



UNSWORTH PRIMARY SCHOOL

Sex and Relationship Policy



What is Sex and Relationship Education?

Sex and Relationship Education is not just learning about **growing up, changes and reproduction**. It is also about enabling children to **make and maintain relationships** with others, to understand about human sexuality and to **feel good about themselves** and the **choices** they make. This involves helping children to gain knowledge, develop skills and form positive beliefs and attitudes.

1. **Knowledge and Understanding** including; emotional, social and physical aspects of growing up, puberty, reproduction and pregnancy, similarities and differences between males and females, parts of the human body including the male and female reproductive parts, gender stereotyping and discrimination, different families, different types of relationships, healthy and unhealthy relationships and where to get help if needed.
2. **Personal and Social Skills** including; talking and listening to others, managing emotions, making friends and managing friendships, forming and maintaining loving, caring and respectful relationships, developing self-respect and empathy for others, respecting the differences between people, resilience to cope with change, making responsible and safe decisions, including on line.
3. **Attitudes and Values** including; feeling positive about growing up, the importance of respect, care and love, the value of family life, the importance of stable and loving relationships, including marriage (both heterosexual and gay) and civil partnerships, respect for rights and responsibilities in relationships, acceptance of difference and diversity, promoting gender equality.

“It is the lifelong learning about physical, moral and social development. It is about the understanding of 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. It is not about the promotion of sexual orientation or sexual activity”.

(Sex and Relationship Education Guidance – DfES July 2000)

The aim of the policy

Is to:

- Give information to staff, parents and carers, governors, pupils and outside visitors about the content, organisation and approach to teaching Sex and Relationship Education (SRE)
- Enable parents and carers to support their children in learning about SRE
- Give a clear statement on what the school aims to achieve from SRE, the values underpinning it and why it is important for primary school pupils
- Set out how the school meets legal requirements in respect of SRE
- Address the uncertainty about what sex and relationship education is, how it should be taught and who is responsible for providing it.
- Guide teachers on sensitive issues and confidentiality.
- Show how it should be taught within the PSHE and Citizenship framework.
- Say how Sex and Relationship Education is monitored and evaluated.
- Include information about parents’ rights to withdrawal.

School Aims and Objectives

Unsworth Primary School believes that Sex and Relationship Education will be developmental and a foundation for further work in secondary school.

Sex and Relationship Education at Unsworth Primary School is supported by the school's wider curriculum for Personal, Social, Health Education and Science. It is also underpinned by our mission statement and our five core values. In this way, we ensure that our pupils:

- Receive their Sex Education in the wider context of relationships.
- Develop confidence in talking, listening and thinking about feelings and relationships.
- Can protect themselves and ask for help and support.

Sex and Relationship Education in our school will:

- Promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, social and physical development of pupils at the school and of society.
- Prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

The School works towards these aims in partnership with parents.

Sex and Relationship education within the PSHE framework

The Sex Education programme at Unsworth Primary School is taught within the context of relationships. It:

- Provides information, which is easy to understand, relevant and appropriate to the age and maturity of the pupils.
- Includes the development of communication and social skills.
- Encourages the exploration and clarification of values and attitudes.

Organisation

SRE is delivered through;

- Topics
- Planned aspects of Science (children cannot be withdrawn from these)
- Addressed occasionally in assembly
- Visitors to school e.g. school nurse
- The use of story time/circle time

Delivery of Sex and Relationship Education is not the sole responsibility of a school. Elements of the programme are provided by a range of people in the community including health professionals such as the school nurse.

Visitors entering the school to deliver Sex and Relationship education are made aware of the school's policy and programme. A member of staff remains in the room at all times.

Teaching strategies

All staff are committed to delivering the programme. Classes are taught as a whole although single gender groups are used when deemed appropriate and relevant. A variety of teaching strategies are employed. These include:

- Establishing "ground rules" – no personal experiences or questions are allowed either to the teacher or from the teacher to the pupils.
- Using "distancing" techniques – videos or case studies.
- Giving information not advice. External help is invited in order to give advice e.g. school nurse.
- Confirming facts and reassuring when dealing with unexpected questions or comments from pupils.
- Encouraging reflection.

Confidentiality

As a general rule, a child's request for confidentiality **cannot** be maintained by members of staff concerned with specific issues. Staff ensure that the best interests of the child are maintained at all times, however, in the event of a child wishing to share details with staff, it should be made clear to the child that confidentiality cannot be guaranteed but that everything will be done to help sort out a difficult issue. If a member of staff suspects that a child is at risk from abuse, they should be aware of the procedures for reporting their concerns and to whom they should do so (see Child Protection Policy).

Answering difficult questions

All staff are encouraged to answer pupils' questions with honesty, however, occasionally a child may ask a more explicit or difficult question. This school believes that individual teachers must use their skill and discretion to decide if the pupil is better referred to their parent in the first instance and then to the Headteacher if they are concerned.

Consulting parents and child withdrawal procedures

At Unsworth Primary we value our partnership with parents. We consult them on the content of the Sex and Relationship Education programme and we reiterate that this programme will compliment and support their role as parents.

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from sex education but not those aspects of NC Science, which are mandatory. Parents wanting to exercise this right are invited to see the Headteacher. Sex Education materials are available in school for parents to see.

Other supporting policies

See – Science, Child Protection, Spiritual Moral Social & Cultural and R.E.
EYFS Curriculum.
Unsworth PSHE Programme.

Policy compiled by Mrs. C. Reynolds

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