

Policy: Relationships and Sex
Education Policy

Approved: June 2015

Review: February 2017

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Committee: Pastoral



Relationships and Sex Education Policy

Sex and RELATIONSHIPS Education Policy

This policy adopts the DfE definition of sex and relationship education (SRE) which describes it as:

“Learning about physical, moral and emotional development; understanding 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 health”.

This draft policy was compiled taking advice from the DfE, the local authority and the PSHEE Association. It takes into account the legal obligations with respect to Sex Education, the aims of the school, the nature of the school community and the ever changing landscape of life in modern Britain: In updating this policy the school felt it was important to reference the governments supplementary advice: SRE for the 21st Century. This was produced in 2014 by Brook, the PSHE Association and the Sex Education Forum. Their aim was to support schools with issues that have arisen since 2000, such as safe use of online technology. There is also advice that we have used on specific issues including teaching about sexual consent, sexting, pornography, sexual exploitation, relationship violence and making SRE inclusive.

Aims and objectives

The sex education and relationship programme is an opportunity for students to:

- Develop an understanding of sex, sexuality, and relationships.
- Develop a range of appropriate personal skills.

The aims will be achieved through the following objectives:

- Develop an understanding of a range of values and moral issues including the importance of family life and effective parenting.
- Develop an understanding of the biological facts related to human growth and development, including reproduction.
- Develop an understanding of the importance of healthy relationships.
- Ensure young people understand how the law applies to sexual relationships
- Link SRE with issues of peer pressure and other risk-taking behaviour, such as drugs, smoking and alcohol.
- Provide young people with information about different types of contraception, safe sex and how they can access local sources of further advice and treatment.

Three elements are evident from these aims and objectives:

1. **Attitudes, values and beliefs:** opportunities for young people to explore values and attitudes and to consider how they are affected by them. This will enable them to clarify their own beliefs and respect others.

2. **Skills and abilities:** the development of communication and personal skills in order for young people to develop and maintain healthy relationships and to make informed choices and decisions regarding their own sexual health and well-being.
3. **Knowledge and understanding:** the provision of straightforward age-appropriate information on body development, sexuality, the law, sexual reproduction, sexual behaviour, health and relationships.

Organisation

Sex education will be delivered predominantly in Science, Marriotts Life Skills lessons and through Theme Days. Sex Education may also arise in other subject areas such as English and Drama if they are relevant to the material being studied. In such cases, discussion will be relatively limited and set within the context of the subject concerned.

Outline - Sex and Relationships Education Programme

Sex and Relationship Education takes place predominantly within Marriotts Life Skills lessons and Theme Days. Tutors generally deliver this programme with support from professionals where appropriate. Form tutors work closely with their tutees over a number of years and we believe that they are usually the best people to work with the students on many of the SRE topics, as they are aware of each student's individual circumstances. The focus of these SRE lessons is on the emotional aspects of development and relationships, although the physical aspects of puberty and reproduction are also included. The Science National Curriculum is delivered by staff in the science department. These lessons are more concerned with the physical aspects of development and reproduction, although the importance of relationships is not forgotten.

Students will consider and reflect upon the following in the respective key stages:

Key Stage 3

Puberty, personal safety, friendship and love, family life and relationships, gender issues, conception and birth, contraception, HIV/AIDS, sexual lifestyles, support agencies, sex and the law.

Key Stage 4

Birth processes, abortion, genetic inheritance, early parenting, sexually transmitted infections including HIV and AIDS, sexual lifestyles, breast and testicular cancer, teenage pregnancy (the avoidance of unplanned pregnancy), marriage and relationships, support agencies, prejudice and stereotyping, attitudes and perspectives in different faiths and cultures.

We are aware that learning about sex and relationships is a life-long process and the transition from secondary school to sixth form or further education can be a very significant time in terms of young people's personal development and relationships. It is therefore very important that SRE continues post-16.

Age 16+

At this age young people are at the legal age of consent and many, but not all, will be in intimate relationships and will be interested to know about the challenges of long-term commitments and the qualities needed for successful loving relationships. They will be interested in what issues can be difficult to talk about in intimate relationships, for example sexual pleasure and contraception and how this can be addressed.

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Parents

We will ensure that parents are aware of the content and timing of Sex Education lessons and of their right to withdraw their child. We recognise that under current legislation schools should enable parents to exercise their right to withdraw their children (until the age of 19) from any school SRE taught outside National Curriculum Science (Education Act 1996). We will ensure a copy of this finalised document is available on the schools website for all parents to view.

Equal opportunities

Marriotts School abides by all equality legislation and fully respects the rights of all pupils and staff members (Equalities Act 2010). We will therefore endeavour to approach the sex and relationship education programme with sensitivity and respect, avoiding any derogatory or prejudicial terms which could cause offense. Lessons will be mixed gender, and single sex groups, according to the content of the programme and the group dynamics.

Bullying

Teachers should refer to the school's anti-bullying policy where a child is bullied as a result of the sex and relationship education programme.

Confidentiality and Safeguarding

SRE plays a very important part in fulfilling the statutory duties all schools have to meet. SRE helps children understand the difference between safe and abusive relationships and equips them with the skills to get help if they need it. We have a legal duty to promote pupil well-being (Education and Inspections Act 2006 Section 38). Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2014a also includes a section about being alert to signs that young girls may be at risk of female genital mutilation (FGM).

Confidentiality within the classroom is an important component of sex and relationship education and teachers will be expected to respect the confidentiality of their pupils as far as is possible. Teachers should, however, alert the Child Protection team about any suspicions of inappropriate behaviour or potential abuse as per the school's child protection policy.

Establishing Ground Rules

Any SRE lesson may consider questions or issues that some students will find sensitive. Before embarking on these lessons ground rules are established which prohibit inappropriate personal information being requested or disclosed by those taking part in the lesson. When students ask questions, we aim to answer them honestly, within the ground rules established at the start of the sessions. When it is felt that answering a specific question would involve information at a level inappropriate to the development of the rest of the students, the question may be dealt with individually at another time.

Advice given to Students

Teachers will not give advice on contraception to students under the age of 16. If approached by a student for specific advice on contraception or other aspects of sexual behaviour, a teacher should encourage the pupil to seek advice from his or her parents and from the relevant health service professional. Where the circumstances are such as to lead the teacher to believe that the student has embarked upon, or is contemplating, a course of conduct which is likely to place him or her at physical or moral risk, or in breach of the law, the teacher will urge the student to seek advice and will inform the Assistant Head Teacher, Pastoral

If a teacher suspects that a student has been abused, he or she will inform the Child Protection Team at the earliest possible opportunity.

Monitoring and review

The sex and relationship education programme will be monitored and reviewed on an annual basis by the Assistant Head Teacher, Pastoral.