

Poplar Farm Primary School

Sex and Relationships Education Policy



The Education Reform Act (Section 1) states that schools should provide a curriculum that "promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils and of society; and prepare such pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

Sex and Relationships Education is an important dimension of a child's statutory entitlement.

Rationale

Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) is an umbrella term for all the teaching and learning we offer pupils to understand their own and others' sexuality, to develop skills for relationships and informed decision making. At Poplar Farm Primary School we believe that sex and relationships education is the entitlement of each child and we are committed to deliver it within the context of a broad and balanced programme of health education.

Aims

In our school we aim through implicit and explicit learning experiences to:

- Ensure that sex and relationships education is integrated into the curriculum and not isolated, taken out of context or over-emphasised in any way
- Foster self-esteem and respect for others as the cornerstone of good health education and good sex and relationships education
- Nurture a partnership between caring adults - governors, teachers, ancillary staff and parents - to ensure sensitive support for children and young people as they grow and mature
- Ensure children have the ability to accept their own and others' sexuality
- Encourage children to enjoy relationships based upon mutual trust and respect, free from any abuse
- Generate an atmosphere where questions and discussion on sexual matters can take place without embarrassment
- Adopt a whole school approach to sex and relationships education
- Equip children with the skills they need to recognise and stay safe from abuse.

Teaching and Learning

Effective teaching of sex and relationships education will increase pupils' knowledge of:

- Body knowledge;
- Human growth and development;
- Families, parenting and life cycles;
- Safety and child protection;
- Helping agencies;
- Sexual identity - this would be addressed should there be a situation in school for which it was important to ensure children had a full understanding.

It will also enable pupils to:

- Improve their self-esteem;
- Make informed choices and decisions;
- Develop personal initiative and be able to take responsibility;
- Recognise personal skills and qualities in themselves and others;
- Maintain and develop relationships;
- Develop self-confidence;
- Develop assertiveness in appropriate situations;
- Develop the motivation to succeed.

In the scheme of work used, a variety of resources (with ideas for suggested use) are identified, including video material, worksheets, visits from the school health nurses and books. However, we emphasise the importance of discussion and questioning within the safe, secure and non-judgmental atmosphere of the class with its teacher. The atmosphere of trust, mutual acceptance and confidentiality is always emphasized within learning.

Within the taught and hidden curriculum, i.e. the whole school environment, pupils should be given frequent and regular opportunities to work on feelings and to practice personal and interpersonal skills. We value and respect the learning that occurs in the community and in the home, believing that these, alongside school links, are essential dimensions of sex and relationships education. We believe it is important to involve, whenever possible, and certainly to inform, parents about the sex and relationships education programme within the curriculum. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from receiving sex education from a PSHCE perspective at school, but not to withdraw them from the teaching of the science

national curriculum.

We will provide the opportunity for parents and carers of children in year 5/6 to discuss the programme of lessons should they wish to. In such cases the way in which the lessons are to be taught and the materials that will be used are shared. We make it clear to parents that SRE is an **optional part** of the curriculum from which they are allowed to withdraw their children if they wish.