

Weston Park Primary School



Relationships & Sex Education Policy

Date of last review: January 2016

Date of next review: January 2018

RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION POLICY

Introduction

This policy is an agreed School Statement of the values, principles and aims of the relationships and sex education programme, which is an essential element of the planned broad, balanced school curriculum, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to develop:

- Socially, emotionally, intellectually, spiritually, morally, culturally and physically
- Positive attitudes, self-image, relationships and essential life skills
- The ability to make informed choices, gaining experiences and developing responsibilities for their future

Rationale

At Weston Park Primary School we believe that everyone's physical, moral, cultural, spiritual and intellectual developments are all influenced by the individuals own feelings towards themselves and their relationships with others. Sexuality is an integral part of everyone's personality of what they are physically, what they feel emotionally and how others perceive them in terms of gender and expectations. Our Relationships and Sex Education programme is planned to provide opportunities for the children to develop an understanding of their own and others sexuality and to develop skills that promote and maintain positive relationships.

Principles

Our Relationships and Sex Education is planned as part of the School's Personal, Social, and Health Education programme to reflect the ages and needs of the pupils and to ensure that every pupil will receive equal, appropriate access.

At Weston Park Primary School, we believe that a 'shared' understanding of approach amongst Governors, Staff, Parents and Pupils is essential with the following guiding principles:

- The foundation for sex education is in the development of making safe choices, self-esteem and healthy relationships with others.
- School sex education complements and supports the role of parents. Home/School partnerships should always be encouraged to ensure that sex education is a shared responsibility.
- Sex education is a lifelong process. Pupils will benefit from appropriate sex education from the beginning of their schooling in order to build foundations for sexual health from an early age.
- Sex education will be presented in a sensitive, objective and balanced manner, acknowledging that pupils come from backgrounds that reflect differing values, cultures religious beliefs and experiences.
- All pupils will be offered sex education in order to learn about their development in relation to others. However, parents have a right to withdraw their child from these lessons.

Aims

As part of our PSHE, our relationships and sex education element aims to:

- Provide a structure and climate within the school in which each pupil can move towards a positive self-image with a developing sense of responsibility for themselves and others.
- Help pupils acquire:
 - Sufficient and appropriate knowledge and understanding
 - Positive attitudes and values
 - Personal skills
- To reach their physical, social, sexual and moral potential
 - Provide an appropriate and accurate language with which to talk about themselves growing and changing.
 - Combat ignorance, anxiety and misinformation and to educate against discrimination and prejudice
 - Encourage pupils to develop positive attitudes towards all body functions, personal hygiene and related health issues
 - Reassure pupils of their value and self-worth as well as encouraging pupils to respect and value others
 - Generate an atmosphere where pupils can learn about and discuss sexual matters without embarrassment
 - Help pupils understand that they have rights and should have control over who touches their body and develop the ability to make informed choices, decisions, regardless of conflict and pressure.

Content

The Sex and Relationships Education curriculum will provide information which is easy to understand, relevant and appropriate to the age and maturity of the children. The curriculum will promote the exploration and clarification of values and attitudes. Relationships education will be taught annually during the late summer term and in topics, which will be developed from year to year in greater depth.

Guidelines

- Relationships and Sex Education is part of a whole school approach, which should be planned and progressive within the health education of each child throughout their primary years.
- Acknowledgement should be made of the children's different starting points.
- The work should be integrated within the curriculum and be mainly undertaken by the class teachers in conjunction with appropriate external agencies where applicable (e.g. school nurse team).
- The views of parents and governors will always be considered.
- Ground rules for Relationships and Sex Education will be developed with the whole class each year, referred to regularly and the pupils encouraged to do so. This will need to include agreement as a class not to ask personal questions.
- Staff will use distancing techniques such as anonymous questions, case studies and problem pages to help pupils avoid personalising issues.
- Adults leading sessions should admit if they do not know the answer and find out the answer later.
- If a child's question seems inappropriate agree to discuss it with the child individually later, rather than with the whole class.

Working with Parents

Under the Education Act 1993, children may be withdrawn by their parents, from parts of the Relationships and Sex Education programme that are outside compulsory elements of the National Curriculum. Parents wishing to exercise this right should contact the Head teacher to discuss the aspects of the programme causing concern. Weston Park Primary School wishes to promote a partnership approach between home and School so that every child has the most optimum opportunity for personal growth, development and success. Fostering a 'supportive' environment that helps children cope with physical and emotional changes of growing up is crucial to Sex and Relationships Education.

Parental support and involvement is encouraged by:

- Informing parents of the Relationships and Sex Education Policy (via the school prospectus); policy and programme details are also available on our school website.
- Disseminating information about the School's Relationships and Sex Education Programme and related Curriculum Units (Prospectus, Long Term Curriculum Plans, Class Topic Information Sheet etc).
- Inviting parents into school for sessions with professional agencies that relate to Relationships and Sex Education Programme.
- Staff and Governors being sensitive to the needs of all parents and pupils especially those from religious/cultural groups, who may not feel comfortable with aspects of the sex education curriculum.
- Relationships education resources, including any DVD's to be shown to children, will be available to parents who wish to see them. A letter will be sent to parents each year informing them of the content of the sessions for their child.

Complaints

If you have any cause for concern about the Relationships and Sex Education Policy, please come into School to resolve the problem as soon as possible with the Class Teacher initially and if necessary the Headteacher. In the unlikely event that the concern cannot be dealt with, the complaints policy should be followed.

Monitoring and review

The Head Teacher and School Staff will work alongside the Governors in all decision-making regarding the Relationships and Sex Education referring to DfE guidelines. Topics will be reviewed through short-term plans and termly through long term plans.