

Highworth Combined School

Sex and Relationship Policy

Last Updated: October 2017

Overview

Highworth Combined School has a policy for Sex and Relationship Education which is an essential feature of our school's PSHCE policy. This policy should contribute to the promotion of spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of all our pupils.

Our policy is part of a lifelong learning process about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of stable relationships, about loving relationships, respect and care. It is also about the teaching of sex education and sexual health.

Our policy is based on a graduated age approach programme, which will take into account development differences of children and give opportunities for one to one discussions. Some aspects i.e. healthy lifestyles and life cycles are part of the Science National Curriculum.

What is sex and relationship education?

It is lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of marriage for family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality, and sexual health. It is not about the promotion of sexual orientation or sexual activity – this would be inappropriate teaching.

Aims

SRE in our school aims for pupils to:

- develop confidence in talking, listening and thinking about feelings and relationships;
- be able to name parts of the body and describe how their bodies work;
- protect themselves and ask for help and support;
- be prepared for puberty.

How is SRE provided?

- Pupils need to be given accurate information and helped to develop skills to enable them to understand difference and respect themselves and others and for the purpose also of preventing and removing prejudice.
- A planned, progressive programme of SRE gradually and appropriately begins to prepare our children for adult life. It teaches the skills they need to fully manage the natural physical and emotional changes that will happen to them as they grow and mature into healthy, confident and responsible adults.
- In line with national recommendations, SRE at Highworth will be delivered through the PHSE, Science, SEAL and Citizenship frameworks.

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. SRE will be taught along the current Science curriculum. Parents do not have the right to withdraw their child/children from the Science curriculum lessons.

Working in Partnership with Parents

Parents are the key people in:

- Teaching their children about sex and relationships;
- Maintaining the culture and ethos of the family;
- Helping their children cope with the emotional and physical aspects of growing up
- Preparing them for the challenges and responsibilities that sexual maturity brings.

The school is committed to working with parent and carers and informs parents by letter when pupils will be studying SRE. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the SRE provided except for those parts included in the statutory National Curriculum. Parents are asked to contact the Head Teacher who will be available to discuss any concerns.

Working with the Wider Community

Elements of sex and relationship education are also provided by a range of people in the wider community including health professionals and visitors. If people other than school staff support SRE provision, they will be made aware of and agree to abide to our SRE policy before any support is given.

Confidentiality and Child Protection

SRE will take place in a secure and supportive environment however the children will be made aware that teachers cannot offer unconditional confidentiality. All staff involved in delivering and supporting SRE should be alert to the signs of abuse, neglect and exploitation. 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.

Review and Monitoring

The Sex and Relationships Education Policy is reviewed by the PSHCE co-ordinator. The SRE programme is monitored by the PSHCE Co-ordinator.

Equal Opportunities

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. It is the responsibility of all staff to ensure that all pupils, irrespective of gender, ability, race and social circumstance are supported in their personal and social development. This policy has been written in accordance with and meets the requirements of the Equality Act 2010.

Created by: Karen Hastie and Vanessa Collett
Reviewed: January 2004
Reviewed: Autumn 2007
Reviewed: December 2008 & January 2009
Reviewed: October 2013 by S.Watson
Updated: October 2017 by F.McCallum

