

# Sex and Relationships Policy



## Acresfield Primary School

Last Updated: June 2017

Date of Governing Body Approval: 28.6.17

Committee Responsible for Review: Teaching and Learning

Signed: [Chair of Governors]

Signed: [Headteacher]

## **ACRESFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL**

### **Background**

The provision relating to sex education was revised in the Education Act 1996. Section 403 requires the governing body and the headteacher to: 'take such steps as are reasonably practicable to secure that where sex education is given to any registered pupils at the school it is given in such a manner as to encourage those pupils to have due regard to moral considerations and the value of family life'.

### **Aims**

The sex and relationship education within our school aims to provide opportunities for pupils to develop the skills, knowledge and understanding they need to be informed and lead healthy, confident and independent lives. The curriculum will be delivered in an open and honest way enabling children to contribute to discussion.

### **Objectives**

- to develop children's confidence and self esteem
- to develop children's understanding of the physical changes to their bodies and the effect this may have on them
- to develop children's understanding of appropriate language within modern society
- to develop children's knowledge of the differences and similarities between themselves and others
- to develop children's respect for other people's feelings
- to develop children's awareness of different relationships e.g. friends, families and acquaintances and how to deal with these changing relationships
- to develop children's knowledge of healthy lifestyles which help them to make informed decisions
- to develop children's ability to take responsibility for their actions

### **Teaching Methods and Programmes of Study**

We have built a scheme of work from reception class to Year 6, which draws upon two published schemes, the Christopher Winter Project and Lucinda and Godfrey. Our scheme compliments the school's P.S.H.C.E curriculum and values education work through its focus on developing positive relationships, understanding differences and dealing with change.

## **Equal Opportunities Statement**

The school is committed to the provision of SRE to all of its pupils. Our programme aims to respond to the diversity of children's cultures, faiths and family backgrounds. Equal time and provision will be allocated for all groups but there may be occasions where some pupils may require extra support from staff.

## **Organisation**

SRE should not be delivered in isolation but firmly embedded in all curriculum areas, including Personal, Social Health Education (PSHCE) and citizenship. At Acresfield Primary School the *main* content is delivered in PSHCE lessons.

SRE is normally delivered by class teachers in mixed gender groups other than when it is deemed more appropriate for topics to be covered in single sex groups. Occasionally, appropriate and suitably experienced staff such as health care professionals from outside school may be invited to contribute to the delivery of SRE in school.

## **Controversial and Sensitive Issues**

Staff are aware that views around SRE related issues are varied. However, while personal views are respected, all SRE issues are taught without bias, as far as is possible. Topics are presented using a variety of views and beliefs so that pupils are able to form their own, informed opinions but also respect others that may have different opinions.

## **Child Protection**

As a general rule, a child's confidentiality is maintained by the teacher or member of staff concerned during SRE lessons, unless there is an issue the teacher feels needs to be addressed. If the teacher believes that the child is at risk or in danger, as a result of a disclosure, the appropriate safeguarding procedures will be followed. The school has a separate Safeguarding policy, which incorporates child protection. Effective SRE may bring about disclosures of child protection issues, so all staff are made aware of what to do if a disclosure is made.

## **Dealing with Questions**

Both formal and informal issues arising from pupils' questions are answered according to the age and maturity of the pupil concerned. Questions do not have to be answered directly, and can be addressed individually later. The school believes that individual teachers must use their skill and discretion in this area and refer to the Safeguarding Lead if they are concerned.

## **Sexual Identity and Sexual Orientation**

Acresfield 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, to ensure such issues are dealt with clearly and sensitively. The school has a separate anti-bullying and behaviour policy, which includes reference to bullying in relation to sexual orientation.

## **Assessing and Monitoring**

The SRE policy is to be reviewed every 2 years and appropriate amendments to be made where needed. Information from staff, children and parents will all feed in to the review of the SRE policy to ensure effectiveness and relevance

## **Working with Parents**

The school is committed to developing positive relationships with parents as part of its on going work and as such informs parents of the curriculum being covered by SRE and when it will be taught. Parents can under section 405 of the Education Act 1996 withdraw their child from sex and relationship education lessons:

Parents wanting to exercise this right must inform the school prior to the lessons starting, in order that alternative arrangements be made for their child, during the lesson. Should a parent wish to discuss it further they are welcome to discuss their concerns with the deputy headteacher or headteacher.

## **References**

Sex and Relationship Education Guidance DfEE July 2000