

Primary School Sex & Relationships Policy

Introduction

Name of school: Colkirk CE VA Primary, Sculthorpe CE VA Primary, West Raynham CE VA Primary

Date of Policy: Reviewed August 2017

Member(s) of staff

Responsible: Mr C Allen

Review Date: Every Two Years

Background Information

The Unity Federation is a federation of three church academies that are based in rural Norfolk. They are well below the average school size compared to national figures (average school is 200). They take children from aged four to eleven. The classes in each of the schools are mixed aged, with children of different year groups being taught in the same class. The schools share one Executive Headteacher, and work in partnership with each other throughout many aspects of school life.

This policy was developed by the federation through a variety of consultation. All views were taken into account, including advice and guidance from Norfolk County Council and the Diocese of Norwich when developing this policy and the Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) programme.

Policy Statement

SRE is lifelong learning process of acquiring information, developing skills and forming positive beliefs and attitudes about sex, sexuality, relationships and feelings (Sex Education Forum 1999).

Effective SRE can make a significant contribution to the development of the personal skills needed by pupils if they are to establish and maintain relationships. It also enables young people to make responsible and informed decisions about their health and well-being.

The 1996 Education Act consolidates all relevant previous legislation and states that all primary schools must provide an up to date policy that describes the content and organisation of SRE provided outside the National Curriculum Science Order. The DfEE Sex and Relationship Education Guidance (2000) supports this legislation and recommends that all primary schools should have a sex and relationship education programme tailored to the age and physical and emotional maturity of the children.

Other related policies and documents include the PSHE & Citizenship Policy, Anti-Bullying Policy, Drug Education Policy, Safeguarding including Child Protection Policy and the Single Equality Scheme.

Aims and Objectives

This policy is a working document which provides guidance and information on all aspects of SRE in the school for staff, parents/carers and governors. To be accessible to all of these groups the document needs to be available on request and presented in a way that is easy to understand.

Moral and Values Framework

The SRE programme for the Unity Federation of Church Schools reflects the school ethos and the Christian foundation of each school. This vision demonstrates and encourages the following values:

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

Equal Opportunities Statement

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 SEN staff.

Content

In key stage 1 pupils learn to recognise similarities and differences between themselves and others, identify and share their feelings with each other, recognise safe and unsafe situations and identify and be able to talk to someone they trust.

In key stage 2 pupils learn to express their opinions about relationships and bullying and to listen to and support others, including respecting other people's viewpoints and beliefs. They learn to recognise their own worth and identify positive things about themselves and try to balance the stresses in life in order to promote their own mental health and well-being of others. Life processes are discussed including the physical changes that take place at puberty, why they happen and how to manage them.

Materials used have been decided on by staff, in conjunction with advice from the School Nurse and Norfolk County Council. Age and cultural backgrounds of the pupils were regarded in relation to images used. The range of material used is available to parents/carers and informative books are available to children in the library. The primary resource being used is BBC Education's Growing Series.

SRE will cover both male, female and trans gender information, it will also explore sexuality where appropriate. This will all be established within the key principle of loving and caring relationships.

Organisation

SRE should not be delivered in isolation but firmly embedded in all curriculum areas, including Personal, Social Health Education (PSHE) and citizenship. The Unity Federation SRE programme's *main* content is delivered in PSHE and topic lessons to all years. However with a clear focus on relationships, safety and the facts of life (upper KS2 only).

SRE is normally delivered by class teachers in mixed gender groups other than when it is deemed more appropriate for topics to be covered in single sex groups. Single sex groupings occur when the children undertake sex education and information relating to puberty. 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. The Unity Federation 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/supported by a member of staff at all times; A copy of their DBS check would be held in the school office.
- 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 formally.

Evaluation of the SRE programme outside the science order is conducted using a variety of informal activities which have been built into the programme. Teachers are required to keep their own personal evaluation of each lesson which is used to inform future planning.

The Unity Federation 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

Withdrawal

Parents/Carers 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/carers 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/carers who wish to supplement the school SRE programme or who wish to deliver SRE to 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 talks to the named child protection coordinator who may confer with the headteacher before any decision is made.

The child concerned will be informed that confidentiality is being breached and reasons why. The child will be supported by the teacher throughout the process. The Safeguarding Policy will then be enforced and followed.

Child Protection & safeguarding

The school has a separate Safeguarding including Child Protection Policy. Effective SRE may bring about disclosures of child protection issues and staff should be aware of the procedures for reporting their concerns. Staff delivering SRE will not place themselves or answer questions that may compromise their own safety and children will be made aware from the outset that certain

types of questions to staff relating to SRE are not appropriate (e.g. personal questions or opinions).

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 can be addressed individually later. The school believes that individual teachers must use their skill and discretion in this area and refer to the Child Protection Coordinator if they are concerned. Staff will not answer any personal questions related to themselves or their own experiences.

Parents will be informed when SRE is taking place and that they have a duty to answer questions and discuss SRE learning with their child at home.

Sexual Identity and Sexual Orientation

The Unity Federation believes that SRE should meet the needs of all pupils regardless of their developing sexuality and be able to deal honestly and sensitively with sexual orientation, answer appropriate questions and offer support. Homophobic bullying is dealt with strongly yet sensitively. The school liaises with parents on this issue to reassure them of the content and context.

Dissemination

All staff members and governors receive a copy of the SRE policy. The policy is also available to download on the federation website. Training is regularly delivered to staff on the policy content. Several copies are available from the school office on request from parents.

This Policy is to be reviewed once every two years unless updates are required sooner.



Policy Ratified by Governors:

Chair of Governors (30.8.17)

Date	Reviewed	Any Changes
2014	Early review due to Unity Federation established on 1.1.14.	Addition of Colkirk CE VA Primary to policy
2017	July 2017 by C Allen	Added transgender and same sex relationships will be explored through the key principle of loving and caring relationships.

2019		
2021		
2023		