Sex and Relationships Education Policy Statement

What is Sex and Relationships Education?

‘Sex and Relationships Education 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.’ (Sex & Relationship Education Guidance DfEE 2000)

Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education at Furze Platt Junior School equips pupils with the knowledge and understanding, skills and strategies required to live normal, healthy, safe, productive, capable, responsible and balanced lives. Part of this is the inclusion of the teaching of Sex and Relationships Education.

At Furze Platt Junior School we believe that SRE is an important part of the curriculum in helping to prepare our pupils for adulthood. It is important that children learn about their bodies, reproduction and puberty within the context of emotions, relationships and healthy choices. It lays the foundations for future work on sexual and reproductive health and contributes to the emotional and social development of our children.

Aims

To provide the children with a safe and caring environment within which learning opportunities help them to respect themselves and others, to move with confidence from childhood through adolescence, developing a secure sense of identity and to function well in the world. The objective of Sex and Relationship Education is to help and support young people through their physical, emotional and moral development.

Statutory Guidance

The Guide to the Law for School Governors 2010 outlines the statutory requirements for SRE in primary and secondary schools. Annex 2 of the guide says that sex education policies are statutory in all schools except maintained nursery schools.

All maintained schools must teach human growth and reproduction as set out in the statutory National Curriculum for science (see 2014 new curriculum Programmes of Study).

Governing bodies and head teachers of maintained primary schools must decide whether Sex and Relationship Education, beyond that which is set out in the curriculum for science, should be included in the school’s curriculum.

Primary schools should consult parents about their Sex and Relationship Education programmes. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of
any Sex and Relationship Education provided, other than that specified in the National Curriculum for science.

The three main elements of Sex and Relationship Education

*(Sex & Relationship Education Guidance DfEE 2000)*

**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

Contraception, unplanned pregnancy and sexual relationships (same and mixed sex) will not be explicitly covered but teachers will always respond sensitively to a child's questions about these areas should the issue arise.

*(Sex & Relationship Education Guidance DfEE 2000)*

Sex and Relationship Education within Science and Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education

Sex and Relationship Education fits with the Science and Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education curriculum in the following ways.
Children should learn:

- that life processes common to humans and other animals include nutrition, growth and reproduction
- about the main stages of the human life cycle

Sex and Relationship Education contributes to Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education 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
- are prepared for puberty

Equal Opportunities

Children of all abilities and backgrounds benefit from the study of SRE. To ensure differentiation, a variety of teaching approaches are encouraged. Planning will be appropriate for the child and facilitate learning at all levels. Resources and materials are adapted to meet the needs of the child/children. All children will have an equal opportunity to develop an understanding of Sex and Relationship Education as appropriate to their needs.

Child Protection

Parents and carers should be aware that effective Sex and Relationship Education, which brings an understanding of what is and is not acceptable in a relationship, can lead to a child disclosing personal information.

If a member of staff suspects that a child is the victim of abuse or they have reason to believe that he/she is at risk of abuse, they will follow the procedures detailed in our school’s Child Protection Policy i.e. they will report their concerns to the teacher responsible for child protection.

Teaching Sex and Relationship Education

At Furze Platt Junior School, Sex and Relationship Education is supported by the curriculum for Science and Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education as explained above. The subject is taught sensitively. All staff are aware of the school’s Sex and Relationship Education Policy and procedures and uphold the moral development of our children, in all areas of teaching, where questions relating to
physical and emotional development arise. Consequently, our pupils receive their Sex and Relationship Education in the wider context of relationships, so that they are prepared for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

Our children are encouraged from entering Year 3 through to Year 6 to show care and respect for themselves and each other. However, while this is true and while Sex and Relationship Education will also occur through Science and Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education as described above, governors, staff and parents have agreed that Sex and Relationship Education will be taught specifically in Years 5 and 6.

Menstruation

Year 5 girls will be taken for a session on menstruation, which is separate from the work done with the whole class. An appropriate female staff member (or nurse/health care worker, if available) will be invited to be present at this session. Discussion during these sessions will cover the importance of hygiene, self-organisation and confidentiality. The girls will be shown various types of sanitary protection and advised as to their correct use. They will be informed that sanitary protection is available at school should this be necessary.

Drugs, Alcohol and Smoking

In Year 6 pupils will also be taught about the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse and the dangers of smoking. They will be taught how to make informed choices and the consequences of misusing the above.

Peer Pressure

We are aware that peer pressure can influence children to make poor choices regarding Sex and Relationship Education and their health. A series of lessons will be taught which will focus on peer pressure and ways to overcome this, helping pupils to make informed, good choices. They will learn about respecting themselves and their bodies so that they make choices which keep them safe.

Parent Involvement

In Years 5 and 6 parents will be informed that Sex and Relationship Education lessons will be taking place with their children and the aspects that will be covered are explained. An opportunity is given for Y6 parents to view materials used to support the teaching of Sex and Relationship Education and it is made clear to parents that they may withdraw their child from those aspects of the Sex and Relationship Education sessions which are not part of the national curriculum if they so wish. However, if a parent feels this way, they must put their wishes in writing prior to the SRE sessions.
Evaluation
This policy is to be made available to all teachers and governors. Parents can request a copy of the policy and are encouraged to discuss concerns with us at anytime.
The P.S.H.E. Co-ordinator will monitor this policy and an evaluation will be made one year after implementation.