

St George's School

Sex & Relationships Policy

Background Information

This policy was developed by the school PSHE Coordinator through a variety of consultation methods involving pupils, parents/carers, staff, governors and the school health adviser. All views were taken into account when developing this policy and the Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) programme.

Policy Statement

SRE is lifelong learning process of acquiring information, developing skills and forming positive beliefs and attitudes about sex, sexuality, relationships and feelings (Sex Education Forum 1999).

Effective SRE can make a significant contribution to the development of the personal skills needed by pupils if they are to establish and maintain relationships. It also enables young people to make responsible and informed decisions about their health and well-being.

The 1996 Education Act consolidates all relevant previous legislation and states that all primary schools must provide an up to date policy that describes the content and organisation of SRE provided outside the National Curriculum Science Order. The DfEE Sex and Relationship Education Guidance (2000) supports this legislation and recommends that all primary schools should have a sex and relationship education programme tailored to the age and physical and emotional maturity of the children.

Other related policies and documents include the PSHE & Citizenship policy, Anti-Bullying Policy, Drugs Policy, Child Protection Policy and the Single Equalities policy.

Aims and Objectives

This policy is a working document which provides guidance and information on all aspects of SRE in the school for staff, parents/carers and governors. To be accessible to all of these groups the document needs to be available on request and presented in a way that is easy to understand.

Moral and Values Framework

The SRE programme at St George's reflects the school ethos and demonstrates and encourages the following values:

Respect for self;

Respect for others;

Responsibility for their own actions;

Responsibility for their family, friends, schools and wider community.

Equal Opportunities Statement

The school is committed to the provision of SRE to all of its pupils. Our programme aims to respond to the diversity of children's cultures, faiths and family backgrounds. Equal time and provision will be allocated for all groups but there may be occasions where pupils with Special Educational Needs are given extra.

Content

In Key Stage 1 pupils learn to recognise similarities and differences between themselves and others, identify and share their feelings with each other, recognise safe and unsafe situations and identify and be able to talk to someone they trust.

In Key Stage 2 pupils learn to express their opinions about relationships and bullying and to listen to and support others, including respecting other people's viewpoints and beliefs. They learn to recognise their own worth and identify positive things about themselves and try to balance the stresses in life in order to promote their own mental health and well-being of others. Life processes are discussed including the physical changes that take place at puberty, why they happen and how to manage them.

To support some units the Dorset Sex and Relationship resources, developed by Healthwise are used. Age and cultural backgrounds of the pupils were regarded in relation to images used. Suitable DVDs may be shown to KS2 children with the guidance from the school nurse. The range of material used is available to parents/carers and informative books are available to children in the library.

Organisation

SRE should not be delivered in isolation but firmly embedded in all curriculum areas, including Personal, Social Health Education (PSHE) and citizenship. At St George's the main content is delivered in PSHE lessons.

SRE is normally delivered by class teachers in mixed gender groups other than when it is deemed more appropriate for topics to be covered in single sex groups. Active learning methods which involve children's full participation are used.

Occasionally, appropriate and suitably experienced and/or knowledgeable visitors from outside school may be invited to contribute to the delivery of SRE in school. St George's Primary School has a code of practice for using visitors to support the delivery of PSHE: Visitors are invited in to school because of the particular expertise or contribution they are able to make;

All visitors are familiar with and understand the school's SRE policy and work within it;

All input to PSHE lessons are part of a planned programme and negotiated and agreed with staff in advance;

All visitors are supervised/supported by a member of staff at all times;

The input of visitors is monitored and evaluated by staff and pupils. This evaluation informs future planning.

Elements of the sex education in the science curriculum are assessed formally.

Evaluation of the SRE programme outside the science order is conducted using a variety of informal activities which have been built into the programme.

St George's believes in the importance of training for staff delivering SRE. Staff are encouraged to access appropriate training and support to help them deliver effective SRE.

Specific Issues within SRE

Withdrawal

Parents/Carers have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the sex and relationships education provided at school except for those parts included in statutory National Curriculum. Those parents/carers wishing to exercise this right are invited in to see the Headteacher who will explore any concerns and discuss any impact that withdrawal may have on the child. Once a child has been withdrawn they cannot take part in the SRE programme until the request for withdrawal has been removed.

Materials are available to parents/carers who wish to supplement the school SRE programme or who wish to deliver SRE to their children at home.

Confidentiality

As a general rule a child's confidentiality is maintained by the teacher or member of staff concerned. If this person believes that the child is at risk or in danger, she/he talks to the named child protection coordinator who may confer with the Headteacher before any decision is made. The child concerned will be informed that confidentiality is being breached and reasons why. The child will be supported by the teacher throughout the process.

Child Protection

The school has a separate Child Protection Policy. Effective SRE may bring about disclosures of child protection issues and staff should be aware of the procedures for reporting their concerns.

Controversial and Sensitive Issues

Staff are aware that views around SRE related issues are varied. However, while personal views are respected, all SRE issues are taught without bias. Topics are presented using a variety of views and beliefs so that pupils are able to form their own, informed opinions but also respect others that may have a different opinion.

Dealing with Questions

Both formal and informal SRE arising from pupils' questions are answered according to the age and maturity of the pupil concerned. Questions do not have to be answered directly, and can be addressed individually later. The school believes that individual teachers must use their skill and discretion in this area and refer to the Child Protection DSP if they are concerned.

Dissemination

The SRE policy is available to parents on the school website

This policy was reviewed by Governors on 3rd March 2017

Next Review Date: Spring 2020