

Shortstown Primary School

Sex and Relationship Policy

Shortstown Primary School fully recognises its responsibility to provide sex education that prepares its pupils to lead safe, fulfilling and enjoyable lives in accordance with DfE guidelines. The school follows the Cambridge scheme, Teaching SRE with confidence in Primary Schools and coverage within the National Curriculum Science. This coverage is progressive and builds on the pupils learning year on year, ensuring that every aspect is covered at the correct level required for that year group.

What is sex and relationships education?

“It is a life long learning about physical, moral and emotional development. Effective SRE is essential if young people are to make responsible and well informed choices”

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 Government’s Education White Paper, The Importance of Teaching, published in November 2010, stated:

Children need high-quality sex and relationships education so they can make wise and informed choices. We will work with teachers, parents, faith groups and campaign groups, such as Stonewall to make sure sex and relationships education encompasses an understanding of the ways in which humans love each other and stresses the importance of respecting individual autonomy.

Aims

Contributing to the foundation of PSHCE, the school’s SRE programme aims to ‘explore attitudes and values with children about relationships, emotions, self-esteem and personal safety.’ Children will develop skills in order to make positive decisions about their health related behaviour. During SRE children will ‘develop personal and social skills and a positive attitude to growing up’.

Objectives

The school aims to provide a graduated, age-appropriate SRE programme emphasising the social and emotional aspects of relationships. This will be achieved by:

- Generating a trusting, safe atmosphere where questions can be asked and answered openly and without embarrassment when appropriate.
- Making SRE an integral part of our PSHCE programme.
- Using circle time and the setting of ground rules to foster trust, security and openness.
- Providing information which is easily understood, relevant and appropriate to the age and maturity of the pupils.
- Delivering the SRE programme by adults with whom the pupils are familiar with or in conjunction with trained health professionals.

Coverage

Foundation Stage

- The focus will be on fostering independence, encouraging children to help out in the family, develop an understanding of friendships and their importance and to keep themselves clean.

Key Stage 1

- That humans, including animals, feed, move, grow and use their senses
- To recognise and compare the external parts of the bodies of humans
- To be able to recognise similarities and differences between themselves and others.
- To treat others with a sensitive approach
- Identify and share their feelings with each other and/or with a familiar adult.
- To be able to make the appropriate choices
- Recognise safe and unsafe situations and identify someone they are able to talk to and trust.

Ethos and Values

Sex and relationship education (SRE) will reflect the values of the PSHE and Citizenship programme. SRE will be taught in the context of relationships. In addition SRE will promote self-esteem and emotional health and well-being and help them form and maintain worthwhile and satisfying relationships, based on respect for themselves and for others, at home, school, work and in the community.

At Shortstown, we aim to provide a holistic education for all children. Every pupil will receive their full entitlement to SRE regardless of their educational ability, gender, race, disability, sexual orientation, ethnicity or faith. We aim to support children in their emotional, cultural and social, as well as academic development.

Education about relationships **for 3-7 year olds** will focus on the building of self-esteem and confidence by encouraging learners to:

- respect, value and care for themselves and others,
- value recognise and communicate their feelings,
- form friendships and relationships,
- respect boundaries – their own and other peoples.

SRE will teach **7-11 year olds** to understand:

- the range of their own and others' feelings and emotions,
- the importance of personal safety and what to do or to whom to go when feeling unsafe,
- to develop and use communication skills and assertiveness skills to cope with the influences of their peers and the social media,
- to be prepared for puberty and adulthood, including physical and emotional changes that take place at puberty, including conception, pregnancy and birth.

Implementation

Sex and Relationship Education is delivered through science, RE, PSHE, citizenship, ICT, literacy activities, and 'circle time'. A planned and co-ordinated approach to each subject can provide an appropriate framework for SRE to take place providing pupils with a consistent message.

SRE is taught by classroom teachers, teaching assistants and if appropriate, outside visitors such as the school nurse. A range of teaching methods include use of video, discussion, looking at case studies, drama and role-play.

Sex and relationship education is usually delivered in mixed gender groups however, there may be occasions where single gender groups are more appropriate and relevant

The minimum statutory requirement for SRE is that schools must deliver the **National Curriculum for Science** to all children within school:

Key Stage 1

- Animals, including humans, move, feed, grow, use their senses and reproduce.
- Children should name and recognise the main external parts of the human body.

- That humans can produce offspring and these grow into adults.
- Children should recognise similarities.

Key Stage 2

- That the life processes common to humans and other animals include nutrition, growth and reproduction.
- The main stages of the human life cycle, including puberty.

Dealing with difficult topics / questions

All teachers are aware of the ground rules which provide an agreed structure to answering sensitive or difficult questions. 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.

- **'Silly questions'** Children are testing boundaries and have no interest in the answer. In this case, teachers will not answer questions, and explain that they are inappropriate.
- **'Concerning questions'** these could possibly be indicative of safeguarding issues. In this case, teachers will follow the school safeguarding procedures.
- **'Genuine questions'** the child has a genuine but age inappropriate question. In this case, the child's question will be acknowledged, with a promise to return to it later. The class teacher will then consult with the child's parents, and discuss if they would like to answer, or they want school to answer, in the case of the latter, it will be discussed with parents how much information they are happy for their child to have.

Parental Consultation

The Sex and Relationship Education policy is shared on the school website and full details are available on request. The school informs parents when aspects of the sex and relationship programme are taught and will be given an outline of the lessons in advance so they are able to make an informed decision.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from those aspects of sex and relationship education, not included in the Science National Curriculum. However this rarely happens, by working in partnership with parents they recognise the importance of this aspect of their child's education.

'If the parent of any pupil in attendance at a maintained school requests that he may be wholly or partly excused from receiving sex education at the school, the pupil shall, except so far as such education is comprised in the National Curriculum, be so excused accordingly until the request is withdrawn.' Education Act 1996 (Section 405)

Confidentiality

The school's work in Sex and Relationship Education will result in sensitive issues being discussed, either with groups of pupils or with individuals. We will:

- Reassure pupils that their best interests will be maintained;
- Encourage pupils to talk to their parents/carers and provide support in this if necessary;
- Ensure that pupils are aware that teachers cannot offer unconditional confidentiality;
- Inform pupils that if an external agency needs to be informed, they will be told first and supported appropriately;
- Pursue the Child Protection guidelines and procedures if there is any possibility of abuse;
- Ensure that pupils are informed of sources of confidential help.

The use of outside visiting speakers and health professionals

Visitors are made fully aware of the School's Sex Education Policy. All visitors are subject to the School's Safeguarding Policy.

Safeguarding / 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 LA procedures for child protection.
- A member of staff cannot promise confidentiality if concerns exist.

Monitoring, Assessing and Reviewing

To ensure that the policy is adhered to and is effective, it will be monitored, reviewed and evaluated regularly. The school will assess the effectiveness of the aims, content and methods in promoting pupils' learning by lesson observation, sampling teachers planning, questionnaires to teachers and children and feedback from parents. The effectiveness of the SRE programme will be evaluated by assessing children's learning and implementing change if required.

Links with other policies

This policy is linked with the following policies:

PSHE & Citizenship

Equal Opportunities

Safeguarding

E-Safeguarding

Confidentiality

Behaviour

Anti-Bullying

Science