



**Wilberforce Primary**

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# **Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) Policy**

Governor Ratification: October 2019

Next Review: October 2020

Headteacher: Mrs C Macfie

## **WILBERFORCE PRIMARY**

### **SEX AND RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION POLICY**

#### **Scope**

The Governing Body is responsible for establishing and maintaining this Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) policy and for ensuring that it is followed. The Governing Body delegates authority to the Headteacher, to administer the SRE policy on its behalf and ensure that it is adhered to at Wilberforce Primary.

The policy applies to the Headteacher and to all staff employed by the school. This policy should be read in conjunction with our Equal Opportunities, Health and Safety and Safeguarding Policies.

#### **Principles**

Sex and relationships education is lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of loving and caring relationships. It is about the teaching of sex, sexuality and sexual health. Research demonstrates that good, comprehensive sex and relationship education does not make young people more likely to become sexually active at a younger age.

The underlying principles of the SRE Policy are to:

- a) Enable pupils to understand the biological aspects of reproduction
- b) Prepare pupils for puberty and adulthood and develop skills for a healthier and safer lifestyle
- c) Allow pupils to understand their own sexual feelings in an open and supportive environment, so that they can go on to lead fulfilling and happy lives
- d) Make pupils aware of the range of sexual attitudes and behaviour in society and recognise the importance of personal choice in managing relationships so that they do not represent risks to health, personal safety and emotional wellbeing
- e) Allow pupils to discuss and critically analyse moral values and explore those held by different cultures and groups within society
- f) Enable pupils to respect and care for their bodies and to understand the concept of stereotyping and discuss issues such as sexual harassment in terms of their effects on individuals

The SRE programme at Wilberforce Primary is a sensitive and responsible one, which allows pupils to explore questions from scientific, personal and moral perspectives, at an age appropriate level. In addition, SRE will promote self-esteem and emotional health and wellbeing and help them form and maintain worthwhile and satisfying relationships, based on respect for themselves and for others, at home, school, work and in the community.

Wilberforce Primary recognises the important role parents play in educating children about matters relating to sex and relationships. The SRE programme at Wilberforce Primary will meet the statutory requirements for provision, which are outlined in the 1988 Education Reform Act. This states that all pupils should be offered the opportunity of receiving a comprehensive,

well-planned programme of sex education during their school careers through a curriculum that:

- a) "promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at school and of society"
- b) "prepares such pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life."

### **Delivery**

Sex education is delivered by class teachers as part of the personal, social, health, citizenship and emotional (PHSE) programme of study and also in science lessons covering reproduction. The School Nursing Team will also deliver some aspects of SRE.

Sex and relationship education is usually delivered in mixed gender groups, however, there may be occasions where single gender groups are more appropriate and relevant.

### **Staff training**

All staff involved in the delivery of SRE will be trained in:

- a) The legislation applying to the delivery of SRE
- b) Dealing with sensitive and controversial situations in the classroom
- c) Child Protection Issues (regarding information that pupils may reveal as part of or after a lesson, and indicators of inappropriate sexual behaviour/attitudes)

### **Parental right to withdraw pupils from SRE**

Section 241 of the Education Act 1993 gives parents the right to withdraw their children from any or all parts of the school's programme of sex education, other than those elements that are required by the National Curriculum Science Order.

Under exceptional circumstances, the small number of parents who wish to exclude their children from this programme should write to the Headteacher, stating their objections.

The school will inform parents and carers when aspects of the SRE programme are taught and will provide opportunities for parents to view the resources being used.

### **Giving advice to individual pupils**

It is important to distinguish between the school's function of providing sex and relationships education generally, and the giving of advice to individual pupils on these questions. Good teachers will always take a pastoral interest in the welfare and wellbeing of their pupils. It is also important to recognise that this function should never trespass on the proper exercise of parental rights and responsibilities.

If a teacher believes that a pupil has embarked on, or is contemplating, a course of conduct that is likely to pose any risk to their physical or emotional health and/or wellbeing, then the teacher has the responsibility to:



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- a) Inform the pupil at the start of any discussion that they cannot keep information confidential if they suspect a pupil is at risk
- b) Ensure that the pupil is aware of the implications of their behaviour
- c) Communicate any information about the potential risk to the school's Designated Safeguarding Leader