



Merryhills Primary School Sex and Relationship Education Statement

Rationale

The school aims to provide a programme of sex and relationships (SRE) education in line with the Personal Social Health Education (PSHE) scheme of work. Where appropriate there will also be links with the SEAL (Social & Emotional Aspects of Learning). 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).

Aims

The following aims compliment those of the Science curriculum, 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 attempt to deal with questions in a sensitive, open, frank and matter of fact way. Questions will be answered at an age appropriate level.
- to be able to name parts of the body and describe how their bodies work
- 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 be prepared for puberty
- to be aware of cultural and religious diversity
- to be aware of a range of family structures and relationships

Confidentiality

Confidentiality will be respected. However, any disclosure that raises concerns for the safety and well-being of individuals will be managed according to the Child protection Policy, and discussed on a 'need to know' basis only.

Roles and Responsibilities

The **governing body** will:

- decide whether sex education should be in the school curriculum and, if so, what it should consist of and how it should be organised
- seek the advice of the headteacher on this policy, keep it up to date, and make it available to parents
- ensure that sex education is provided in a way that encourages pupils to consider morals and the importance of family values and relationships

The **headteacher** will ensure that:

- the governing body is advised about the nature and organisation of sex and relationships education and how it reflects the aims and values of the school
- sex education is provided in a way that encourages pupils to consider morals and the importance of family values and relationships
- pupils are protected from inappropriate teaching materials
- a scheme of work is agreed and implemented
- parents are informed about the programme for sex education each term.

Staff who teach sex and relationships education are expected to:

- establish ground rules
- provide sex education in accordance with this policy and in a way which encourages pupils to consider morals and the value of family life
- participate in training to provide sex education in line with the school curriculum policy
- use professional judgement when answering questions, being mindful of the level of parental consent for each year group
- implement the agreed scheme of work
- draw to the attention of the headteacher any materials which they consider to be inappropriate
- respond appropriately to those pupils whose parents wish them to be withdrawn from sex education.
- ensure that personal beliefs and attitudes will not influence their teaching of SRE

Pupils will:

- be able to ask questions anonymously
- treat all questions/questioners with respect
- avoid personal questions

Involvement of Other Professionals

From time to time the school may invite input from other professionals in the delivery of SRE, eg school nurse. Where this happens the visitor will have access to this policy and act in accordance with it.

Procedures for Pupil Withdrawal from SRE

Parents may request to see the programme of study and will be encouraged to speak to the class teacher should they have any concerns about the content and delivery of SRE. A pupil cannot be withdrawn from sex education where this is taught in the Science National Curriculum. Hence children who are withdrawn from PSHE lessons will still receive biological information but this will not be taught in the context of relationships. In the instance that the right to withdrawal is exercised, parents/carers should be made aware that SRE could arise naturally from class discussion.

Children whose parents/carers exact their right to withdraw them from SRE will be temporarily transferred to an alternative class. Requests for withdrawal must be in writing.

Resources

Parents will be invited to view the resources to be used in Y5 & 6.

Monitoring & Evaluation

All staff, governors and parents will be made aware of the contents and availability of this policy.

The policy will be evaluated at least every two years.

Further References

Sex and Relationships Education Guidance, DCSF

Other school policies eg, PSHE, CP, Healthy Schools Statement