Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) Policy

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Committee responsible: Curriculum Committee

Date of last review: May 2019
Date of next review: May 2020
Approved on 15 May 2019

Sarah Phillips  Headteacher
John Brady   Chair of committee
Governors’ Statement on Sex and Relationship Education

Sex and Relationship Education is an integral part of our Personal Social and Health Education programme. We believe that sex and relationship education is an ongoing process, which should start in the home and continue at school. This process should happen in partnership with parents. A positive effort has been and will continue to be made to inform and involve parents. Subsequent changes or updates to this policy will be published on the website and parents invited to comment.

The school’s programme of sex and relationship education is embedded within the school’s PSHE curriculum and helps children to respect themselves and others. The programme is tailored to the age and the physical and emotional maturity of the children and is delivered by the school staff and invited professionals.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of any sex education provided, but not from the biological aspects of life cycles, human growth and development or life processes of reproduction provided within the National Curriculum Science programme.

Definition
Sex and Relationship education is lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of stable and loving relationships, family life, respect, love and care. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality and sexual health.

Rationale
At Loddon Primary School we believe that Personal Social and Health Education (PSHE) and Citizenship education help to give pupils the knowledge, skills and understanding they need to lead confident, healthy, independent lives and to become informed, active and responsible citizens. Sex and Relationship Education is an integral part of PSHE. It is an intrinsic part of the physical, intellectual and emotional growth of an individual.

Aims
• To provide a secure, sensitive and caring framework where learning and discussion can take place
• To provide information which is easy to understand, relevant and appropriate for the needs, age and maturity of the pupils
• To encourage the use of correct vocabulary
• To foster self-worth and awareness, together with a sense of moral responsibility
• To help the children to acquire and practice important life skills such as critical thinking, decision making, communication and assertiveness
• To ensure that sex education is available to all children regardless of gender, ability, cultural or religious background in line with the school’s policy on equal opportunities.

Provision
Sex and Relationship teaching will be delivered as part of our provision for Science and for PSHE. Material used will be from a variety of sources as appropriate but will be based around Jigsaw PSHE Scheme of Work. SRE will be taught mainly in the summer term in the Changing Me unit.
Resources and expertise from appropriate outside agencies may be utilised alongside teaching staff within the framework of this policy.

Discussion will be encouraged at all times. Ground rules for discussion excluding personal questioning of staff or pupils will be established.

We shall attempt to deal with questions in a sensitive, open, frank and matter of fact way. Questions concerning sexuality, sexually transmitted diseases and contraception will be answered if raised.

Difficult or explicit questions do not have to be answered directly. Teachers will use their own discretion in these situations and may seek the support of parents in responding to a child’s questions at home. Most groups will be mixed age and gender but if felt more appropriate, single sex or age groups may be formed if required by the scheme.

Assessment, Reporting and Recording
Note will be taken of individual responses to SRE units of study and included in assessment of progress in personal and social development.

Equal opportunities
Pupils will have the opportunity to participate in SRE. However, parents have the right to withdraw their children from some or all of the curriculum if the school is notified in writing. The school’s normal practice will be to invite parents to meet with the head teacher or their representative for a discussion.

Child Protection
All staff have an awareness of child protection procedures.

Staff Support and Development
It is appreciated that some staff may feel less comfortable with this area of the curriculum. All staff will be supported with appropriate training and support and if preferred, alternative staff or visiting professionals may be asked to deliver the curriculum.

Governing Body
We have a governor responsible for monitoring PSHE, which includes SRE.

Monitoring and Evaluation
The PSHE subject Leader will monitor coverage and the effectiveness of this policy within the framework of the school monitoring timetable. The designated governor will monitor the subject through their annual visit to the school. This policy will be reviewed annually.