



The Ark Federation, part of St. Christopher's Multi Academy Trust Sex and Relationships Education Policy

This policy was adopted by the Teaching & Learning Committee of the Ark Federation Governing Body at the meeting on 29 January 2014.

It was reviewed on January 25th 2017 and approved at the Local Governing Body meeting on February 8th 2017

Signed.....
(Mrs Gill McMenemy, chair of Teaching and Learning committee)

Context

The Ark Federation, part of St. Christopher's Multi Academy Trust, consists of All Saints Church of England Primary School and Beer Church of England Primary School. Both schools cater for both boys and girls aged 4 -11. Both schools have approximately 100 pupils on roll and in every year there are a few children identified with special educational needs. Both schools cover rural residential areas and have pupils who travel from other local villages and towns this in turn means there is a wide social mix and varied family backgrounds.

Policy Formation and Consultation Process

The Policy has been agreed by Governors and staff, and approved by the Governing Body. The following issues were considered:

- Aims of the Sex and Relationships Education programme
- The moral and values framework
- The content of the Sex and Relationships Education programme
- The delivery of the programme
- Resources
- Ideas for involving parents / carers
- Teaching and learning styles
- The use of visitors to enhance the programme
- Child Protection
- The withdrawal of children
- The monitoring and review of the programme

This policy takes full account of the school's legal obligations and the latest DfES guidance 'Sex and Relationships Education Guidance' (DfES 2000).

Our schools aim to provide a stimulating and caring environment, in which each child experiences high standards of education and preparation for the future, working in partnership with parents and the local community. We wish to ensure that all children are valued, and that we have robust and sensible policies and procedures in place to protect all children, and support those in specific need.

Aims of the Sex and Relationships Education programme

The Personal, Social and Health and the Citizenship curriculum will:

- Provide children with knowledge of loving relationship and of human reproductive processes
- Reassure children of their values and self worth including aspects of dignity, self respect and self restraint
- Nurture a responsible attitude towards personal relationships including aspects of mutual respect and care, as well as developing a sensitivity towards the needs of others encompassing fidelity and loyalty
- Inform children on matters of personal hygiene and related health issues
- Encourage exploration of values and moral issues, taking into account physical and moral risks associated with certain behaviour
- Educate against discrimination and prejudice
- Empower children to make informed choices about sex

Sex and Relationships Education in this school will be progressive in that children will learn more detail in each successive year group.

The term Sex and Relationships Education is used in this policy rather than Sex Education. This is to stress that our approach goes beyond provision of biological information to also focus on clarifying attitudes and values, and developing self esteem and the skills to manage relationships.

Morals and values framework and ethos of the school statement

The Sex and Relationships Education programme will reflect the school's overarching aims and supportive school ethos, where all are valued and encouraged, positive relationships are seen as important and there is a safe and secure school environment which is conducive to learning.

All are encouraged to promote the following values:

- Respect for self
- Respect for others
- Responsibility for their own actions
- Responsibility to their family, friends, school and wider community

Equal opportunities statement

In support of the Equal Opportunity Policy, all Arc Federation pupils, regardless of age, sex, race or disability has the same opportunities to benefit from sex education resources and teaching methods..

The needs of boys as well as girls

Girls tend to have greater access to Sex and Relationships Education than boys, both through the media (particularly magazines) and the home. We will consider the particular needs of boys, as well as girls, and approaches that will actively engage them. We shall also be proactive in combating sexism and sexist bullying.

Ethnic and cultural diversity

Different ethnic and cultural groups may have different attitudes to Sex and Relationships Education. The school will consult children and parents/carers about their needs, take account of their views and promote respect for, and understanding of, the views of different ethnic and cultural groups.

Varying home backgrounds

We recognise that our children may come from a variety of family situations and home backgrounds. We shall take care to ensure that there is no stigmatisation of children based on their home circumstances.

Sexuality

Our approach to SRE will include sensitive, honest and balanced consideration of sexuality. We shall address homophobic bullying.

Special Educational Needs

We shall take account of the fact that some children may have learning, emotional or behavioural difficulties or physical disabilities that result in particular Sex and Relationships Education needs.

Curriculum Content

The DfES recommends that all primary schools have a Sex and Relationships Education programme tailored to the age and the physical and emotional maturity of the children. It should ensure that both boys and girls know about puberty and how a baby is born. In the early years, education about relationships should focus on friendship, bullying and the building of self-esteem.

Our Sex and Relationships Education programme will ensure that children:

- develop confidence in talking, listening and thinking about feelings and relationships
- are able to name parts of the body and describe how their bodies work
- can protect themselves and ask for help and support
- are prepared for puberty

Topics and themes will be revisited each year taking account of the children's development and needs. This has been developed in conjunction with the current curriculum for Sex and Relationships Education, PSHE and Citizenship and the Science curriculum.

Within the Ark Federation Sex and Relationships Education is delivered within a whole school approach which includes:

- Discrete curriculum time
- Teaching Sex and Relationships Education through and in other subjects/curriculum areas, e.g. RE
- Teaching elements of the Sex and Relationships Education curriculum through the statutory Science KS1 and KS2 curriculum
- Through planned visits from the School nurse, parents/carers and appropriate outside speakers
- Occasionally through assembly time
- Through pastoral care and guidance, including circle time and story time
- PE which covers keeping healthy and personal hygiene

Consideration will also be given to appropriate teaching methods [i.e. one-to one, small group, whole class].

Specific issues: -

Ground Rules

Teachers will be careful to ensure that their personal beliefs and attitudes do not influence the teaching of Sex and Relationships Education. Ground rules are established in every class in order to provide a common values framework within which to teach.

- Children will be given preparation so that they will know how to minimise any embarrassment they feel.
- Children will be encouraged to use the correct names for body parts.

Answering difficult questions

Sometimes an individual child will ask an explicit or difficult question in the classroom. All questions will be answered; however, questions do not have to be answered directly and can be addressed later. This federation believes that individual teachers must use their skill and discretion in these situations.

Child Protection

Children occasionally make personal disclosures, either in class or to individual teachers. The federation policy about Child Protection provides guidance for teachers on this matter and should be referred to in conjunction with this policy. Child protection procedures must be followed when any disclosures are made.

Use of outside organisations

Careful consideration is given to the content, co-ordination and consistency of messages presented to children and an outside organisation is only used to enhance the current programme, not to replace teacher led delivery.

- All visitors will be police checked prior to contact with any children.

Organisation of School SRE

Methodology and Approach

There is a whole school approach from R to Y6, and all class teachers deliver SRE, following the PSHE scheme of work. It is taught in a cross curricular way, encompassing all elements within the National Curriculum, as well as expanding more broadly into human relationships, human and physical development and reproduction and risks of sexual activity and sexuality.

SRE is taught in mixed sex classes.

Governors and teachers have agreed that teachers answer all children's questions relating to SRE.

Dissemination of the SRE Policy

The policy is available on the school website for all parents. It is included in the school prospectus which is given to new parents.

Parents/Carers Right to Withdraw their child

SRE within the federation is taught across the curriculum, and it is not possible to separate out all SRE lessons. There are, however, occasional specific lessons where health professionals are invited to address the children in the presence of the class teacher. Notification is always sent to parents in advance of such specific lessons. If a parent feels it necessary to withdraw their child, they should arrange to come into school and discuss their concerns with the Headteacher.

In the event of a child being withdrawn from a lesson, the child will stay in school and will be assigned to another class until the SRE lesson is over.

Provision for pubertal children

Sanitary disposal units are located in the cubicles of the toilets. Girls requiring sanitary protection can approach any teacher for help.

HIV/AIDS policy

The school follows the procedure outlined by the County Council to support children or staff affected by HIV/Aids.

The nature of support available to children

The federation takes its role in the promotion of children wellbeing seriously. Staff will always endeavour to make themselves approachable and to provide caring and sensitive support for children in a number of ways.

Assessment

Assessment for PSHE (including Sex and Relationships Education) will be carried out in a variety of ways including:

- children's reflection
- teachers' reflection

This will also be linked into key aspects such as bullying incidents, attendance and behaviour. The PSHE co-ordinator will monitor the impact of the programme annually with reference to the defined learning outcomes and children's responses.

Any relevant comments from recent OfSTED inspections, Devon Healthy Schools Award accreditation, or other evaluations completed will also be included in the evaluation and review process.

Dissemination of the policy

All staff members and governors will receive or have access to a copy of this policy. A copy of the policy will also be available on the federation website.

Monitoring and evaluation of the policy

The PSHE co-ordinator, in conjunction with the named governor will be responsible for the monitoring and evaluation of this policy.

Any relevant comments from recent OfSTED inspections, healthy schools status, or other evaluations completed will also be included in the evaluation and review process.
