



Sex Education Policy

Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) is an integral part of our Personal Social and Health Education programme, an area which is considered important throughout our school.

We believe that sex and relationship education is an ongoing process, which should start in the home and continue at school. This process should happen in partnership with parents. A positive effort has and will continue to be made to inform and involve parents.

The school's programme of sex and relationship education will be embedded within the school's PSHE and SEAL curriculum and will help children to respect themselves and others. The programme is tailored to the age and the physical and emotional maturity of the children and is delivered by the school staff and invited professionals.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of any sex education provided, but not from the biological aspects of human growth and reproduction provided as part of the science curriculum.

Definition

Sex and Relationship education is lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of stable and loving relationships, family life, respect, love and care. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality and sexual health.

Rationale

At Balfour Junior School we believe that Personal Social and Health Education (PSHE) and Citizenship education help to give pupils the knowledge, skills and understanding they need to lead confident, healthy, independent lives and to become informed, active and responsible citizens. Sex and Relationship Education is an integral part of PSHE. It is an intrinsic part of the physical, intellectual and emotional growth of an individual.

Aims

- To provide a secure, sensitive and caring framework where learning and discussion can take place
- To provide information which is easy to understand, relevant and appropriate for the needs, age and maturity of the pupils.
- Encourage the use of correct vocabulary.
- To foster self worth and awareness, together with a sense of moral responsibility.

- To help the children to acquire and practise important life skills such as critical thinking, decision making, communication and assertiveness.
- To ensure that sex education is available to all children regardless of gender, ability, cultural or religious background in line with the school's policy on equal opportunities.

Provision

Sex and Relationship teaching will be delivered via two areas of the curriculum.

- Through National Curriculum Science programmes of study where children will learn about the physical aspects of growth, change and reproduction.
- Through the school's PSHE and SEAL curriculum where children learn about the emotional aspects of growing up and forming

Using staff from outside the school

Resources and expertise from appropriate outside agencies may be utilised alongside teaching staff in order to deliver SRE. If this is the case:

- All visitors will be familiar with and will understand the school's SRE policy and will work within this;
- All input to SRE lessons will be part of a planned programme and will be negotiated / agreed with staff in advance;
- All visitors will work alongside school staff;

The input of visitors will be regularly monitored and evaluated in order to inform future planning.

Lesson delivery

In delivering SRE, the following guidelines will apply:

- Discussion will be encouraged at all times;
- Ground rules for discussion excluding personal questioning of staff or pupils will be established;
- Staff shall attempt to deal with questions in a sensitive, open, frank and matter of fact way;
- Difficult or explicit questions do not have to be answered directly. Teachers will use their own discretion in these situations;
- Most groups for teaching will be mixed gender but if felt more appropriate, single sex groups may be formed.

Assessment, reporting and recording

The only areas of the SRE curriculum to be assessed will be the areas relating to the Science Curriculum.

Equal opportunities

Pupils will have the opportunity to participate in SRE. However, parents have the right to withdraw their children from some or all of the curriculum after discussion with the head teacher and if the school is notified in writing.

Child protection

The school has a child protection policy. Effective SRE may bring about disclosures of child protection issues and all staff are aware of agreed procedures should this be the case.

Staff support and development

It is appreciated that some staff may feel less comfortable with this area of the curriculum. All staff will be supported with appropriate training and support and if preferred, alternative staff or visiting professionals may be asked to deliver the curriculum.

Monitoring and evaluation

The person responsible for overseeing SRE is the Inclusions officer, Mr Ian Gambles. Mr. Gambles will monitor coverage and the effectiveness of this policy within the framework of the school monitoring timetable.

In agreeing this policy, the governors have fully considered and assessed any potential impact the policy may have with regard to equality and diversity.

To be reviewed June 2015