

Littledean Church of England Primary School
Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) Policy
'People with time for Children'

Introduction

At Littledean C of E Primary School we have based this policy on the DfE (DCSF) guidance document Sex and Relationship Education guidance (ref DfES 0116/2000). In this document, sex education is defined as 'learning about physical, moral and emotional development.' It is about the understanding of the importance of stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care for family life and friendships. It involves acquiring information, developing skills and forming positive beliefs, values and attitudes that will equip our children for their future development and for the whole of their lives.

SRE is part of the PSHCE curriculum in our school. Whilst we use SRE to inform children about sexual issues, we do this with regard to matters of morality and individual responsibility, and in a way that allows children to ask and explore moral questions. We do not use SRE as a means of promoting any form of sexual orientation.

Context

At Littledean Church of England Primary School we are proud of our distinctive Christian nature, which has informed the development of this SRE policy. In particular we teach sex education in the belief that:

- SRE is taught in the context of marriage or other stable relationships and family life;
- SRE is part of a wider social, personal, spiritual and moral education process;
- children should be taught to have respect for their own bodies;
- children should learn about their responsibilities to others, and to 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.

Organisation

We teach SRE through different aspects of the curriculum. Whilst we carry out the main SRE teaching through our PSHCE curriculum, we also teach some through other subject areas, such as science and PE, where we feel they contribute significantly to a child's knowledge and understanding of their own body and how it is changing and developing.

In PSHCE we teach children about relationships and we encourage them to discuss issues. We teach about the parts of the body and how these work, and we explain what will happen to their bodies during puberty. We encourage the children to ask for help or information if they need it.

In science lessons in both key stages, teachers inform children about puberty and how a baby is born. For this aspect of the school's teaching, we follow the programmes of study in the national curriculum for science. In key Stage 1 we teach children about how animals, including humans, move, feed, grow and reproduce, and we also teach them about the main parts of the body. Children learn to appreciate the differences between people and to show respect for each other. In Key Stage 2 we teach about life processes and the main stages of the human life cycle in greater depth.

In Year 5 we place a particular emphasis on health and sex education, as many children experience puberty at this age. Teachers do their best to answer honestly and appropriately all questions with sensitivity and care. By the end of Key Stage 2, we ensure that both boys and girls know how babies are born, how their 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 contact parents and carers of children in Years 5 and 6 and offer 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.

Resources

The wider community has lots to offer for the teaching of SRE. The school will seek to engage with health professionals, Gloucestershire Healthy Living and Learning (GHLL) team and publishers of teaching resources as appropriate.

The majority of the materials that we use in the teaching of SRE come from the following resource: All About Us: Living and Growing from 4 Learning.

The Role of Parents

The school is well aware that the primary role in children's sex, health and relationship 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 sex education policy and practice;
- answer any questions that a parent may have about the sex education of their child;
- take seriously any issue that parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy or the arrangements for sex education in the school;
- encourage parent governors to be involved in reviewing the school policy and making modifications to it as necessary;
- believe that through the delivery of best practice in SRE that the children will benefit from being given consistent messages about their changing body and their increasing responsibilities.

Parents 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 wishes their child to be withdrawn from sex education lessons, they should discuss this with the Head Teacher, 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 in this regard.

Confidentiality

Teachers conduct SRE lessons in a sensitive manner and in confidence. However, if a child makes a reference to being involved in sexual activity, then the teacher will take the matter seriously and deal with it as set down in the procedures within the Child Protection Policy. Teachers will respond in a similar way if a child indicates that they have been a victim of abuse.

The Role of the Head Teacher

It is the responsibility of the Head Teacher to ensure that both staff and parents are informed about our SRE 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 effectively and handle any issues sensitively.

The Head Teacher liaises with external agencies regarding the school's SRE programme, and ensures that all adults who work with children on these issues are aware of the school policy, and that they work within this framework.

The Head Teacher monitors this policy on a regular basis and reports to the governing body, when requested, on the effectiveness of this policy.

Monitoring and Review

The governing body monitors our SRE policy to an agreed timetable and revises the policy as necessary. The governing body gives serious consideration to any comments from parents about the sex education programme.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Child Protection Policy and the PSHCE Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship and Economic Education Policy.

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