

ASHTREE PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY

Policy for Relationship and Sex Education (formerly SRE)

Introduction

THIS DOCUMENT IS a statement of the aims, principles and strategies for teaching and learning of Relationships and Sex Education at Ashtree Primary School & Nursery.

IT WAS DEVELOPED during the Autumn 2017 through a process of consultation with teaching staff, governors and parents.

IT WAS APPROVED by the governing body on 7th December 2020.

THIS POLICY WILL BE REVIEWED during the Autumn of 2023. A schedule for the review of this, and all other, policy documents is set out in the School Improvement Plan.

What is Relationships and Sex Education?

Relationships and Sex Education:

- is developmental, beginning at birth, continuing throughout life
- encompasses more than the simple transmission of knowledge about biological functions leading to childbirth; it includes work on physical, emotional, spiritual, moral and social development
- deals with issues of gender and the discussion and analysis of qualities, values, standards and morals of individuals and society together with the acquisition of skills which will enable personal responsibility to be exercised
- develops skills of informed choice, decision making, assertiveness and communication
- enhances the development of self-worth, self esteem and confidence which foster respect for self and others
- is matched to pupils needs, ensuring continuity and progression.

Relationships and Sex Education is not about the promotion of sexual orientation or sexual activity.

Aims

OUR AIMS IN TEACHING RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION are to work in partnership with parents:

- to teach the nature of human reproduction in gradually increasing detail
- to prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life
- to develop self-esteem and respect for self and others
- to explore and clarify attitudes and values
- to enable the development of interpersonal skills
- to enable the development of a moral perspective
- to develop interpersonal and communication skills
- to ensure that each pupil will develop the skills and knowledge to make informed decisions and keep themselves safe
- to ensure pupils have adequate knowledge and understanding of their own physical and emotional development

- to, as far as possible, tailor RSE delivery to pupils' needs, in line with RSE guidance and N.C. requirements.

Principles of the Teaching and Learning of Relationships and Sex Education

Relationships and Sex Education is important because children need to be trusted with information, guidance and advice to allow them to interpret and make sense of the wide spectrum of information and messages about sexual matters to which they are exposed. From September 2020, Relationships and Health Education is statutory - September 2020 (DfE - Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education 2019).

Strategies for the Teaching of Relationships and Sex Education

Relationships and Sex Education is taught on a sequential basis within the school's PSHE & Cand Science curriculums wherein:

- a programme of study is followed throughout the school with various aspects of Relationships and Sex Education being taught at different times (see Progression Plan for PSHE/RSE).

THE PREDOMINANT MODE OF WORKING IN RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION is class teaching although co-operative group and individual work are used where appropriate.

Within this structure:

- groups are usually of mixed/matched ability or in single sex groups as appropriate (not considered appropriate now according to new guidance so needs deletion?)
- relevant discussion is encouraged

THERE IS NO SPECIALIST PROVISION IN RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION as it is taught by class teachers and supported by Teaching Assistants and Nursery Nurses. External agencies are used as appropriate. Staff cannot opt out of teaching RSE. The responsibility of the teaching then falls on the Head teacher. (County are now saying that teachers are unable to opt out of the teaching of the RSE curriculum – so needs deletion?)

FOUNDATION STAGE

In the Foundation Stage we aim to develop positive social skills, an awareness of the main external human body parts and their correct names and to promote equal opportunities in the widest sense. We look at our own growth and other growth in nature and relate all the information given in a practical context, suitable for the age and maturity of the child.

COMMERCIALY AVAILABLE SCHEMES OF WORK may be used in Relationships and Sex Education. The principal schemes in use in the school are 'The Christopher Winter Project', 'Living and Growing' DVD and workbooks from the Channel 4 series, 'Skills for the Primary Child Part 1' published by Tacade, 'Citizenship and Personal, Social and Health Education' published by Folens and 'Citizenship Resource Files' published by LCP. In line with new statutory guidance September 2020, Lessons on relationships also occur, across the key stages, using the 'Christopher Winter Project' & SEAL Programme alongside other available resources.

INCLUSION

At Ashtree School we actively seek to remove barriers to learning and participation and believe that all children, including those with SEND, should have access to an appropriate education that

affords them the opportunity to achieve their full potential. Educational experiences are provided which develop pupils' achievements and recognise their individuality. (See Inclusion Policy). No children will be removed for external lessons such as further literacy or numeracy support, during lessons with RSE content.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES for all children, regardless of race or gender, are ensured by the rigorous application of the school's Equal Opportunities Policy.

CONTACTS WITH HOME may be used to support Relationships and Sex Education through: visitors showing how their children are developing etc.

PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS/CARERS

Parents cannot request 'the right to be excused' from any parts of Relationships or Health Education. They also cannot be excused from any elements of sex education that is in the Science National Curriculum. Parents can request 'the right to be excused' from any additional sex education offered. Here at Ashtree, we define this element as the teaching of 'sexual intercourse which can lead to reproduction and conception', which is taught in Year 6. We value parental feedback as a result of our consultation in preparation for the introduction of the statutory guidance – September 2020 (DfE - Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education 2019).

CHILD ABUSE

The school has a Child Protection policy and procedure, which is available on request.

CONFIDENTIALITY & CHILD PROTECTION

As a general rule a child's confidentiality will be maintained by the teacher or member of staff concerned, although this cannot be a definite assurance. If this person believes that a child is in danger, they should talk to the Head teacher or designated teacher for Child Protection before any decision is made. It will be made clear to pupils what our procedures are with regard to confidentiality when RSE is being delivered. Pupils will be provided with the opportunity to have their questions answered in a safe, secure environment i.e. use of a question box. Questions will be responded to in a way that is age and stage appropriate (using 'The Christopher Winter Project – Puberty Changes Teacher Guide' where necessary).

Strategies for Ensuring Progress and Continuity

PLANNING IN RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION is a process in which all teachers are involved, wherein:

- the foundation for curricular planning is the School Improvement Plan, which is developed through a process of collaboration between staff, and approved by governors
- progression of skills and knowledge document & schemes of work for Relationships and Sex Education are developed by the PSHE & C Co-ordinator (in collaboration with the whole staff)
- staff meetings are used to discuss the Relationships and Sex Education curriculum and ensure consistency of approach and of standards
- work plans (including weekly plans and detailed lesson plans) are drawn up by individual teachers and monitored by the Leadership Group and co-ordinator

THE ROLE OF THE PSHE & C CO-ORDINATOR is to:

- take the lead in policy development and the production of schemes of work designed to ensure progression and continuity in Relationships and Sex Education throughout the school
- support colleagues in their development of detailed work plans and implementation of the scheme of work and in assessment and record keeping activities
- monitor progress in Relationships and Sex Education and advise the Leading Management Team on action needed
- take responsibility for the purchase and organisation of central resources for Relationships and Sex Education
- keep up-to-date with developments in Relationships and Sex Education and disseminate information to colleagues as appropriate
- induct new members of staff
- organise INSET for other staff

Monitoring, Evaluation, Assessment and Reporting

Monitoring of plans is carried out by the Leading Management Team and by the Science and PSHE & C Co-ordinators, to ensure that the teaching of RSE follows both the DfES – now DfE – guidelines and the school’s RSE policy.

Evaluation may be carried out through lesson observations or by comparing the pupils’ knowledge at the beginning and at the end of the topic.

Assessment of RSE can include pupil self-assessment and teacher assessment.

A statement on a pupil’s progress in RSE may be included in the school’s annual end of year report.

LINKS WITH OTHER POLICIES

The school’s policies on PSHE & C., Inclusion, Child Protection, Safe use of the Internet, Anti-bullying and the School’s Code of Conduct are an integral part of the RSE policy.

Strategies for the Use of Resources

CENTRAL RESOURCES IN RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION are the responsibility of the PSHE & C Co-ordinator who has a budget available. They include:

- resources
- guidance for staff

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY is a resource, which will be used in Relationships and Sex Education for individual pupil research.

THE LIBRARY is used in Relationships and Sex Education for:

- individual study and reference

Appendices include:

- progression document for PSHE & C/RSE