



# Milefield Primary School

## Sex and Relationship Education Policy

February 2021/2022

## **Sex and Relationships Education Policy**

The policy reflects the DfE 2000 SRE guidance and guidance from the PSHE Association, the Sex Education Forum and the local authority.

All school personnel, parents and carers have been made aware of this policy. This policy will be made available to view via the schools' website. Hard copies will also be available at the schools' office.

'SRE' is a lifelong learning process of acquiring information, developing skills and forming positive beliefs and attitudes about sex, sexuality, relationships and feelings'. (Sex Education Forum 1999).

At Milefield Primary School we aspire to help every child develop as a whole person and we believe that effective SRE can make a significant contribution to their ability to establish and maintain stable and loving relationships. It also enables young people to respect others, make responsible and informed decisions about their health and wellbeing and also promotes the British values of tolerance.

### **Definition of SRE**

SRE is learning accurate and age-appropriate skills, attitudes and knowledge about the body, reproduction, sex and sexual health. SRE also gives children and young people essential skills for building positive, enjoyable, respectful and non-exploitative relationships and staying safe both on and offline. Some aspects are taught in science, and others are taught as part of personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE).

### **Aims and Outcomes of SRE in the curriculum:**

The overall aim of SRE is to foster a positive notion of lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development, including how to look after physical and mental health. It aims to support the development of self-respect and empathy for others and promotes the development of skills and understanding necessary to manage conflict peaceably and learn how to recognise and avoid exploitation and abuse.

## **SRE provides opportunities for pupils to:**

- Better understand the nature of human relationships.
- Learn about relationships, the importance of communication and assertiveness skills, including the importance of values such as respect (for self and others), equality, responsibility, care and compassion.
- Reflect upon the importance of stable and loving relationships for family life, including the bringing up of children, this also includes marriage and civil partnerships.
- Consider and understand the changes that occur to their bodies, minds and emotions as a consequence of growth from childhood to adulthood.
- Reflect upon how to make good, informed and safe choices concerning relationships and healthy lifestyles.

## **Morals, Values, Equalities and Safeguarding:**

SRE at Milefield Primary School reflects our ethos, and demonstrates and promotes the following:

- Learn the value of respect, care and love.
- Valuing family life within stable, loving and committed relationships.
- Acceptance of same sex unions as also offering stable, loving and committed relationships to nurture children.
- Respect for self and others.
- Respect for rights and responsibilities within relationships.
- Appreciate that different, successful family structures exist.
- Understanding diversity regarding religion, gender, culture and sexual orientation.
- Importance of striving to reduce intolerance and discrimination based on sexual orientation, disability, ethnicity, religion and gender.
- Acceptance of difference and diversity.
- Promote gender equality and equality in relationships.
- Challenge gender stereotypes and inequality.
- Develop spiritual, moral, social and cultural awareness in line with the 2010 Equality Act and the schools' safeguarding and child protection protocols.
- Content.

## **How Sex and Relationship Education is organised in the curriculum:**

SRE is not delivered in isolation, but firmly embedded in all curriculum areas including Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education, Citizenship and Science. At Milefield Primary School, the main SRE content is delivered as part of a wider topic to provide a context for learning. Many aspects of SRE are taught throughout the year, whilst some specific age-related aspects are delivered at a pre-planned point during the year in order that parents are informed and can be involved in supporting their child.

- SRE is normally delivered by class teachers in mixed gender groups other than when it is deemed more appropriate for topics to be covered in single sex groups.
- PSHE Ground Rules are used in all PSHE and SRE lessons.
- Pupils are able to ask anonymous questions by writing a note for the class worry box.
- Resources used are flexible in order to meet the needs of the pupils and curriculum.
- Correct medical vocabulary will be used throughout the SRE and PSHE curriculum
- SRE is delivered through a varied range of activities, which promote dialogue and understanding. These include: Circle time, active teaching and learning, role play/scenarios, card sorting and discussions.
- External agencies can be invited to support the delivery of SRE. These include: the school nurse and the police.
- External agencies and Visitors are familiar with and understand the school's SRE policy and safeguarding policy and work within these documents
- All input to SRE lessons is part of a planned programme and negotiated and agreed with staff in advance
- All visitors are supervised/supported by a member of staff at all times
- The input of visitors is monitored and evaluated by staff. This evaluation informs future planning.

## **Equal Opportunities Statement:**

The school is committed to the provision of SRE to all of its pupils. We aim to respond to the diversity of children's cultures, faiths and family backgrounds. Equal time and provision will be allocated for all groups but there may be occasions where children with Special Educational Needs are given extra support.

## **Parental involvement:**

The school is committed to working with parents and believes that it is important to have the support of parents and the wider community for the PSHE and SRE programme. Parents are provided with the opportunity to find out about and discuss the school's programme through the year groups' SRE curriculum meetings, parents' evening, in policy development, the school website and prospectus, displays and an open-door policy.

To promote effective communication and discussion between parents and their children we notify parents through information evenings, curriculum letters and the school website about when particular aspects of SRE will be taught. We also encourage an open-door policy to help ensure that parents can discuss issues with the school staff in a positive, sensitive and proactive manner.

## **Parental rights to withdraw their children:**

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from all, or part of the SRE curriculum, except for those parts included within the National Curriculum for Science, which are statutory. Effective methods to communicate the schools' approach to SRE, including the parental right to withdraw their child, are through the schools' website, prospectus, the SRE policy and the year group SRE curriculum information letter sent home to parents. The letter also includes arrangements for a parent meeting with staff.

Parents are also informed that the SRE curriculum is an essential vehicle in supporting a school's statutory duty to:

- safeguard and promote the welfare of their children,
- advance the 2010 Equality Act,
- encourage the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils
- foster British values
- prepare children and young people for the challenges, opportunities and responsibilities of adult life, along with the coverage of the National Curriculum for Science.

Those parents/carers wishing to exercise the right to withdraw their child from part or all of SRE are invited in to see the teacher/headteacher who will explore any concerns and discuss any impact that withdrawal may have on the child. Once a child has been withdrawn they cannot take part in the SRE programme until the request for withdrawal has been removed. It is then the responsibility of the parents/carers to deliver the content of the SRE to their child as they see fit. Information and support materials are available for parents/carers to use and are offered by the staff. Pupils who are withdrawn from SRE continue with individual learning tasks for other curriculum areas, which are carried out in another classroom or the library. If a conversation arises about sexual health issues in a non-SRE lesson with pupils present who have been withdrawn from SRE lessons, the teacher must stop the conversation and ask that the issues be discussed at an appropriate time. The teacher must, as soon as possible, find an appropriate time to continue the conversation with pupils when the withdrawn child is not present.

## **Ground Rules:**

SRE is taught in a safe, non-judgmental environment where adults and children are confident that they will be respected. Specific ground rules will be established at the beginning of the SRE work, in addition to those already used in the classroom.

## **Inclusion:**

The SRE policy reflects and is in line with the schools' equal opportunities policy and the school ensures that the SRE teaching programme is an inclusive one and is appropriate and relevant to all pupils, including those with SEN and disabilities. Teachers ensure that the content, approach and use of inclusive language reflect the diversity of the school community, and help all pupils feel valued and included, regardless of their gender, ability, disability, experiences and family background. SRE strives to meet the needs of all pupils regardless of their developing sexuality and deals honestly and sensitively with sexual orientation, answers appropriate questions and offer support. Homophobic and transphobic references and homophobic and transphobic actions and bullying are not tolerated at Milefield Primary School and are challenged and dealt with as part of our commitment to promoting inclusion, gender equality and preventing bullying.

## **Confidentiality and Child Protection Issues:**

As a general rule a child's confidentiality is maintained by the teacher or member of staff concerned. SRE discussions may prompt a pupil to disclose about related incidents; for example, FGM, Forced marriage, child exploitation or abuse. If the member of staff believes that the child is at risk or in danger or has concerns about any information disclosed, she/he talks to the named Designated Safeguarding Lead who takes action as laid down in the Child Protection Policy. All staff are familiar with the policy and know the identity of the member of staff with responsibility for Child Protection issues.

The child concerned will be informed that confidentiality is being breached and reasons why. The child will be supported by staff throughout the process.

## **Age 3-6:**

At this age children are interested in differences between boys and girls, naming body parts, where babies come from and friends and family. What areas are private and should not be touched and who they can talk to if they are worried are also discussed. NSPCC PANTS rule and resources will be used.

### **Age 7-8:**

At this stage children are interested in the emotional and physical changes of growing up, similarities and differences between each other and between boys and girls, coping with strong emotions and how babies are made from eggs and sperm. How to look after our bodies and how to be safe are also important.

### **Age 9-11:**

At this age children are interested in knowing about love and the different kind of families and will be more aware of different types of partnerships and relationships. Gender stereotypes and homophobia can be explained and challenged. They will be curious about puberty and sexual feelings and changing body image. They will want more details about conception, how babies develop, how they are born along with why families are important for having babies.

They will also be interested in knowing how people can get diseases, including HIV, from sex and how they can be prevented. They will also want to know who they can talk to if they want help or advice and information about growing up and personal safety including being online.

### **How the Sex and Relationship Education Programme is Monitored, Evaluated and Assessed:**

We ensure that all pupils have equal access to the SRE programme through a thorough process of monitoring, evaluation and assessment, which takes into consideration pupils' needs, maturity, age, ability and personal circumstances.

Class teachers assess pupils' understanding and progress through formative and summative processes. These include pre- and post-topic mind maps, drawings, task outcomes, questioning and observation. At the end of the year each year group reviews the SRE programme they have implemented and pass on any comments to the PSHE Lead as part of her monitoring cycle. The SRE policy is reviewed on an annual basis considering the feedback from teaching staff, pupils and parents.

### **Professional Development for Staff:**

Staff are kept informed of developments in key aspects of SRE, including links with safeguarding, inclusion, equality, child protection and anti-bullying, through regular training provided at staff meetings and INSET days were/if appropriate.