

Sex and Relationships Policy



Written by	: Headteacher
Approved by	: Governors
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Sex and Relationship Education Policy

This policy should be read in accordance with the policy for Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHE) Guidance.

What is Sex and Relationships Education?

“....The objective of sex and relationship education is to help and support young people through their physical, emotional and moral development. The new PSHE framework will help pupils develop the skills and understanding they need to live confident, healthy and independent lives.” **[Sex and Relationships Education Guidance ref DfEE 0116/2000]**

At March CE Primary School we value the importance of Sex and Relationship Education (SRE). It is a continuing, developmental process, which includes the exploration of attitudes and values as well as the presentation of factual knowledge.

SRE teaches children to develop an awareness of, and respect for, themselves and others. It aids the development of positive self-esteem, which will help children to cope with the challenges of personal growth. It enables children to be aware of the personal choices they can make, and prepares them to make responsible decisions.

As part of the SRE framework, children are taught to reflect on the nature and diversity of life experiences. They learn about the importance of stable and respectful relationships. Care is taken to include all children and that no child is stigmatised because of his/her home circumstances. This is closely linked to the school's PSHE curriculum.

Aims:

- To reassure children of their value and self-worth, including aspects of dignity, self-respect and self-restraint.
- To nurture a responsible attitude towards personal relationships, such as aspects of mutual respect and care, and to develop sensitivity towards the needs of others.
- To foster the ability to manage relationships in a responsible and healthy manner.
- To promote the value of loving relationships and of family life.
- To recognise that all stable relationships are an important part of life.
- To provide knowledge of human reproductive processes.
- To inform pupils on matters of personal hygiene and related health issues.
- To encourage exploration of values, taking into account the physical and emotional risks associated with certain behaviours.
- To educate against discrimination and prejudice.
- To empower pupils to make informed choices about their developing sexuality.

Methodology and Approach:

SRE is taught both cross-circularly and separately, encompassing all the elements within PSHE topics (Appendix 2) and within the Science Curriculum, as well as expanding on human relationships, physical development and reproduction.

PSHE elements:

1. Increasing confidence and responsibility and making the most of pupils' abilities.
2. Preparing to play an active role as citizens.

3. Embracing a healthier lifestyle.

4. Developing good relationships and respecting differences between people.

Guidelines:

- Teachers should not enter into discussions about personal issues and lifestyles or put over their personal point of view.
- No one (child or adult) has to answer a personal question.
- Nobody is forced to take part in discussion.
- In discussion, teachers will promote the knowledge and use of scientific names of body parts.
- Meanings of words are explained in a sensible and factual way.
- Some questions may not be appropriate for whole class discussion.
- It is appropriate, when talking about relationship, to mention marriage. Teachers may mention that the law says that boys can marry boys and girls can marry girls.
- Teachers should answer questions (only when asked) about what homosexuality means in a sensible way without discussing lifestyles, specific details or appearing to promote or criticise homosexuality.
- At a teacher's discretion, some issues or questions raised by an individual in a SRE lesson may be passed on to a parent, including any information passed on by the teacher to the child.
- Teachers should be aware of the Child Protection Procedures outlined later in this policy.

Curriculum Entitlement:

SRE will be taught within PSHE and Science. It is therefore not envisaged that there will be 'one-off' or isolated lessons, except when a Health Professional is invited to address the children. Children with Special Educational Needs will have their needs addressed both within the class, and where appropriate, within a small group.

Dealing with Sensitive Issues:

Staff should answer children's questions relating to SRE in an open and factual way, taking into consideration the family background, culture, religious beliefs, and differing experiences.

Staff should use their professional judgement and discretion when faced with, or answering, questions, which they deem to be of a sensitive nature, for example homosexuality, contraception or sexually transmitted diseases.

It is important to be clear about what the child wants to know and that the response is tailored to that need. Often with younger children, it is a good idea to ask some checking questions "What do you already know about this?" or "What do you think it means?" in order to gauge the level of the child's understanding.

March CE Primary School believes that SRE should meet the needs of all pupils regardless of their developing sexuality and be able to deal honestly and sensitively with sexual orientation, answer appropriate questions and offer support. Homophobic bullying is dealt with strongly yet sensitively. The school liaises with parents on this issue to reassure them of the content and context.

Confidentiality and Child Protection Issues

As a general rule a child's confidentiality is maintained by the teacher or member of staff concerned. If this person believes that the child is at risk or in danger, she/he talks to the named DCPO who takes action as laid down in the Child Protection Policy. All staff are familiar with the policy and know the identity of the member of staff with responsibility for Child Protection issues.

The child concerned will be informed that confidentiality is being breached and reasons why. The child will be supported by the teacher throughout the process.

Specific Arrangements:

Mixed gender classes will be the norm for the majority of lessons. They are taught about issues, such as menstruation and conception together, thus treating the issues as part of the broad sex education programme and avoiding misconceptions and speculation.

Year 5 and 6 lessons will include time for separate discussion/Q&A sessions (with the support of the School Nurse where possible).

Working with Parents:

March CE Primary School recognises the partnership of home and school, of parent/carer and teacher, in this important area of personal development. Parents are vital in teaching children about sex and relationships, maintaining the culture and ethos of the family, helping children to cope with the emotional and physical aspects of growing, and preparing them for the challenges and responsibilities that sexual maturity brings.

Delivery of SRE is not the sole responsibility of school; parents/carers and members of other educational community have much to offer. The school encourages parents to use the scientific names of the body, talking with the children about their feelings and relationships, and answering questions about growing up, having babies, relationships and sexual health.

Parents are offered the chance to view any SRE resources before their child's lesson to provide understanding of content and to support them in answering questions or clarifying information presented in the lessons.

Pupil Withdrawal Procedure:

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from any SRE that falls outside of the statutory curriculum (Education Act, 1996- they cannot withdraw from human reproduction as in NC Science, for example.) Any parents expressing concerns will be invited into school for discussions with the teacher responsible for delivering the programme, and to view materials and resources. Should they still decide to exercise this right, the school will make provision for the supervision of the child (to work within another year group). March CE Primary advises parents to inform their child why they are being withdrawn from the lesson. The parent will also be advised that they have an obligation to provide the information at home using information available from the DFE.

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Review of Policy:

This policy will be reviewed every three years. The date of the next annual review will be September 2019.