

Sancton Wood School

Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) Policy

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Section 1 – The Context of Our Sex and Relationships Education Policy

a) Our Shared Beliefs about SRE

In our school we believe:

- SRE is lifelong learning about ourselves including our emotions, self-esteem, relationships, rights and responsibilities, sexual behaviour, sexuality and sexual health. It takes place in many contexts: at home, at school and in the community.
- SRE is an entitlement for all young people. Difference and diversity must be taken into account when delivering SRE. Special educational needs or disability, gender, sexual orientation and age, nationality, religion, cultural and linguistic background, all affect access to SRE.
- SRE is most effective when provided in the wider context of social and emotional development. In schools, successful SRE is firmly rooted in personal, social and health education (PSHE).
- SRE must enable young people to gain information, develop and transfer skills and explore attitudes and values, in order to support informed decision-making.

b) Entitlements

At Sancton Wood we are committed to working towards the implementation and development of the following entitlements.

Children are entitled to:

- Accurate, up-to-date, useful and appropriate information delivered in a way that meets their individual needs
- A well-planned, well-delivered SRE programme, which is flexible to cater for their changing needs over time
- Know where and how to access information, support and local services
- Be informed about issues of confidentiality and how it affects them
- Have their views and ideas received in a respectful and non-judgemental manner
- Be involved in developing and evaluating the content, delivery and timing of their SRE programme.

Adults working with children are entitled to:

- Access to high quality, up-to-date, accurate information, resources and training
- Mutual understanding of roles and responsibilities in relation to the planning and delivery of SRE
- Contribute their views and ideas in support of the development of SRE for children
- Professional guidance and support
- Opportunities to share good practice
- Be informed about issues of confidentiality and procedures to be followed.

Parents and carers are entitled to:

- Accessible, accurate, up-to-date, information delivered in a way which meets their needs
- A safe and supportive environment for their children
- Information on how and when SRE is taught
- Understand their rights and responsibilities in relation to SRE policy and curriculum
- Be informed about issues of confidentiality and how it affects them and their children
- Have their views and ideas received in a respectful, non-judgemental manner.

Section 2 –Our Sex and Relationships Education Policy

a) Introduction

Our work in SRE is set in the wider context of our school values and ethos:

- We promote a healthy, safe and caring environment for all pupils and staff.
- We provide a broad and balanced curriculum for all our pupils, which values their diverse backgrounds and needs.
- We promote pupil's self-esteem and emotional wellbeing and help them to form and maintain worthwhile and satisfying relationships, based on respect for themselves and for others, at home, at school, at work and in the community.
- We prepare our pupils to confidently engage with the challenges of adult life.
- We provide sufficient information and support to enable our pupils to make safe choices.
- Through an enriched curriculum, we provide children, with opportunities to develop the necessary skills to manage their lives effectively.
- We help our children to learn to respect themselves and others and move safely from childhood, through adolescence, into adulthood.

Our other school policies are relevant to our provision of SRE: PSHE and Citizenship, Safeguarding and Child Protection, Science, Confidentiality, Behaviour, Anti-Bullying and Inclusion, This SRE Policy will be made available to staff in their policy folders and on the school website.

This policy is consistent with current national legislation (Education Act 1996 and Learning and Skills Act 2000). It is also consistent with current national guidance 'Sex and Relationship Education Guidance' (DfEE 2000). Our Policy reflects the view of SRE contained within the Schools White Paper 'The Importance of Teaching' (Nov 2010), that children need high quality SRE, so they can make wise and informed choices. Our Policy also reflects recommendations from Ofsted/ISI and the Sex Education Forum.

We are engaged in the following areas of work, which support this policy and the delivery of effective SRE: Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) Programme, continuing work within the Primary Personal Development Programme, developing as a health promoting school

Our SRE policy is the responsibility of the governing body and has been developed through discussion with staff and governors and by the PSHE Co-ordinator with the support of the Director of Pastoral care. This policy was discussed and ratified by the school governors on 20/05/16.

b) Our Aims for SRE

All adults will work towards achieving these aims for SRE in our school. We seek to enable our children to:

- develop interpersonal and communication skills
- develop positive values and a moral framework that will guide their decisions and behaviour
- develop understanding of the value of marriage, stable relationships and family life as a positive environment for bringing up children
- respect themselves and others, their views, backgrounds, cultures and experiences
- develop loving, caring relationships based on mutual respect
- be able to name the parts of the body and understand the process of human reproduction
- understand the reasons for and benefits of delaying sexual activity
- be prepared for puberty and the emotional and physical effects of body changes
- understand the attitudes and skills needed to maintain their sexual health
- recognise and avoid exploitative relationships
- value, care for and respect their bodies
- access additional advice and support.

c) Delivering Our SRE Curriculum

The Curriculum is wholly consistent with the National Curriculum (2000), DfE and OfSTED guidance. It also reflects best practice described by the Sex Education Forum. Some elements of our SRE curriculum are part of the compulsory National Curriculum for Science (e.g. the biological aspects of puberty, reproduction and the spread of viruses) and some parts are based on the non-statutory PSHE guidance.

We consider SRE to be a continuous process of learning, which begins well before the children enter our school and continues into adulthood. We have planned a progressive curriculum appropriate to each age group. All adults working with children have a part to play in supporting the delivery of SRE.

The objectives of the SRE Curriculum will be taught in:

- PSHE through designated lessons, circle time, focused events, health weeks, SEAL
- Other Curriculum areas, especially Science, English, RE and PE
- Enrichment activities, especially our assembly programme, SEAL programme, visits from the Life Education Centre, social skills groups, involvement in school trips and adventurous activities, activities carried out as part of our development as a health promoting school.

Specific Units of Work on SRE are planned into our teaching programme as described in our PSHE Topic webs. Specific content on Puberty will be taught in Year 5 and revisited in Year 6 during the summer term.

We understand that at times children will benefit from varying methods of delivering the SRE curriculum. For example, we will use single-sex groups or small group teaching where this will help us to meet the needs of children more effectively, we will use team teaching where this enables us to best use teacher expertise. We will ensure there are positive

educational reasons for each method of delivery.

d) Responsibilities for Curriculum Delivery and Policy Implementation

- We regard it as the shared responsibility of all adults working in the school to respond appropriately to a child's request for information and advice. All staff are encouraged to access support from colleagues where necessary.
- The SRE curriculum will primarily be delivered by class teachers. Those delivering SRE will have responsibility for assessing children's needs and selecting appropriate activities and methodologies to meet these needs, supported by the PSHE Co-ordinator and our director of Pastoral care.
- The PSHE Co-ordinator is responsible for reviewing and evaluating SRE at our school. The PSHE Co-ordinator will report to the Head Teacher in this task.
- Staff will be assisted in their planning and delivery of the 'Curriculum for SRE' by the PSHE Co-ordinator who will, with support, provide lesson plans and activities for colleagues, collate assessments, liaise with PSHE advisors, plan INSET to meet staff needs.
- Governors hold responsibility for the SRE Policy and will be assisted in monitoring its implementation by the PSHE Co-ordinator and Head Teacher.

e) Teaching Methodologies

Ground Rules: SRE is taught in a safe, non-judgemental environment where adults and children are confident that they will be respected. Specific ground rules will be established at the beginning of any SRE work, in addition to those already used in the classroom. They will cover the following areas:

- Appropriate use of language
- The asking and answering of personal questions
- Strategies for checking or accessing information.

Answering Questions: We acknowledge that sensitive and potentially difficult issues will arise in SRE as children will naturally share information and ask questions. When spontaneous discussion arises, it will be guided in a way which reflects the stated school aims and curriculum content for SRE. As a first principle we will answer questions relating to the taught planned curriculum for that age group to the whole class. We will answer questions relating to areas beyond the taught planned curriculum for that age group, in a sensitive and age appropriate way only to the child or children who have asked the question. If a member of staff is uncertain about the answer to a question, or indeed whether they wish to answer it they will seek guidance from the PSHE leader.

When answering questions, we shall ensure that sharing personal information by adults, pupils or their families is discouraged. Where a question or comment from a pupil in the classroom indicates the possibility of abuse, teachers will pass this information to the designated person for child protection in line with school policy.

Distancing Techniques: In order to protect children's privacy, we will employ teaching and learning strategies which enable them to discuss issues without disclosing personal experience. For example, we will use fiction, puppets, case studies, role-play, videos, theatre in education to enable children to share ideas and opinions and to practise their decision-making skills in a safe learning environment.

f) Inclusion

We understand the importance of ensuring that all children in our school receive their entitlement to SRE. We will carefully consider special educational needs or disability, gender and age, nationality, religion, cultural and linguistic background when planning and delivering SRE.

In relation to nationality, religion and cultural diversity, we value the different backgrounds of our pupils and, in addressing different views and beliefs, seek to promote tolerance and understanding.

In order to ensure the SRE Curriculum meets the needs of all:

- We will not promote one particular lifestyle over another.
- We will not seek to gain consensus, but will accept and celebrate difference.
- We will encourage respect and discourage abuse and exploitation.
- We will not ask children to represent the views of a particular religious or cultural group to their peers, unless they choose to do so.

In relation to those with special educational needs or disability, we will review our SRE programme to ensure that provision is made for those with additional needs. We will consider:

- their level of vulnerability
- their need to learn and demonstrate appropriate behaviour
- their need to develop self-esteem and positive body image
- the need to involve all staff, including ancillary staff and carers, in policy development, planning and training
- the management of personal care
- clarity about sources of support for pupils.

g) Resources

We will primarily use the Cambridgeshire Primary Personal Development Programme and the resources recommended within it when planning and delivering the SRE Curriculum. We will avoid a 'resource-led' approach to delivering SRE, instead focusing on the needs of the children and our planned learning objectives. We will carefully select resources which meet these objectives. We will carefully evaluate teacher resources, leaflets and videos, before using them. We will select resources which:

- are consistent with the Curriculum for SRE
- relate to the aims and objectives of this Policy
- are suitable to the age, maturity, needs, linguistic proficiency and ability of the children

- appeal to adults and children
- are up-to-date in factual content
- are produced by a reputable organisation
- do not show unfair bias e.g. towards a commercial product
- avoid racial, gender and sexual stereotyping
- encourage active and participative learning
- conform to the legal requirements for SRE.

h) Confidentiality

In our school

- Staff are unable to offer absolute confidentiality.
- We will reassure children that staff will act in their best interests and that this may involve sharing information if the child is at risk of harm.
- Children will be told if information is to be shared (unless the child is very young or has significant special needs) and will be offered appropriate support.

I) Safeguarding and Child Protection

We recognise that because effective SRE may alert children to what is appropriate and inappropriate sexual behaviour, there is an increased possibility that a disclosure relating to abuse may be *made*. All staff are aware of the Safeguarding and Child Protection procedures and will report the disclosure to the designated person for child protection immediately.

j) Staff Training

Teaching SRE can be very rewarding, but we understand that, in order to feel confident, staff need opportunities to develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes. We recognise that all adults have different personal beliefs and attitudes about SRE. We will discuss relevant issues and, where appropriate, arrange training to enable staff members to feel confident in delivering the Curriculum for SRE. We will also encourage the sharing of good practice. Those with special responsibility for the development of SRE will be offered opportunities to consult with advisors.

K) Working with Parents/Carers

Parents and carers are the key figures in supporting their children through the emotional and physical aspects of growing up. We recognise that many children would prefer to receive information about SRE from their parents and carers. Therefore we seek to work in partnership with parents and carers when planning and delivering SRE. We will encourage this partnership by:

- a. Informing parents and carers by letter or leaflet of forthcoming SRE topics

b. Informing parents and carers about the SRE programme as their child joins the school through the school brochure/prospectus

c. Providing supportive information about parents' role in SRE

Parents and carers will be given access to this Policy on request, it will also be available on the school website.

Parents and carers have the right to withdraw their children only from all or part of those elements of SRE which are not included in the statutory national curriculum Programmes of Study for Science. They are able to withdraw their children from those elements which fall within the non statutory guidance for PSHE. The school will make alternative arrangements for children whose parents or carers withdraw them.

Any parent or carer who wishes to withdraw their child should, in the first instance, contact the Class Teacher to discuss the matter. Appendix A will be used to guide the discussion to explain clearly which areas of SRE are statutory and which are non-statutory. We will enable parents wishing to withdraw their children from the non-statutory elements of SRE to access the leaflet 'SRE and Parents' (Phone 0845 602 2260 DfES Code 0706/2001 or download from www.education.gov.uk.) Parents or carers will be asked to reconfirm their decision to withdraw each time SRE is planned for their child's year group.

L) Monitoring, Evaluating and Reviewing Our SRE Policy

Monitoring and evaluation of the Policy is the responsibility of the governing body. Information will be gathered from the Head Teacher, the PSHE Co-ordinator and parents to inform judgements about effectiveness.

We are committed to working towards the delivery of the Entitlements (1b) and the provision of the 'Curriculum for SRE' (4a).

- We will reflect on our contribution to the provision of the Entitlements for SRE and seek to develop this.
- We will continue to work in partnership with parents/carers and members of our community to ensure the delivery of high-quality SRE for our children.
- The Policy will be formally reviewed every three years. The next review will take place in 2019.

M) Glossary

Co-ordinator: The lead member of staff in school for a particular area of work.

DfE Department for Education (previously known as DCFS: Department for Children, Families and Schools, DfES: Department for Education and Skills and DfEE Department for Education and Employment)

PSHE: Personal, Social and Health Education

SRE: Sex and Relationships Education

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