



Corringham Primary School

(Including: Corringham Primary Pre-School and Speech and Language Enhanced Provision)

Sex Education and Relationship Policy 2017/2018

SEX AND RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION POLICY

AIMS

The aims of Corringham Primary Sex and Relationship Education Policy include:

- To help children recognise and realise that honesty, tolerance, mutual respect and understanding are important in relationships
- Sex education will integrate appropriate factual information within a moral, social, cultural and spiritual context
- To inform and enlighten children with knowledge and information concerning their emotional and physical development as it relates to their age and maturity; being dependent upon their readiness to receive and understand the information which will be presented in an objective, sensitive and balanced manner aiming to help them build a healthy regard for human sexuality as future adults and parents
- Sex education will be taught in a way which is sensitive to the cultures, beliefs and attitudes of pupils, parents and society, and which promotes equality of regard and opportunity
- Sex education will be seen as part of the Science and Personal and Social Health Education, and relevant opportunities will be taken to place sex education in the context of the whole curriculum
- We will consult and inform parents of the content and organisation of our Sex Education programme, of their right of withdrawal from Sex Education and the procedures for making a complaint. Governors very much hope that the educational advantages for all children to be involved in the provision of Sex Education will prevail

SRE Programme

We aim to provide a graduated, age-appropriate SRE programme emphasising the social and emotional aspects of relationships. This policy and programme was developed under the Education Act 2002/Academies Act 2010.

Education about relationships for 3-7 year olds will focus on the building of self-esteem by encouraging learners to:

- value themselves
- recognise and communicate their feelings
- form friendships and relationships

SRE should help 7-11 year olds to understand:

- the reasons for the physical and emotional changes that take place at puberty, including conception, pregnancy and birth
- the range of their own and others' feelings and emotions
- the importance of personal safety and what to do or to whom to go when feeling unsafe

Entitlement

All children will have equal access to sexual health information regardless of age, race, disability, gender, sexual orientation or religion.

However, any parent has a legal right to withdraw their children, either wholly or partly, from receiving sex education in school other than sex education contained within the national curriculum.

All parents are informed in writing of their right to withdraw their children from any forthcoming sex and relationships education lessons and will be given an outline of the lessons in advance so they are able to make an informed decision. We will also hold an annual meeting for parents of KS2 children to give them the opportunity to come in to school and view the lesson materials if they wish to.

Implementation

Class teachers are responsible for their own class organisation and teaching style in relation to SRE, while at the same time ensuring these complement and reflect the overall aims and philosophy of the school. There are some aspects of the curriculum, particularly around puberty, that may be taught in same sex groupings by a teacher of the same gender.

Dealing with difficult questions

All teachers have had training on working within this policy. This training covers determining what is an age inappropriate question, as a basic guide, an age inappropriate question is one where the answer is not found within the SRE curriculum for the year which the child is in.

The training also covers answering questions from children, the majority of which will fall into one of the three following headings:

1. '*Silly questions*' - children are testing boundaries and have no interest in the answer. In this case, teachers will not answer questions, and explain that they are inappropriate
2. '*Concerning questions*' - these could possibly be indicative of safeguarding issues. In this case, teachers will follow the school safeguarding procedures
3. '*Genuine questions*' - the child has a genuine but age inappropriate question. In this case, the child's question will be acknowledged, with a promise to return to it later. The class teacher will then consult with the child's parents, and discuss if they would like to answer, or they want school to answer, in the case of the latter, it will be discussed with parents how much information they are happy for their child to have

Within school, clear parameters of what is appropriate and inappropriate to answer as a question should be established with the SRE Policy.

- Use specific ground rules for this work which will clarify boundaries for children/young people
- Clarify that personal questions should not be asked
- If a teacher doesn't know the answer this should be acknowledged
- Clarify that pupils should not give out personal information in class but speak to someone they trust after the lesson, e.g. school nurse, teacher, learning mentor

Dealing with difficult topics

Sex and Relationship Education can sometimes raise difficult areas for some schools, therefore the school needs to consider its approach and provide guidance to teaching staff to enable them to respond appropriately to questions raised by pupils. Examples of such issues will be discussed in staff training sessions.

Use of Visitors

The LA school nurse co-delivers the SRE curriculum 'Growing and Changing Together'. Health professionals who are involved in delivering programmes are expected to work within the schools' Sex and Relationship Education Policy and under the instruction of the Headteacher, however when they are in their professional role such as the school nurse in consultation with an individual pupil they should follow their own professional codes of conduct (this is the case irrespective of who is paying them).

Working with Parents

In order to engage the whole school community with our SRE curriculum, we will hold an annual awareness session for all parents. This session will cover the content of the curriculum, and outline parent's right to withdraw. In the situation where children are withdrawn from SRE lessons, the school has a responsibility to find alternative provision for those children.

Confidentiality

Children have rights under the Children's Act 1989 and can thus expect to be treated sensitively regarding seeking information and advice. However, staff should not give guarantees of confidentiality where the safety and welfare of a child is at risk.