



# **Sharman's Cross Junior School**

## **SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION POLICY**

*As part of the Sharmans Cross family, everyone is safe, valued and respected in a friendly, supportive and inclusive community so that we can become the best that we can be.*

*We strive for excellence in everything we do, becoming confident, successful, independent learners for the future who value self, others and community, developing lasting skills for life in the wider world.*

## **1) Aims and objectives**

This policy is a working document which provides guidance and information on all aspects of SRE in the school for staff, parents/carers and governors. To be accessible to all of these groups the document needs to be available on request.

The policy aims to -

- Define what Sex and Relationship education is and why it is important.
- Define who it should be taught to and how Sharmans Cross will teach this.
- Define where SRE sits within the curriculum.
- Give advice to teachers regarding how SRE should be taught including answering difficult or concerning questions as a result of SRE.
- Define parental rights in regard to withdrawal from SRE.

## **2) What is Sex and Relationships Education?**

The Sex and Relationship Education Guidance (DfEE 0116/2000) states -

*'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.'*

The objectives of Sex and Relationship Education are:

- To provide the knowledge and information to which all pupils are entitled.
- To clarify/reinforce existing knowledge.
- To raise pupils' self-esteem and confidence, especially in their relationships with others.
- To help pupils understand their sexual feelings and behaviour, so they can lead fulfilling and enjoyable lives.
- To help pupils' develop skills (language, decision making, choice, assertiveness) and make the most of their abilities.
- To provide the confidence to be participating members of society and to value themselves and others.
- To help gain access to information and support.
- To develop skills for a healthier and safer lifestyle.
- To develop and use communication skills and assertiveness skills to cope with the influences of their peers and the media.
- To respect and care for their bodies.
- To be prepared for puberty and adulthood

### **3) 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.

This will be achieved by:

- generating a trusting, safe atmosphere where questions can be asked and answered openly and without embarrassment when appropriate.
- making SRE an integral part of our PSHE programme.
- using circle time and the setting of ground rules to foster trust, security and openness.
- providing information which is easily understood, relevant and appropriate to the age and maturity of the pupils.
- delivering the SRE programme by adults with whom the pupils are familiar with or in conjunction with trained health professionals.

#### **4) Delivery of SRE as part of the curriculum**

SRE will not be taught in isolation but embedded in all curriculum areas. At Sharmans Cross the main content is delivered in Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) and Science lessons as it forms part of the KS2 Science curriculum as outlined below.

- Life processes including nutrition, growth and reproduction
- The main stages of the human life cycle, including the physical changes that take place at puberty, why they happen and how to manage them
- Learn to express their opinions about relationships and bullying and to listen to and support others, including respecting other people's viewpoints and beliefs.
- Learn to recognise their own worth and identify positive things about themselves and try to balance the stresses in life in order to promote their own mental health and wellbeing of others.

#### **5) How SRE will be taught**

SRE will be 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 and/or knowledgeable visitors from outside school may be invited to contribute to the delivery of SRE in school.

#### **6) Dealing with questions**

Both formal and informal SRE arising from pupils' questions are answered according to the age and maturity of the pupil concerned.

- 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

### Difficult questions:

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.

### **7) Withdrawal**

Parents/carers will be informed of when SRE is going to be taught in their child's class through a letter which will go out prior to the teaching. The letter will outline when the teaching will take place and what will be taught. Teachers should answer any queries or concerns parents/carers may have and refer them to the head teacher if more information is needed or withdrawal is requested.

Parents/Carers have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the sex and relationships education provided at school except for those parts included in statutory National Curriculum (as outlined earlier.) Those parents/carers wishing to exercise this right are invited in to see the head teacher who will explore any concerns and discuss any impact that withdrawal may have on the child.

### **8) Child protection and confidentiality**

Teachers need to be aware that effective sex and relationship education, which brings an understanding of what is and is not acceptable in a relationship, may lead to disclosure of a child protection issue. The staff member will inform the DMS (Miss Sara Wilkes) in line with the LA procedures for child protection. A member of staff cannot promise confidentiality if concerns exist.

### **9) How will SRE be monitored and evaluated?**

- The input of visitors is monitored and evaluated by staff and pupils. This evaluation informs future planning.
- It will be evaluated through teacher reflections and evaluations.
- Information from staff, survey results and quantitative data will feed into the review of the SRE policy to ensure effectiveness and relevance
- The policy will be monitored by the head teacher and the governors.
- The policy will be reviewed biannually unless there is new legislation or guidance from the government.

### **10) Related Documents**

- Anti-Bullying Policy.
- Safeguarding Policy.
- National Curriculum

Policy Date: February 2015

Next review date of policy: February 2017