



Quinton Sex & Relationships Policy

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 program tailored to the age and physical and emotional maturity of the children.

Morals and values framework

The SRE programme at Quinton reflects the Christian ethos of the school and demonstrates and encourages the following values;

- Respect for self
- Respect for others
- Responsibility for their own actions
- Responsibility for their family, friends, school and the 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 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. Children will be taught what is and what is not legal in regard to sexual relationships at an age appropriate level, and that in England, Scotland and Wales the age of legal consent for sexual intercourse is 16 years old.

SRE is normally delivered by class teachers in mixed gender groups. Occasionally, appropriate and suitably experienced and/or knowledgeable visitors from outside school may be invited to contribute to the delivery of SRE in school. Quinton 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;

The input of visitors is monitored and evaluated by staff and pupils. This evaluation informs future planning.

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.

Confidentiality

As a general rule a child's confidentiality is maintained by the teacher or member of staff concerned. However staff must not promise absolute confidentiality as work relating to SRE may give rise to disclosures about possible sexual abuse. In these cases staff will follow the child protection policy.

Child Protection

The school has a separate 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.

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 within the framework of Christian values. Pupils are made aware of a variety of views and beliefs so that they are able to form their own, informed opinions but also

understand that others 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.

Sexual Identity and Sexual Orientation

Quinton 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.