

MEREWORTH COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL



RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION POLICY

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Mereworth Community Primary School
RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION POLICY

Introduction

This policy outlines the purpose, nature and management of Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) taught at Mereworth Community Primary School. Please also refer to the PSHE and other policies relating to RSE.

This policy reflects the consensus of opinion of the whole teaching staff, and has the full agreement of the Governing Body.

The implementation of this policy is the responsibility of all teaching staff.

Definition:

'Sex and relationship education is lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of loving and caring relationships.' It is about the teaching of sex, sexuality and sexual health.

Research demonstrates that good, comprehensive sex and relationship education does not make young people more likely to become sexually active at a younger age.

Aims of RSE in School

Relationships & Sex Education will reflect the values of the PSHE and Citizenship programme. RSE will be taught in the context of relationships. In addition, RSE will promote self-esteem and emotional health and well-being and help them form and maintain worthwhile and satisfying relationships, based on respect for themselves and for others, at home, school, work and in the community.

We teach children about respect for their own bodies and those of others, and what they should do if they are worried about any changes to their bodies or any sexual matters.

Objectives

By the end of Key Stage 2 we will have:

- Provided the knowledge and information to which all pupils are entitled
- Clarified / reinforced existing knowledge
- Laid the foundations for personal and social education at Key Stage 3 and 4
- Prepared children for puberty
- Raised pupils' self-esteem and confidence to help them enter adolescence and form relationships with others
- Helped pupils understand their bodies and feelings, so they can lead fulfilling and enjoyable lives
- Addressed concerns and corrected misunderstandings children may have gained from their peers, the media or other sources
- Developed skills (communication and assertiveness) to help children protect themselves against unwanted sexual experiences and to cope with the influences of their peers and the media
- Developed pupils' awareness of relationships and sex in the context of healthy lifestyles, through respect and care for their own bodies

Implementation

Mrs Kathryn Delaney is the designated person responsible for Relationships & Sex Education at Mereworth School. Class teachers deliver the RSE curriculum to their respective classes. RSE lessons may be done as a whole class, or (in Years 5 & 6) boys and girls will be taught separately.

Relationships & Sex Education is taught as part of the curriculum for Personal, Social and Health Education. However, Sex Education may also be taught through other subjects (Science and P.E. for example) where we feel that they contribute significantly to a child's knowledge and understanding of his or her own body and how it is changing.

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. We encourage the children to ask for help if they need it.

National Curriculum Science

Key Stage 1

- That animals, including humans, feed, move, grow and use their senses and reproduce.
- To recognise and compare the external parts of the bodies of humans.
- That humans and animals can produce offspring and these grow into adults.
- To recognise similarities and differences between themselves and others and treat others with sensitivity.

Key Stage 2

- That the life processes common to humans and other animals include nutrition, growth and reproduction.
- The main stages of the human life cycle

Every child is entitled to receive RSE regardless of ethnicity, gender, religion, age, culture, disability, sexuality, language special needs, disadvantaged and looked after children. It is our intention all children have the opportunity to experience a programme of RSE at a level which is appropriate for their age and physical development with differentiated provision if required.

RSE is taught throughout key stage 2. Each year the children are introduced to new vocabulary and concepts which will prepare them for changes to their own bodies and information they may be exposed to via the media and through their peers. (Appendix 1) A variety of other PSHE issues are covered across both Key Stages to fully equip the children with the skills and attitudes necessary for them to benefit effectively from sex education.

We believe it is important children receive balanced, accurate information and advice. Class discussions and Circle Time are ways in which the children's feelings and emotions can be recognised and developed.

A range of resources are available to assist teachers with the planning and delivery of RSE. We follow the Channel 4 programme 'Living and Growing' which has been edited following consultation with teachers and parents. We liaise with the Local Health Authority about suitable teaching materials to use with our children in RSE lessons and issue pupils with appropriate material to share at home.

RSE is always taught with due regard for the emotional development of the children. Each class has a 'question box' in place during the delivery of Sex Education Lessons to enable pupils to leave anonymous questions which can be dealt with appropriately by the class teacher.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring is the responsibility of the head teacher, named governor and teacher with responsibility for Relationships & Sex Education.

The school will assess the effectiveness of the aims, content and methods in promoting students' learning by lesson observation, sampling teachers planning, questionnaires to teachers and children and feedback from parents.

The effectiveness of the RSE programme will be evaluated by assessing children's learning and implementing change if required.

The Role of Parents

While we at Mereworth appreciate the sensitivity and concerns some parents may feel towards sex education, as it is part of the National Curriculum, parents cannot withdraw their children from it.

The school is well aware that the primary role in children's Relationships & Sex Education lies with parents and carers. We wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents of children at our school through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation. In promoting this objective we:

- Inform parents about the school's RSE policy and practice;
- Give parents advance notice of RSE lessons and provide the opportunity to see material which will be shared with children prior to the lessons.
- Answer any questions that parents may have about the Relationships & Sex Education of their child
- Take seriously any issue that parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy or the arrangements for RSE in the school.

Confidentiality

Relationships & Sex Education is taught in a sensitive manner and in confidence. However, if a child makes a reference to being involved, or likely to be involved in sexual activity, then the teacher will take the matter seriously and deal with it as a matter of child protection in accordance with the Child Protection Policy.

During and after the RSE lessons, pupils are encouraged to write down any questions they may have, rather than share them openly with the class. The teacher will then read all the questions and decide upon the best way in which to answer them. A follow-up session will then take place where the teacher can answer questions openly with the class if they are appropriate to share in this way and will answer questions personally with individuals, if this is deemed more appropriate. Some questions asked may be considered better to be discussed at home, with the parents.

Background Documentation

This policy was informed by reference to the DfES document *Sex and Relationship Guidance* (DfES 0116/2000).