



Sex and Relationship Education Policy

The policy was written taking into full account the schools' legal obligations and the following guidance: DfES guidance 'Sex and Relationship Education Guidance' (DfES 0116/2000), OFSTED SRE report 2002, the PSHE framework QCA (1999), the National Curriculum (1999).

Definition

The school acknowledges the DfEE definition of sex and relationship education as:

‘lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of marriage for family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. It is about the teaching of sex, sexuality and sexual health. It is not about the promotion of sexual orientation or sexual activity – this would be inappropriate teaching.’

Aims

At Kelly College Prep School it is our aim to meet these objectives at an age appropriate level incorporating the main three elements of; attitudes and values, personal and social skills and knowledge and understanding. These elements should be taught through the combined medium of Science and PSHE. In accordance with section 46 of the Education Act (No.2) 1986 the delivery of SRE should be ‘taught in such a manner as to encourage those pupils to have a due regard to moral considerations and the value of family life.’

At school we acknowledge the DfEE statement in circular 5/94 that schools ‘recognize that parents are key figures in helping their children to cope with emotional and physical aspects of growing up and in preparing them for the challenges and responsibilities which sexual maturation brings.’ However, we also accept that some of our children do not receive this help and as such their SRE is only delivered by school.

Legal Obligations

SRE in schools is a legal requirement and at Kelly College Prep. we aim to teach this area sensitively and appropriately. Parents do however have the right to withdraw their children from SRE lessons, although not the elements that are in the National Curriculum for Science. If a parent does wish to withdraw a child from SRE, it is requested that this is discussed with the Headmaster so that arrangements can be made for the child at that time. Parents are encouraged to read the DfES information provided at www.dfes.gov.uk/sreandparents/

Confidentiality

As a general rule a teacher will maintain a child's confidentiality. If however, the person concerned believes that the child is at risk or danger s/he will discuss the situation with the school's child protection officer before any decision is made. The child concerned will be informed that the confidentiality is to be breached and the reasons why and supported through the process.

Inclusion

The school has a duty to ensure that children with special educational needs and learning difficulties are properly included in SRE. As such we will take into account: the needs of boys as well as girls, ethnic and cultural diversity, varying home backgrounds, sexuality and special educational needs.

Ground rules and distancing techniques

Answering difficult questions

Sometimes during SRE, a child may ask an explicit or difficult question in the classroom. Teachers should establish clear parameters about appropriateness before hand. Teachers should set the tone by speaking in a matter of fact way that does not encourage silliness (pupils will usually take the lead from the teacher in this area). Difficult questions do not have to be answered immediately, it may be more appropriate to see the child individually later. The member of staff must use their discretion or refer to the child protection officer if they are concerned with the question/answer. Teachers should not feel obliged to answer personal questions and pupils should be informed that this type of question is inappropriate. Pupils should not be asked personal questions.

Discussion

Pupils should be given preparation so that they know how to handle or minimise embarrassment. No one should be forced to take part in any discussion or offer written answers to questions that make them uncomfortable. Pupils should only be asked to offer verbal answers to questions if they volunteer a response. Only the correct names for body parts should be used. Meanings of words must be explained in a sensible and purely factual way.

The SRE curriculum

SRE is taught from within the PSHE curriculum. SRE is taught within the lent term module on health. Our approach is always conducted within a clear morals and values framework based on the principles of stable and loving relationships that involve respect, empathy and personal rights. Teaching content and pace is aimed at being at a level and rate appropriate to the needs and maturity of the pupils.

Teaching resources should always be checked by the teacher in charge of PSHE (Deputy Head Pastoral) for appropriateness.

By the end of Key Stage Two

Year 5

- Change as we grow: Baby to adult, understanding that they grow throughout life.
- It should be recognised that the onset of puberty may start before year 6 and some girls may start menstruating before this stage. The school should make arrangements to help girls cope with the practical aspects of menstruating such as sanitary provision.

Year 6

- Growing up: taking responsibility – understanding what is involved in bringing up children and what responsibilities parents have.
- The process of puberty;
 - **physical** -
 - i) Know the correct names for the parts of boys and girls bodies.
 - ii) Recognise, understand and manage the changes that will occur within their own bodies and be prepared for them when they happen.
 - iii) Understand about the changes that occur in both boys and girls bodies during puberty.
 - **emotional** – awareness of the changing emotions and the need to respect others' emotions and feelings.
- Personal hygiene at puberty. (Girls will have the opportunity to discuss menstruation issues with female staff and the school nurse.)
- Know the basic biology of human reproduction.

Boys and girls will have a lesson during Year Six led by the school nurse. The lesson will cover much of the above including conception and fertilization and parents will be informed by letter in advance that this lesson is taking place. The lesson includes the viewing of the BBC Sex Education video – 'puberty and changes'. Boys and girls will watch the programme together but can be split up afterwards for follow up discussion with the nurse/teacher. Parents can have the opportunity to view the programme before the children if the request is made enough in advance to organize it with the school nurse. Follow up work will be covered in PSHE in the weeks after the nurse's visit.

Last review: May 2009

Next review: May 2010