

Rationale and ethos

This policy covers our School approach to Sex and relationship education. (SRE)

This policy was produced through consultation with Schools Governors, senior leaders, teaching Staff, parents and pupils.

The Department for Education (DFE)'s provides the following information on the current position relating to sex and relationship education (SRE) in schools:

All maintained secondary schools must provide sex and relationships education as part of the basic curriculum.

Sex and relationship education (SRE) is compulsory from age 11 onwards. It involves teaching children about reproduction, sexuality and sexual health. It doesn't promote early sexual activity or any particular sexual orientation.

The SRE Curriculum underpins the school core values of care courtesy resilience and determination.

It prepares pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of relationships throughout their life. It equips pupils with the knowledge and understanding to make well informed decisions to stay safe resist peer pressure or any other form of exploitation.

The Curriculum delivers an entitlement for pupils by supporting learners to... rather than protecting learners from experiences.

SRE education also enables children and young people to reflect on and clarify their own values and attitudes, and explore the complex, and sometimes conflicting, range of values and attitudes they encounter now and in the future. In short SRE education makes a significant contribution to children and young people's personal, spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

The intended outcomes of our SRE programme also incorporate the twelve principles of good quality SRE which is recommended by the PHCE association these are

- 1) Is an identifiable part of our personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education Curriculum, which has planned, timetabled lessons across all the Key Stages
- 2) Is taught by staff regularly trained in SRE and PSHE (with expert visitors invited in to enhance and supplement the programme where appropriate
- 3) Works in partnership with parents and careers, informing them about what their children will be learning and about how they can contribute at home

- 4) Delivers lessons where pupils feel safe and encourages participation by using a variety of teaching approaches with opportunities to develop critical thinking and relationship skills
 - 5) Is based on reliable sources of information, including about the law and legal rights, and distinguishes between fact and opinion
 - 6) Promotes safe, equal, caring and enjoyable relationships and discusses real-life issues appropriate to the age and stage of pupils, including friendships, families, consent, relationship abuse, sexual exploitation and safe relationships online
 - 7) Gives a positive view of human sexuality, with honest and medically accurate information, so that pupils learn about their bodies and sexual and reproductive health in ways appropriate to their age and maturity. To present facts in an objective and balanced manner so as to enable pupils to comprehend the range of sexual attitudes and behavior in present day society.
 - 8) Gives pupils opportunities to reflect on values and influences (such as from peers, media, faith and culture) that may shape their attitudes to relationships and sex, and nurtures respect for different views
- 9 Includes learning about how to get help and treatment from sources such as the school nurse and other health and advice services, including reliable information online
10. Fosters gender equality and LGBTQIA+ equality and challenges all forms of discrimination in SRE lessons and in every-day school life
- 11 Meets the needs of all pupils with their diverse experiences - including those with special educational needs and disabilities
12. Seeks pupils' views about RSE so that teaching can be made relevant to their real lives and assessed and adapted as their needs change

Roles and responsibilities

The SRE programme is led by Mr. John Reynolds., Leader of the Thriving Curriculum who is responsible for creating the Schemes of work for SRE in line with up to date statutory guidance, providing high quality lesson resources and supporting other teacher in SRE delivery. The monitoring and evaluating of lessons and judgements about the quality of learning is completed in conjunction with the SLT as part of the Learning walks.

The SRE programme is taught by Teachers in the Thriving Curriculum Department with timetabled lessons taking place as part of the programme of study for PSHCE. Regular timetabled Thriving Curriculum meetings ensure key messages are shared with teaching staff.

All school staff receive regular SRE training through Liverpool School improvement during staff inset training twilight sessions. Teachers who deliver the SRE curriculum have additional training to ensure they are well prepared to deliver this important aspect of the curriculum.

Legislation (statutory regulations and guidance)

When writing this policy the following guidance has been consulted

Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education 2019

Sex and Relationship Education Guidance July 2000 Ref: DfEE 0116/200

Keeping Children Safe in Education (statutory guidance) 2021

OFSTED Review of sexual abuse in schools and colleges Published 10 June 2021

Equality Act 2010 and schools

SEND code of practice: 0 to 25 years (statutory guidance)

Mental Health and Behavior in Schools (advice for schools)

Preventing and Tackling Bullying (advice for schools, including advice on cyberbullying)
Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools (advice for schools)

The Equality and Human Rights Commission Advice and Guidance (provides advice on avoiding discrimination in a variety of educational contexts)

Promoting Fundamental British Values as part of SMSC in schools (guidance for maintained schools on promoting basic important British values as part of pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC)

National PSHE CPD Participant handbook, 2018

Curriculum Design

Our SRE programme is inclusive of all aspect of the statutory requirements

The starting point for delivery for all year groups is an understanding of the protected characteristics and how it related to the Equalities act of 2010 which makes it illegal to discriminate against anyone on grounds of a protected characteristic:

Peer on peer abuse is covered in all year groups looking at gender stereotypes and negative attitudes /behaviours with sexual and criminal exploitation covered in Years 9, 10 and 11.

The subject is delivered over a full term under the following themes

Year 7 Bullying / peer pressure relationships stay safe (1 term)

Year 8 Friendships stay safe getting along with others (10 weeks) puberty/ adolescence (3 weeks)

Year 9 Equality and respecting difference (1 term)

Year 10 Sex and relationships (1 term) street safe (FGM and CCE) ½ term (body image and body care) 3 weeks

Year 11 Relationships and independent living including parenthood (1 term)

Public health data for the Borough of Knowsley is used to inform areas of priorities when delivering this topic for example trends in higher than average teenage pregnancy in the Borough.

SRE is delivered in line with the School behavior for learning and assessment for learning policy.

Learning methods include discussion, quizzes, role play, worksheets and games

To support pupils with different cognition and learning abilities a graduated approach is used with themes being introduced in Year 7 which start from where pupils are at. What pupils already know? What they need to learn, misconceptions, what they have learnt, what they still need to learn in a planned sequenced approach. Consideration in planning and delivery is made to the particular vulnerability of pupils with SEND to exploitation and bullying

Knowledge and understanding is reinforced by revisiting topics in subsequent year groups by building on prior knowledge. Group discussions, lots of visual clues and interactive resources such as quizzes and apps help to make learning engaging.

SRE has been supported by a number of outside agencies in delivering the SRE curriculum these include

The Play Real choices performed for years 9, 10, 11 by essential safeguarding

Year 9 Chelsea's choice sexual exploitation play by essential safeguarding

Year 10/11 play on one condition about Healthy relationships performed by the last minute Theatre company followed by group work sessions

CELLS working with smaller groups to raise awareness of domestic violence / sexual exploitation

Get away and stay safe working with a group of pupils looking at issues to do with Child Criminal and Child sexual exploitation.

Safe and effective practice

A safe learning environment is created by using what pupils know as a starting point and establishing safe ground rules at the start of each lesson. Other effective practices include making no assumptions, listening to others, using the correct terminology and no personal questions.

Distancing techniques such as use of characters and situations in resources such as film clips are used, as is problem page scenarios, question boxes or ask-it baskets. Questions can also be parked if necessary - they don't have to answer straight away

All resources used have been quality assured the School has bought the real love rocks resource pack and PHCE assured resources and should be viewed before being delivered to ensure suitability.

Pupils are signposted to support available both within the School and outside agencies such as child line. Pupils complete a helping hand with source of support and how to access them

Parental engagement

Parents and careers views are sought through an online questionnaire sent by the parent app in the spring term.

A letter is sent to pupils in Year 10 at the start of the summer term to let them know what is being delivered and remind them of their right to withdraw for the sex education aspect of the SRE curriculum. There is no right to withdraw from Relationships Education or Health Education. Parents have the right to request that their child be withdrawn from some or all of sex education until 3 school terms before their 16th birthday.

Before granting any such request, the head teacher will have a discussion with parents and the child .Permission will be granted in all but exceptional circumstances in line with Government guidelines. The school will provide appropriate and purposeful education during the period withdrawal.

A letter outlining the sex and relationships programme is sent to parents at the end of the spring term.

Pupil engagement

Pupil's views are sought at the end of the relationships units where they are invited to reflect on how much they have learnt on a scale of 1 to 5 with a comment on their learning and reflection on their engagement,

Pupils also complete a baseline assessment at the start of the unit of work and a formative assessment at the end to check knowledge and understanding.

Pupils have the opportunity to review and reflect on their learning during lessons

Safeguarding

Effective SRE curriculum raises awareness of safeguarding issues such as consent, FGM, Child sexual exploitation, peer on peer abuse and exploitation online such as grooming and sexting.

In line with safeguarding procedure any disclosures made by pupils during SRE lessons are to be reported to the Schools safeguarding leads and recorded on the Schools CPomms logging system.

RSE policy review date

This policy will next be reviewed by Mr. John Reynolds Leader of the Thriving Curriculum in July 2023 along with input from the Governing body, teaching staff, parents and pupils. This is to ensure that it is in line with current Department for education advice and guidance and continues to meet the needs of our pupils.

A copy of this policy is also available to parents free of charge on request and is on the school website.

COPY OF LETTER TO PARENTS BELOW

Sex Education at Alt Bridge School

DATE

Dear Parent / Guardian / Carer

Next term pupils in Year 10 will began Sex and relationship lessons in PSHCE. Topics will aim to prepare pupils for adulthood by giving them knowledge and information to help pupils to stay safe and make sensible choices. Lesson content will include promoting healthy relationships and will include issues to do with the risks of sex, consent, the Law, contraception and sexting.

Please be assured that lessons will be delivered sensitively by experienced staff that are aware of the learning needs of pupils. Where possible groups will be rearranged to allow lesson delivery with same sex classes.

Under education legislation I must inform you of your right to withdraw your youngsters from the sex education element of the National Curriculum. The relationships and health aspect of the curriculum are compulsory. Please contact the School in writing if you wish to do this.

I would be happy to discuss this important aspect of the curriculum if you would like to contact me at School,

Yours faithfully,

Mr J Reynolds

Leader of the Thriving Curriculum

