

Crook Primary School
Sex and Relationship Education Policy (SRE)

This policy should be read in conjunction with all safeguarding children, equality, diversity, disability, racial and gender schemes and policies.

1 Introduction

1.1 We have based our school's sex and relationship education policy on the DfEE guidance document Sex and Relationship Education Guidance (ref DfEE 0116/2000). In this document, sex and relationship education is defined as 'learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about understanding the importance of marriage for family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality, and sexual health'. Sex and relationship education is part of the personal, social and health education curriculum in our school. While we use sex and relationship education to inform children about sexual issues, we do this with regard to matters of morality and individual responsibility, and in a way that allows children to ask and explore moral questions. We do not use sex and relationship education as a means of promoting any form of sexual orientation.

2 Aims and objectives

2.1 We teach children about:

- the physical development of their bodies as they grow into adults;
- the way humans reproduce;
- respect for their own bodies and the importance of sexual activity as part of a committed, long-term, and loving relationship;
- the importance of family life;
- moral questions;
- relationship issues;
- respect for the views of other people.

3 Context

3.1 We teach sex and relationship education in the context of the school's aims and values framework . We teach sex and relationship education with an awareness of the moral code and values which underpin all our work in school. We believe that SRE should:

- Be an integral part of the lifelong learning process, beginning in early childhood and continue into adult life.
- Be an entitlement for all young people.
- Encourage every student to contribute to make our community and aims to support each individual as they grow and learn.
- Be set within this wider school context and supports family commitment and love, respect and affection, knowledge and openness. Family is a broad concept; not just one model e.g. nuclear family. It includes a variety of types of family structure, and acceptance of different approaches.
- Encourage students and teachers to share and respect each other's views. We are aware of different approaches to sexual orientation, without promotion of any particular family structure. The important values are love, respect and care for each other.
- Generate an atmosphere where questions and discussion on sexual matters can take place without any stigma or embarrassment.

- Recognise that parents are the key people in teaching their children about sex, relationships and growing up. We aim to work in partnership with parents and students, consulting them about the content of programmes.
- Recognise that the wider community has much to offer and we aim to work in partnership with health professionals, social workers, peer educators' and other mentors or advisors.
- Be part of a wider social, personal, spiritual and moral education process;
- Teach children to have respect for their own bodies;
- Teach children the importance of self-control.

4 The National Healthy School Standard

4.1 We participate in the National Healthy School Standard scheme, which promotes health education. As participants in this scheme we:

- consult with parents on all matters of health education policy;
- use the school nurse to teach sex education;
- listen to the views of the children in our school regarding sex education;
- look positively at any local initiatives that support us in providing the best sex education teaching programme that we can devise.

5 Consultation

5.1 The Consultation Process has involved:

- Pupil focus groups/school council
- Questionnaires to parents/carers
- Review of SRE curriculum content with staff and pupils
- Consultation with wider school community e.g. school nurse
- Consultation with school governors

6 Organisation

6.1 We teach sex and relationship education through different aspects of the curriculum. While we carry out the main sex and relationship education teaching in our personal, social and health education (PSHE) curriculum, we also teach some sex and relationship education through other subject areas (for example, science and PE), where we feel that they contribute significantly to a child's knowledge and understanding of his or her own body, and how it is changing and developing.

6.2 In PSHE we teach children about relationships, and we encourage children to discuss issues. We teach about the parts of the body and how these work, and we explain to them what will happen to their bodies during puberty. For example, we tell the boys that their voices will change during puberty and we explain to the girls about menstruation. We encourage the children to ask for help if they need it.

6.3 In science lessons in both key stages, teachers inform children about puberty and how a baby is born. For this aspect of the school's teaching, we follow the guidance material in the national scheme of work for science. In Key Stage 1 we teach children about how animals, including humans, move, feed, grow and reproduce, and we also teach them about the main parts of the body. Children learn to appreciate the differences between people and how to show respect for each other. In Key Stage 2 we teach about life processes and the main stages of the human life cycle in greater depth.

- 6.4** In Year 6 we place a particular emphasis on health education, as many children experience puberty at this age. We liaise with the Local Health Authority about suitable teaching materials to use with our children in these lessons. Teachers do their best to answer all 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, and how it affects women. We always teach this with due regard for the emotional development of the children.
- 6.5** We arrange a meeting for all parents and carers of children in Year 6 to discuss this particular programme of lessons, to explain what the issues are and how they are taught, and to see the materials the school uses in its teaching.

7 The role of parents

- 7.1** The school is well aware that the primary role in children's sex and relationship education lies with parents and carers. We wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents of children at our school through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation. In promoting this objective we:
- inform parents about the school's sex and relationship education policy and practice;
 - answer any questions that parents may have about the sex and relationship education of their child;
 - take seriously any issue that parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy or the arrangements for sex and relationship education in the school;
 - encourage parents to be involved in reviewing the school policy and making modifications to it as necessary;
 - inform parents about the best practice known with regard to sex and relationship education, so that the teaching in school supports the key messages that parents and carers give to children at home. We believe that, through this mutual exchange of knowledge and information, children will benefit from being given consistent messages about their changing body and their increasing responsibilities.
- 7.2** Except for those parts included in the statutory National Curriculum (i.e. in Science lessons) parents have the right to withdraw their child from the sex and relationship education programme that we teach in our school. If a parent wishes their child to be withdrawn from sex and relationship education 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 participate in. The school always complies with the wishes of parents in this regard. Parents are welcome to review any SRE resources the school uses.

8 The role of other members of the community

- 8.1** We encourage other valued members of the community to work with us to provide advice and support to the children with regard to health education. In particular, members of the Local Health Authority, such as the school nurse and other health professionals, give us valuable support with our sex and relationship education programme. Other people that we call on include local clergy, social workers and youth workers.

9 Confidentiality

- 9.1** Teachers will respond if a child indicates that they may have been a victim of abuse. In these circumstances the teacher will talk to the child as a matter of urgency. If the

teacher has concerns, they will draw their concerns to the attention of the head teacher. The head teacher will then deal with the matter in consultation with health care professionals. (See also Child Protection Policy.)

10 The role of the head teacher

- 10.1** It is the responsibility of the head teacher to ensure that both staff and parents are informed about our sex and relationship education policy, and that the policy is implemented effectively. It is also the head teacher's responsibility to ensure that members of staff are given sufficient training, so that they can teach effectively and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity.
- 10.2** The head teacher liaises with external agencies regarding the school sex and relationship education programme, and ensures that all adults who work with children on these issues are aware of the school policy, and that they work within this framework.
- 10.3** The head teacher monitors this policy on a regular basis and reports to governors, when requested, on the effectiveness of the policy.

11 Monitoring and review

- 11.1** The Curriculum Committee of the governing body monitors our sex and relationship education policy on an annual basis. This committee reports its findings and recommendations to the full governing body, as necessary, if the policy needs modification. The Curriculum Committee gives serious consideration to any comments from parents about the sex and relationship education programme, and makes a record of all such comments. Governors require the head teacher to keep written record, giving details of the content and delivery of the sex and relationship education programme that we teach in our school.

Ratified by Governing Body on (date) Friday 1st July 2011