



## **Sex and Relationships Policy** **Eastcombe Primary School**

This policy is set by the Governing Body. The curriculum leader for Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) and the Headteacher are responsible for ensuring that the policy is followed.

### **DEFINITION OF SRE**

SRE is defined as *“lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development; love and care; and 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. It’s three main elements are: attitudes and values; personal and social skills; knowledge and understanding.”* (DFEE Sex and Relationship Guidance, 2000, p5)

### **AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF SRE**

The DfES ‘Sex and Relationship Guidance’ (2000) recommends that *“Effective sex and relationship education is essential if young people are to make responsible and well informed decisions about their lives.”*

The SRE programme at Eastcombe Primary School reflects the school’s ethos and our commitment to developing confident pupils who will grow into responsible citizens. It demonstrates and encourages the following values:

- Respect for self
- Respect, love and care for others
- Responsibility for their own actions
- Responsibility for their family, friends, schools and wider community

Our aims and values are in line with the SRE Guidance (2000) which states, *“as part of sex and relationship education, children and young people should be taught about the nature and importance of marriage for family life and bringing up children.”*

### **EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES**

The school is committed to the provision of SRE to all of its pupils. Our programme aims to respond to the diversity of children’s cultures, faiths and family backgrounds. Equal time and provision will be allocated for all groups but there may be occasions where pupils with Special Educational Needs are given extra support from SEND staff.

### **CONTENT OF SRE**

SRE is not delivered in isolation but embedded in all curriculum areas, including Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE). Our main content is delivered in PSHE lessons in the summer term to all years. The topics to be included in SRE are taken from the Gloucestershire PSHE Scheme, alongside the Channel 4 All about us, Living and Growing programme which is followed by the whole school. This ensures both progression and continuity. Each class is taught an SRE unit of work every year.

Topics covered across the key stages are:

- How my body works and changes
- Maintaining personal hygiene
- Changing emotions and responsibilities
- Healthy lifestyles

## ORGANISATION

The PHSE leader monitors the planning and delivery of SRE throughout the school. SRE is normally taught by class teachers in mixed gender groups other than when it is deemed more appropriate for topics to be covered in single sex groups. Within any teaching in single sex groups, issues relating to both genders will be discussed. Active learning methods which involve children's full participation are used.

Occasionally, appropriate and suitably experienced and/or knowledgeable visitors from outside school may be invited to contribute to the delivery of SRE in school. Eastcombe Primary School has a code of practice for using visitors to support the delivery of PSHE:

- Visitors are invited in to school because of the particular expertise or contribution they are able to make
- All visitors are familiar with and understand the school's SRE policy and work within it
- All input to PSHE lessons are part of a planned programme and negotiated and agreed with staff in advance
- All visitors are supervised and supported by a member of staff at all times; a staff member is present whenever a visitor is working with children
- The input of visitors is monitored and evaluated by staff and pupils; this evaluation informs future planning

Elements of the sex education in the science curriculum are assessed in line with current national assessment requirements. Evaluation of the SRE programme outside the science order is conducted using a variety of informal activities which have been built into the school's PHSE Scheme.

Liaison procedures are already in place with the main secondary schools in the area. Discussions on SRE are included. The school believes in the importance of training for staff delivering SRE. Staff are encouraged to access appropriate training and support to help them deliver effective SRE.

## SPECIFIC ISSUES WITHIN SRE

**GIVING INFORMATION TO PARENTS:** Overview information regarding the content of the SRE programme will be included in the plans for the term that are sent home to parents. In addition, a specific letter will be sent to parents one to two weeks before the teaching programme, giving parents more details and inviting them to come into school to see the teaching materials that are to be used.

**WITHDRAWAL:** Parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the sex and relationships education provided at school except for those parts included in statutory National Curriculum. Those parents wishing to exercise this right are invited in to see the Headteacher who will explore any concerns and discuss any impact that withdrawal may have on the child. Once a child has been withdrawn they cannot take part in the SRE programme until the request for withdrawal has been removed.

Materials are available to parents who wish to supplement the school SRE programme or who wish to discuss SRE with their children at home.

**CONFIDENTIALITY:** As a general rule a child's confidentiality is maintained by the teacher or member of staff concerned. If this person believes that the child is at risk or in danger, she/he must talk to the Headteacher, who is the named DSL. The school's Confidentiality policy will be followed.

**CHILD PROTECTION:** The school has a separate Child Protection Policy. Effective SRE may bring about disclosures of child protection issues and staff are aware of the procedures for reporting their concerns.

**CONTROVERSIAL AND SENSITIVE ISSUES:** Staff are aware that views around SRE related issues are varied. However, while personal views are respected, all SRE issues are taught without bias. Topics are presented using a variety of views and beliefs so that pupils are able to form their own informed opinions but also respect others that may have different opinions.

**DEALING WITH QUESTIONS:** Both formal and informal SRE arising from pupils' questions are answered according to the age and maturity of the pupil concerned. Questions do not have to be answered directly, and may be addressed individually later. The school believes that individual teachers must use their skill and discretion in this area and refer to the PSHE leader or Child Protection coordinator if they are concerned.

#### SEXUAL IDENTITY AND SEXUAL ORIENTATION

The school answers children's questions about sexual orientation in an honest way appropriate to the age and understanding of the child. Homophobic name calling is unacceptable and will be dealt with very seriously.

#### COMMUNICATION

All staff members and governors receive a copy of the SRE policy. Training is delivered to staff on the policy content. The policy is available on the school website or from the school office on request.

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