



SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION POLICY

The aims and objectives of this policy derive from the overall aims of the school vision:

We will all do our best, continuously trying to improve and working hard to develop our skills and talents.

- We will be a school in which everyone is an achiever and everyone is made to feel valued.
- We will care for everyone equally and provide a secure, happy and yet demanding and stimulating environment, both inside and outside the classroom.
- We will all work together, in a spirit of mutual respect and co-operation, both serving the local community and utilising it to enrich our learning.
- We will prepare students to become responsible citizens, able to take advantage of the opportunities of adult life, and respectful of the values and cultures of others.

Definition of Sex and Relationships 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, for family life. It involves acquiring information, developing skills and forming positive beliefs, values and attitudes.

Purpose, principles and values

The purpose of Sex and Relationships Education should be to provide knowledge about loving relationships, the nature of sexuality and the processes of human reproduction. At the same time it should lead to the acquisition of understanding and attitudes which prepare pupils to view their relationships in a responsible and healthy manner. Therefore Sex and Relationships Education at Plantsbrook School should seek to:

- provide awareness of sources of help and acquire the skills and confidence to use them to safeguard all learners.
- generate an atmosphere where questions and discussions on sexual matters can take place without embarrassment.
- enable pupils to accept variation in rates of growth and development (physical, emotional, social) and in ages when puberty or sexual activities commence.
- set sexual activity in the context of relationships, including the value of intimacy in loving and caring relationships, the values of family life, implications of parenthood and the needs of the very young.
- understand and recognise the varied cultural and religious influences in a multi faith, multicultural society on individual sexuality and develop skills in personal relationships, e.g. communication, assertiveness and decision-making.
- help students affirm their rights to be able to resist unwanted touches or advances, to be confident that the right to say 'no' to sexual experience is acceptable and to communicate about such matters.
- develop awareness of sexual identity, to challenge sexism and prejudice in society and to promote equal opportunities.
- develop a growing understanding of risk and safety and the motivation and skills to keep themselves safe.
- overcome ignorance, prejudices and embarrassment (e.g. by providing appropriate vocabulary for all parts of the body and encouraging positive attitudes to all bodily functions).
- be an entitlement for all young people

- be set within this wider school context and supports 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.

The Governors believe that through this developing experience during their school life, the students will learn to value themselves, be able to take informed decisions about their own lifestyles and progress to adulthood successfully, negotiating the many problems presented by the emotional, physiological and intellectual development of the young person.

Sex and Relationship Provision and responsibility of Sex and Relationship Education

Sex and Relationships Education, is delivered mainly through Science, Think! lessons Tutorial sessions, assemblies and Beliefs and values lessons. It is therefore a cross curricular aspect of school work which involves the whole school population. Sex and Relationships Education is not presented as an isolated subject, but some aspects of it are delivered specifically through tutorial, Think! lessons and year group awareness days. Sex and Relationships Education is delivered within all year groups. Biological facts on Human Reproduction are taught as part of the National Curriculum for Science.

The curriculum document describing in detail the PSHE, citizenship, tutorial, Think! and Beliefs and values curriculum is available from school.

Safeguarding young people from Sexual Exploitation

The Think!, PSHE, assemblies and curriculum days will raise awareness of consensual relationships and ensure students are aware of their choices. Students will be aware of Sexual Exploitation, including the risks associated with "sexting" and "online pornography", and will be encouraged to view sexual activity within relationships, making choices in a healthy and sensible manner. Students will also be made aware of help and support that is available to them. Staff will be made aware of Sexual Exploitation signs within their annual Child Protection training and will be informed that any disclosures or any concerns of a child being at risk from sexual exploitation must be reported to the Designated Senior Lead.

The Role of Teaching Staff

The cross-curricular nature of the subject and the spontaneous way in which issues may arise make it difficult to identify all occasions when opportunities for Sex and Relationships Education might occur. The Governors are confident that teaching staff will draw upon their professional judgement and common sense to deal effectively with discussions relating to aspects of sexual behaviour set within the context of topics apparently unrelated to sex and relationships education.

Monitoring and evaluation of Sex and Relationship Education

It is the intention of the Governors to review this policy annually, although it may be more often should issues arise. The policies described above will be monitored and evaluated by the following staff:

PSHE: Miss L Proctor

Think! and Citizenship: Miss H Dudley/Mr A Hulse

Beliefs and Values: Miss L Dalton

Science: Mr G Boulton

Parents' right to withdrawal

The school recognises that the prime responsibility for bringing up students rests with parents. Therefore the teaching offered by the school should be complementary and supportive to the role of parents as far as possible. It also recognises that parents have a right to withdraw their children from any or all aspects of Sex and Relationships Education, although it encourages

them to accept it as an entitlement and not to exercise this option. The 'Friends of Plantsbrook' will be used as a consultative group for reviewing the provision of Sex and Relationships Education. Any issues which arise which seem inappropriate or a cause for concern will be reported immediately to an Achievement Co-ordinator or the Designated Senior Lead. As with all the work of the school, parents are welcome to come and discuss this Sex and Relationships Education Policy at any mutually convenient time.

Throughout the year information will be placed in the school newsletter reminding parents of the right to withdraw their son/daughter from SRE lessons. In Year 7, parents will receive a flyer outlining SRE at Plantsbrook School. This will detail the steps to take should they wish to withdraw their child.

Confidentiality, Controversial and Sensitive Issues

Staff cannot offer confidentiality. Staff must inform the Designated Senior Lead of any Child Protection disclosure from a young person.

In a case where a member of staff learns from an under 16 year old that they are having or contemplating sexual intercourse:

- Achievement Coordinator and / or the Designated Senior Lead must be informed.
- Parents will be informed by the ACO / DSL.
- the young person will be persuaded, wherever possible, to talk to a parent/carer and if necessary to seek medical advice.
- the young person will be made aware of contraception, including precise information about where young people can access contraception and advice services.

Dissemination of the Policy

The Sex and Relationships Education Policy will be distributed to all Governors, Teaching Staff and will be available to all Parents.