

Sex & Relationship Education Policy



Together We Learn

...always striving to be outstanding, transforming the aspirations of a community.

Reviewed April 2018

Ernesettle Community School

1. Aims

The aims of sex and relationship education (SRE) at our school are to:

- Provide a framework in which sensitive discussions can take place
- Prepare pupils for puberty, and give them an understanding of sexual development and the importance of health and hygiene
- Help pupils develop feelings of self-respect, confidence and empathy
- Create a positive culture around issues of sexuality and relationships
- Teach pupils the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies

2. Statutory requirements

SRE is not compulsory in primary schools. Academies do not have to follow the National Curriculum and are therefore not required to teach the elements of sex education in the science curriculum.

If primary academies do teach SRE, they are required by their funding agreements to have regard to [guidance](#) issued by the secretary of state as outlined in section 403 of the [Education Act 1996](#).

At Ernesettle Community School we teach SRE as set out in this policy.

3. Definition

SRE is about the emotional, social and cultural development of pupils, and involves learning about relationships, sexual health, sexuality, healthy lifestyles, diversity and personal identity.

SRE involves a combination of sharing information, and exploring issues and values.

SRE is not about the promotion of sexual activity.

4. Delivery of SRE

SRE is taught within the personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education curriculum. Biological aspects of SRE are taught within the science curriculum, and other aspects are included in religious education (RE).

Pupils also receive stand-alone sex education sessions delivered by a trained health professional.

Across all Key Stages, pupils will be supported with developing the following skills:

- Communication, including how to manage changing relationships and emotions
- Recognising and assessing potential risks
- Assertiveness
- Seeking help and support when required
- Informed decision-making
- Self-respect and empathy for others
- Recognising and maximising a healthy lifestyle
- Managing conflict
- Discussion and group work

These skills are taught within the context of family life.

6. Roles and responsibilities

6.1 The governing board

The governing board will approve the SRE policy, and hold the headteacher to account for its implementation.

The governing board will hold the headteacher to account for the implementation of this policy.

6.2 The headteacher

The headteacher is responsible for ensuring that SRE is taught consistently across the school, and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from components of SRE (see section 7).

6.3 Staff

Staff are responsible for:

- Delivering SRE in a sensitive way
- Modelling positive attitudes to SRE
- Monitoring progress
- Responding to the needs of individual pupils
- Responding appropriately to pupils whose parents wish them to be withdrawn from the components of SRE

Staff do not have the right to opt out of teaching SRE. Staff who have concerns about teaching SRE are encouraged to discuss this with the headteacher.

6.4 Pupils

Pupils are expected to engage fully in SRE and, when discussing issues related to SRE, treat others with respect and sensitivity.

7. Parents' right to withdraw

Parents' have the right to withdraw their children from components of SRE.

Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing and addressed to the headteacher. A copy of withdrawal requests will be placed in the pupil's educational record. The headteacher will discuss the request with parents and take appropriate action.

Alternative work will be given to pupils who are withdrawn from SRE.

8. Training

Staff are trained on the delivery of SRE as part of their induction and it is included in our continuing professional development calendar.

The headteacher will also invite visitors from outside the school, such as school nurses or sexual health professionals, to provide support and training to staff teaching SRE.