



Oakwood Learning Community Trust

SEX AND RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION POLICY

What is Sex and Relationship Education (SRE)?

SRE includes 'the teaching of sex, sexuality, and sexual health'¹. SRE is about understanding the importance of stable, loving and respectful relationships and the value of these relationship qualities within family life and wider society. SRE includes empowering pupils to make informed choices as part of their life-long learning and for them to have the confidence and information to make informed choices.

Aim of SRE

SRE aims to contribute to promoting the spiritual, moral, cultural, emotional and physical development of pupils at school and to prepare pupils for the challenges, opportunities and responsibilities of adult life. SRE aims to provide pupils with reliable information about sex and relationships.

Objectives of SRE

- To understand the function of body parts and correct terms for these parts
- To help young people move with confidence from childhood to adolescence and beyond
- To develop confidence in discussing sex and relationships including the development of positive attitudes towards self and others with differing views
- To recognise the value of family life and stable, loving and respectful relationships as key building blocks to community and society
- To learn the value of respect, care and self esteem
- To provide opportunities to explore issues relating to emotional, physical and moral development in a safe and secure environment
- To enable pupils to effectively communicate about issues associated with sex and relationships
- To understand the responsibilities of parenthood and safe relationships
- To be aware of external support agencies and forums to support in issues associated with sex and relationships

Practice

We respect the diversity and different values held by the families and pupils attending our schools and address all subjects within SRE with sensitivity. SRE seeks to encourage pupils to recognise and accept the difference of others. We take our responsibilities very seriously with regard to ensuring pupils have appropriate education to succeed as adults and ensure that the teaching delivered by staff is not influenced by their personal beliefs and attitudes.

¹ DfE (2000) *Sex and Relationship Education Guidance*

The teaching offered will be complementary and supportive to the role of parents/carers, and staff will have regard to parents/carers' views about content and presentation. Parents/ carers have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the SRE within schools, except for those parts included in the statutory curriculum. Parents/carers are encouraged to discuss the decision to remove their child from SRE at the earliest opportunity and discuss any queries they may have with the delivering teacher if appropriate.

SRE is firmly embedded in the PSHE framework.

At Sitwell Junior School the Rotherham Healthy Schools Scheme of Work for PSHE and Citizenship – Primary Phase, is used as a framework for delivering this area of work. The issues outlined in this policy arise in many different areas of the curriculum, but the main focus of the work is covered in discrete PSHE and Citizenship time with the class teacher.

At Oakwood High School SRE will mainly be delivered through PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) lessons although, where relevant, outside agencies and professionals may assist in content delivery. Some topics will also be covered in the Science curriculum and aspects of Tutor Time.

It is acknowledged that as SRE deals with some very sensitive issues, the following points are important:

- Clear ground rules will be established prior to discussions in SRE to ensure that appropriate boundaries are set and to ensure no pupil feels embarrassed or uncomfortable about the topics discussed.
- Correct terminology will be used when naming body parts, whilst recognising that there may be 'family' words that may be used at home.
- Both boys and girls will need to be prepared for puberty (this may include discussing issues such as wet dreams and menstruation).
- Other issues may arise. Appropriate questions will be answered honestly and openly. Whether this is within a class or on an individual basis will be dependent on the situation. Questions will always be answered sensitively and, where appropriate, Learning Mentor support should be provided.

Professional Development

Every effort will be made to ensure that teaching staff delivering SRE have access to appropriate training; this may include input by the Rotherham Healthy Schools Team. It is recognised that for some areas of discussion, it may be more appropriate to deliver information in single gender groups (in keeping with Government guidance 0116/2000). The same curricular content will be delivered to both male and female pupils when this occurs.

Resources

A range of teaching resources will be used to enhance pupils' learning experience and encourage active participation. This includes the use of case studies, research, video, small group discussion and, where appropriate, guest speakers and workshops.

Assessment Monitoring and Evaluation

SRE is monitored through lesson planning and classroom observations. It is evaluated through end of unit evaluation sheets and discussions with teachers, parents/carers and pupils. The School will monitor and amend this policy and procedures as necessary on an annual basis.

Consultation and Review

This policy is available on request from school offices.

This policy will be reviewed in full by the Trusts Governor Safeguarding Panel on an annual basis. This policy was last reviewed and agreed by the Strategic Finance and Resources Executive in May 2016. It is due for review in May 2017.

Signature:

(Headteacher Oakwood High School)

Date

Signature:

(Headteacher Sitwell Junior School)

Date

Signature:

(Chair of Governor Safeguarding Panel)

Date

Signature:

(Chair of Strategic Finance
and Resources Executive)

Date