

Policy Essential Information

Title: Sex and Relationship Education Policy

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Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) Policy

What Is Sex and Relationship Education?

SRE is lifelong learning about physical, sexual, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care, and family life. It involves acquiring information, developing skills and forming positive beliefs, values and attitudes.

This policy takes into account updated guidance from '*Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges*' published by the DfE in December 2017 to ensure that Sex and Relationships education plays a key role in prevention of sexual harassment and violence between peers.

Principles and Values

Pinner High School believes that SRE should:

- Be an integral part of the lifelong learning process, beginning in early childhood and continue into adult life.
- Be an entitlement for all young people.
- Encourage every student to contribute to lessons and support each individual as they grow and learn.
- Be set within the wider school context and support family commitment and love, respect and affection, knowledge and openness. Family is a broad concept; not just one model, e.g. nuclear family. It includes a variety of types of family structure, and acceptance of different approaches.
- Encourage students and teachers to share and respect each other's views. We are aware of different approaches to sexual orientation, without promotion of any particular family structure. The important values are love, respect and care for each other.
- Encourage students to have confidence in addressing issues such as sex, consent, harassment and sexual violence.
- Generate an atmosphere where questions and discussion on sex and relationships matters can take place without any stigma or embarrassment.
- Recognise that parents/carers are key partners when teaching their children about sex, relationships and growing up.
- Recognise that the wider community has much to offer and work in partnership with health professionals, outside agencies and other mentors or advisers.

Sex and Relationship Education in this school has three main elements:

Attitudes and Values

- learning the importance of values, individual conscience and moral choices;
- learning the value of family life, stable and loving relationships in all their forms including marriage;
- learning about the nurture of children;

- learning the value of respect, love and care;
- exploring, considering and understanding moral dilemmas;
- developing critical thinking as part of decision-making
- challenging myths, misconceptions and false assumptions about normal behaviour.
- Understanding the importance of self-esteem and confidence in addressing issues of sexual harassment and sexual violence

Personal and Social Skills

- learning to manage emotions and relationships confidently and sensitively;
- developing self-respect and empathy for others;
- learning to make choices with an absence of prejudice;
- developing an appreciation of the consequences of choices made including an awareness of the importance of understanding the impact of online choices;
- managing conflict;
- empower students with the skills to be able to avoid inappropriate pressures or advances between peers (both as exploited or exploiter)

Knowledge and Understanding

- learning and understanding physical development at age appropriate stages;
- understanding human sexuality, reproduction, sexual health, emotions and relationships;
- learning about contraception and the range of local and national sexual health advice, contraception and support services;
- learning the reasons for delaying sexual activity, and the benefits to be gained from such delay;
- the avoidance of unplanned pregnancy.

Aims

The aim of SRE is to provide balanced factual information about human reproduction, together with consideration of the broader emotional, ethical, religious, and moral dimensions of sexual health.

Our SRE programme aims to prepare students for an adult life in which they can:

- develop positive values and a moral framework that will guide their decisions, judgements and behaviour; have the confidence and self-esteem to value themselves and others and respect for individual conscience and the skills to judge what kind of relationship they want.
- understand the consequences of their actions and behave responsibly within sexual and pastoral relationships.
- avoid being exploited or exploiting others or being pressured into unwanted or unprotected sex or sexual behaviour including an understanding of sexual harassment and sexual violence between peers.
- communicate effectively by developing appropriate terminology for sex and relationship issues.

- develop awareness of their sexuality and understand human sexuality; challenge sexism and prejudice, and promote equality and diversity
- understand the arguments for delaying sexual activity.
- understand the reasons for having protected sex.
- have sufficient information and skills to protect themselves and, where they have one, their partner from uninvited/unwanted conceptions and sexually transmitted infections including HIV.
- be aware of sources of help and acquire the skills and confidence to access confidential health advice, support and treatment if necessary
- know how the law applies to sexual relationships.

The school is committed to the provision of SRE to all of its students. Our programme aims to respond to and respect the diversity of children's cultures, faiths and backgrounds. As in all our work, staff delivering SRE will strive to ensure that all students listen to and respect each others' views and that there is no discrimination or bullying on the grounds of gender, race, religion, colour, language, culture, social circumstances, appearance, sexuality, ability or disability.

There may be occasions when students with special educational needs are given extra support in SRE lessons from SEN staff.

Organisation and Content of Sex and Relationship Education

Pinner High School specifically delivers Sex and Relationship Education through its PSHCE Programme at KS3, 4 and 5 and in Science lessons at KS3 and 4 including themed Deep Learning Days. Parents will be informed of the content of SRE Deep Learning Days in advance of their delivery.

Much of the Sex and Relationship Education takes place within PSHCE lessons. Tutors generally deliver the PSHCE Curriculum with support from other professionals where appropriate. Form tutors work closely with their tutees over a number of years and we believe that they are usually the best people to work with the students on many of the SRE topics as they are aware of each student's individual circumstances.

SRE lessons are set within the wider context of the PSHCE curriculum and focus more on the emotional aspects of development and relationships, although the physical aspects of puberty and reproduction are also included.

The Science National Curriculum is delivered by staff in the science department. These lessons are more concerned with the physical aspects of development and reproduction, although the importance of relationships is not forgotten.

Any SRE lesson may consider questions or issues that some students will find sensitive. Before embarking on these lessons ground rules are established which prohibit inappropriate personal information being requested or disclosed by those taking part in the lesson. When students ask questions, we aim to answer them honestly, within the ground rules established at the start of the sessions. When it is felt that answering a specific question would involve information at a level

inappropriate to the development of the rest of the students, the question may be dealt with individually at another time.

Support is offered to the year team by the PSHE co-ordinator who will help with planning or delivery lessons if required.

Monitoring and Evaluation of Sex and Relationship Education

SRE resources are chosen and checked to ensure they are:

- Up to date and in line with the latest government guidance
- Inclusive – including different types of sexuality
- Promote positive, healthy and unbiased messages
- Age appropriate
- Promote positive values
- Accurate

Monitoring of the delivery, content, teaching and assessment of SRE is linked to the usual school monitoring procedures. It is the responsibility of the PSHCE Co-ordinators to oversee and organise the monitoring and evaluation of PSHCE, in the context of the overall school plans for monitoring the quality of teaching and learning.

Confidentiality

All staff are aware that effective sex and relationship education, which brings an understanding of what is and is not acceptable in a relationship, could lead to disclosure of a child protection issue. Staff cannot offer or guarantee absolute confidentiality and if a student should disclose a matter which potentially could/ or is placing them at harm, then this will be shared with the schools Designated Teacher for Safeguarding and Child Protection. Please refer to our separate Child Protection Policy on our website.

Right of Withdrawal of Students from Sex and Relationship Education

Some parents/carers prefer to take the responsibility for aspects of this element of education. They have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the sex and relationship education except for those parts included in the statutory National Curriculum (i.e. in Science lessons).

We would make alternative arrangements in such cases. Prior to making any decision, parents are encouraged to discuss their decisions with PSHCE staff at the earliest opportunity and are welcome to review any SRE resources the school uses.