Head teacher)