



## **Oveston CEVC Primary School Policy for Sex and Relationship Education**

Oveston CEVC Primary School implements Sex and Relationship Education through the title of 'Healthy Relationships and Lifestyles.' As a Church of England Primary School we set our SRE teaching and learning within a context which is consistent with the school's Christian ethos and values.

### **Rationale:**

Children start to learn about relationships, gender and sexuality long before they begin primary school. As soon as they are born they begin to learn about relationships through the experience of interacting with the significant people in their lives such as parents, carers, siblings, grandparents. Some of these experiences will be positive, some negative. Teachers and families must not shy away from these topics. By not talking openly and honestly, they will be sending mixed messages. Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) is defined within Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) and Citizenship. Oveston Primary keeps parents fully informed of the SRE programme within our school, giving them the opportunity to discuss content and make decisions about their child's participation.

### **School statement**

SRE is lifelong learning about sex, sexuality, emotions, relationships and sexual health. It involves acquiring information, developing skills and forming positive beliefs, values and attitudes. SRE has a key part to play in the personal, social, moral and spiritual development of young people. It begins informally in the home with parents and carers long before any formal education takes place at school. Young people's entitlement to SRE is enshrined in the terms of the Education Act (1996).

Sensitivity and respect should be shown to all children when teaching about relationships and sex education and SRE is taught ensuring that no child's family circumstances or personal values are criticised or devalued.

### **Guiding Principles**

We teach SRE in the context of the school's vision and values framework. While sex education in our school means that we give children information about sexual behaviour, we do this with an awareness of the moral code and Christian values which underpin all our work in school. In particular, we teach SRE in the belief that:

- Sex education includes learning about physical and emotional development
- Sex education is part of a wider social, personal, spiritual and moral education process
- Children should learn about the significance of marriage, long term committed relationships and families as key building blocks of community and society
- Children should be taught to have respect for their own and other people's bodies

- Children will be taught the cultural and religious differences about matters of sexuality
- Children should learn that some people choose not to engage in sexual activity and that this should be respected and valued.

## **Aims**

The following aims compliment those of the Science curriculum, (Key Stage 1 – 1b, 2a, 2f, 4a, Key Stage 2 – 1a, 2f).

- to have the confidence and self esteem to value themselves and others
- to understand about the range of relationships, including the importance of family for the care and support of children
- to develop confidence in talking, listening and thinking about feelings and relationships
- to be able to name parts of the body and describe how their bodies work
- to be prepared for puberty and understand the physical development of their body as they grow into adults
- to understand the consequences of their actions and behave responsibly within relationships
- to be able to recognise unsafe situations and be able to protect themselves and ask for help and support
- to understand the role the media plays in forming attitudes
- to respect the views of other people
- to know what to do if they are worried about any sexual matters

## **Content & Organisation**

The school aims to provide a programme of Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) in line with the Personal Social Health Citizenship Education (PSHCE) scheme of work. Our ‘spiral curriculum’ ensures that knowledge about healthy relationships and lifestyles is developed slowly and builds on previous learning.

Every year the school holds a meeting for parents/carers in Key Stage 2. This meeting ensures parents/carers are fully informed about the content of our SRE curriculum and that any questions are answered. There is also an opportunity to view the video clips that will be shown in Year 5 and Year 6. A Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 parents/carers leaflet is available on our website and a paper copy can be requested from the school office.

In Years 5 and 6 we place particular emphasis on health education, as many children experience the onset of puberty at this age. Teachers do their best to answer questions with sensitivity and care. By the end of Key Stage 2 we ensure that both boys and girls know how babies are born, how their bodies change during puberty, what menstruation is.

## **The role of the Head Teacher**

It is the role of the Head Teacher to ensure that both staff and parents/carers are informed about the SRE policy and that the policy is implemented effectively. It is also the Head

Teacher's responsibility to ensure that all staff are given sufficient training so that they can teach effectively and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity.

The Head Teacher liaises with external agencies regarding the schools SRE programme and ensures that all adults who work with children in this area of the curriculum are aware of the school policy and that they work within this framework.

The Head Teacher monitors this policy on a regular basis and reports to governors, on the effectiveness of this policy, when it is reviewed.

### **The Role of Parents/Carers**

The school is well aware that the primary role in children's sex education lies with the parents and carers. We wish to build a positive and supportive relationship with the parents/carers of our school through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation. In promoting this objective we:

- Inform parents/carers about the school's SRE policy and practice
- Answer any questions that parents/carers may have about the sex education of their child
- Take seriously any issue that parents/carers raise with teachers or governors about this policy and the arrangements of SRE in the school
- Inform parents about the teaching of SRE in school so that the parents/carers and school can work together to support the child with regard to SRE

Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their child from all or part of the SRE programme that we teach in our school. In this instance, children will receive only the biological information about SRE as part of the statutory Science National Curriculum. If a parent/carer wishes their child to be withdrawn from SRE lessons they should discuss this with the Head Teacher, and make it clear which aspects of the programme they do not wish their child to take part in. The school always complies with the wishes of parents/carers in this regard.

Children whose parents/carers choose to withdraw them from SRE will be transferred to an alternative class during these lessons.

### **Confidentiality**

Teachers conduct sex education lessons in a sensitive manner and in confidence. However, if a child makes a reference to being involved, or being likely to be involved in sexual activity, then the teacher will take the matter seriously and deal with it as a matter of child protection. Teachers will respond in a similar way if a child indicates they have been a victim of abuse. In these circumstances the teacher will follow the Child Protection Policy of the school.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies:

- Single Equality
- Equal Opportunities
- Child Protection
- Teaching and Learning

Ratified by Full Governing Body: November 2010

Date for review: November 2012