



St Merryn Schools Sex and Relationships Education Policy

Sex and relationships education is the right and responsibility of the parent. The school provides sex and relationships education to support parents in fulfilling their responsibility. If parents are not happy with what the school provides in its basic curriculum with regard to sex and relationships education they have a right to withdraw their child/children from those aspects of sex and relationships education not covered by the National Curriculum Science Order.

Defining Sex and Relationships Education (SRE)

It is lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of marriage for family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality, and sexual health. It is not about the promotion of sexual orientation or sexual activity – this would be inappropriate teaching. (DfEE Guidance 0116/2000)

The Aims of Sex Education

Based on the above definition the aims of SRE in this school are:

- To enable our pupils to better understand the nature of human relationships;
- To prepare pupils for the changes that occur to their bodies, minds and emotions as a consequence of growth from childhood to adulthood.

In this school SRE has three main elements, all of which are important for a balanced SRE programme:

Attitudes and values

- learning the importance of values and individual conscience and moral considerations;
- learning the value of family life, marriage, and stable and loving relationships for the nurture of children;
- learning the value of respect, love and care;
- exploring, considering and understanding moral dilemmas; and
- developing critical thinking as part of decision-making.

Personal and social skills

- learning to manage emotions and relationships confidently and sensitively;
- developing self-respect and empathy for others;
- learning to make choices based on an understanding of difference and with an absence of prejudice;
- developing an appreciation of the consequences of choices made;
- managing conflict; and
- learning how to recognise and avoid exploitation and abuse.

Knowledge and understanding

- learning and understanding physical development at appropriate stages;
- understanding human sexuality, reproduction, sexual health, emotions and relationships;
- learning the reasons for delaying sexual activity, and the benefits to be gained from such delay, including the avoidance of unplanned pregnancy.

Content of the schools SRE programme

The content of the schools programme is based on the National Curriculum Science Order and the non-statutory guidance for PSHE contained in the National Curriculum Handbook for Teachers. Content is supported through The Christopher Winter Project Scheme as recommended by Cornwall Healthy Schools.

At primary school level sex and relationship education should contribute to the foundation of PSHE and Citizenship by ensuring that all children:

- develop confidence in talking, listening and thinking about feelings and relationships;
- are able to name parts of the body and describe how their bodies work;
- can protect themselves and ask for help and support; and
- are prepared for puberty.

The delivery of SRE

All teachers are responsible for teaching about and modelling good relationships within school. Much of the general work in school is based on good relationships and in this regard SRE is supported by the school's behaviour management policy. It is also the responsibility of the whole staff to deliver the National Curriculum Science Order.

Methods of teaching and resourcing

In the delivery of SRE teachers will use a variety of teaching methods and resources. The following are recognised methods for the effective delivery of SRE:

- Discussion
- Drama and role play
- Research and presentation.

Teachers will also use other teaching methods to enable pupils to learn about SRE which are age appropriate, taking into account the developmental needs of individual pupils. Parents are welcome to discuss with teachers their approach to SRE and the methods of teaching and learning to be used.

The school uses a variety of resources, including videos and books. Parents are welcome to view these materials and may borrow them from school to support the sex education of their children in the home context. Books used to support SRE are also found in the school library and pupils may borrow them when and as need occurs. Resources used by the school are produced for schools by educational publishers and are intended for pupils in the light of best current research into SRE.

Monitoring and evaluating SRE

The PSHE and Science Co-ordinator is responsible for the overall co-ordination and monitoring of SRE within the school's curriculum. It is the coordinators responsibility to:

- a) Ensure that SRE occurs in the school's curriculum according to the schemes of work for Science and PSHE
- b) Monitor the use of teaching and learning styles;
- c) Monitor the use of teaching materials;
- d) Evaluate the effectiveness of the schools programme

The co-ordinator will be given time to monitor and evaluate the schools SRE programme as it occurs in the school's schemes of work for each Key Stage.

Dealing with sensitive issues

Teachers need to be sure that they are aware of issues that may arise out of teaching and learning about SRE. The following are protocols for discussion based lessons with pupils:

- no one (teacher or pupil) will have to answer a personal question;
- no one will be forced to take part in a discussion;
- only the correct names for body parts will be used;
- meanings of words will be explained in a sensible and factual way; and
- teachers may use their discretion in responding to questions and may say that the appropriate person to answer that question is the parent.

Where a member of staff is concerned that a child protection issue is arising it is his/her responsibility to follow the school's policy in this matter to the letter.

Supporting Parents/ Carers

A Speakeasy programme is offered to parents and carers whereby they meet on a weekly basis and follow an 8 week course to increase parental confidence in talking to their children about sex and relationships; this is facilitated by a parent volunteer and is free of charge.

Parental right to withdrawal from SRE

As stated above parents have the right to withdraw their pupils from SRE that falls outside the National Curriculum Science Order. They do so in writing to the Headteacher. When the Headteacher receives such a letter he/she will invite the parents to a meeting, at which the Headteacher will explain clearly what the school's policy is and seek to accommodate the wishes and/or concerns of the parents. If that is not possible the pupil will be withdrawn from SRE and placed in another class where suitable work and supervision will be provided. Parents will be given the DfEE support pack for parents who withdraw their children for SRE as presented in the school's basic curriculum. A copy of this policy will be made available to all parents who request it.