

Rogate C.E. Primary School



Sex & Relationship Education Policy

Reviewed:	Feb 2017
Next Review:	Feb 2019
Person Responsible:	Head teacher

Introduction

Sex education is part of the personal, social, health and citizenship education (PSHCE) curriculum in our school. When we inform our pupils through sex education about sexual issues, we do this with regard to morality and individual responsibility, and in a way that allows children to ask and explore moral questions. We do not use sex education as a means of promoting any form of sexual orientation.

Aims

We teach children about

- The physical development of their bodies as they grow into adults.
- The way humans reproduce.
- Respect for their own bodies and the importance of sexual activity as part of a committed, long term and loving relationship.
- The importance of family life.
- Moral questions.
- Relationship issues.
- Respect for the views of other people.
- Sexual abuse, and what they should do if they are worried about any sexual matters.

We want pupils to know that they are able to make choices about the relationships they form, and we aim to enable them to make appropriate choices at the time and later when they are adolescents and adults.

Context

We teach about sex in the context of the school's aims and values framework (see our mission statement). While sex education in our school means that we give children information about sexual behaviour, we do this with an awareness of the moral code and of the values which underpin all our work in school. In particular, we teach about sex in the belief that:-

- Sex should be taught about in the context of marriage and family life.
- Sex education is part of a wider process of social, personal, spiritual and moral education.
- Children should be taught to have respect for their own bodies.
- Children should learn about their responsibilities to others, and be aware of the consequences of sexual activity.
- It is important to build positive relationships with others, involving trust and respect.
- Children need to learn the importance of self-control.

The National Healthy School Standard

We now participate in the National Healthy School Standard scheme, which promotes health education. As participants in this scheme we:

- Consult with parents/carers on all matters of health education policy.
- Consider the training need of our teachers.
- Listen to the views of the children in our school regarding sex education.

- Look positively at any local initiatives that support us in providing the best sex education programme that we can devise. This involves liaising with the school nurse service.

Organisation

We teach about sex through different aspects of the curriculum. While we carry out the main sex education in our PSHCE curriculum, we also do some sex education through other subject areas (eg. science and PE) which we believe contribute significantly to children's knowledge and understanding of their own bodies, and how they are changing and developing.

In PSHCE we teach children about relationships, and we encourage children to discuss issues. We teach about the parts of the body, and how these work, and we explain to the children what will happen to their bodies during puberty. For example, we teach the children that boys' voices will change during puberty, and we explain menstruation (in detail) to the girls. We encourage the children to ask for help if they need it.

In science lessons we teach about life processes, and the main stages of the human life cycle. Teachers inform children about puberty and how a baby is born. For this aspect of our teaching we follow the guidance material in the national scheme of work for science.

In the upper school we place a particular emphasis on health education, as many children experience puberty at this age. We liaise with the local health authority about suitable teaching materials to use with our children in these lessons. Teachers do their best to answer all questions with sensitivity and care. By the end of Key Stage 2, we ensure that children know how babies are born, how children's bodies change during puberty, what menstruation is, and how it affects women. We always teach this with due regard for the emotional development of the children.

We arrange a meeting for all parents/carers of children in Year 6 to discuss this particular programme of lessons, to explain what the issues are and how they are taught, and to see the materials the school uses in its teaching.

The approach to potentially controversial and sensitive issues

All staff are aware that everyone has views on SRE related issues. However, while it is respected that everyone has the right to their own viewpoint, all SRE issues are taught without bias. Topics are presented with all viewpoints so that pupils are able to form their own, informed opinions but are also encouraged to respect the fact that others may have quite different viewpoints.

Dealing with sexually explicit questions

- It will be made clear at the start of every SRE lesson that personal questions are inappropriate.
- Questions which relate directly to taught material and arise as the lesson is taught will be answered as a whole class.
- An anonymous question box will be used for all other questions, but pupils will be told that this will be filtered. For questions which are not answered, it will be suggested that children ask their parents/carers. The use of the question box means that children will be able to ask questions which they may not have felt confident to ask in a whole class setting, whilst giving the teacher time to assess the suitability of the question and prepare the answer.

The Role of Parents/Carers

The school is well aware that the primary role in children's sex education lies with parents and carers. We therefore wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents/carers of children at our school, through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation. To promote this objective we:

- Inform parents/carers about the school's sex education policy and practice.
- Answer any questions that parents/carers may have about the sex education of their child.
- Take seriously any issues that parents/carers raise with teachers or governors about this policy, or about the arrangements for sex education in the school.
- Encourage parents/carers to be involved in reviewing the school policy, and making modifications to it as necessary.
- Inform parents about the best practice known with regard to sex education, so that the teaching in school supports the key messages that parents/carers give to children at home.

We believe that, through this mutual exchange of knowledge and information, children will benefit from being given consistent messages about their changing bodies and their increasing responsibilities.

Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their child from all or part of the sex education programme that we teach in our school. If a parent/carer wishes their child to be withdrawn from sex education lessons, they should discuss this with the Headteacher, and make it clear which aspects of the programme they do not wish their child to participate in. The school always complies with the wishes of parents/carers in this regard.

The Role of Other Members of the Community

We encourage other valued members of the community to work with us to provide advice and support to the children with regard to health education. In particular, members of the local health authority (such as the school nurse) and other health professionals give us valuable support with our sex education programme. Other people that we can call on include local clergy, social workers and youth workers.

Confidentiality

Teachers conduct sex education lessons in a sensitive manner, and in confidence. However, if a child makes a reference to being involved (or being likely to be involved) in sexual activity, then the teacher will take the reference seriously, and deal with it as a matter of child protection. Teachers will respond in a similar way if a child indicates that they may have been a victim of abuse. They will not try to investigate, but will immediately inform the Headteacher (who is the named person for child protection issues) about their concerns. The Headteacher will then deal with the matter in accordance with the school's Child Protection Policy.

The Role of the Headteacher

It is the responsibility of the Headteacher to ensure that both staff and parents/carers are informed about our sex education policy, and that the policy is implemented effectively. It is also the Head teacher's responsibility to ensure that members of staff are given sufficient training so that they can teach about sex effectively, and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity.

The Headteacher liaises with external agencies regarding the school sex education programme, and ensures that all adults who work with children on these issues are aware of the school policy and work within its framework.

The Headteacher monitors this policy on a regular basis, and reports to governors annually on the effectiveness of the policy.

Monitoring and Review

The teacher Governor monitors the impact of our sex education policy and reports its findings and recommendations to the full governing body, as necessary, if the policy needs modification. The teacher Governor gives serious consideration to any comments from parents/carers about the sex education programme, and makes a record of all such comments. Governors require the Headteacher to keep a record, giving details of the content and delivery of our sex education programme.

This policy will be reviewed in two years, or earlier if necessary.