



# Relationships & Sex Education Policy

February 2016

## Relationships and Sex Education Policy

The Education Reform Act (Section 1) states that schools should provide a curriculum that *"promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils.... and of society; and prepare such pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life."*

Education is an important dimension of a child's statutory entitlement.

### Rationale

Relationships and sex Education is an umbrella term for all the teaching and learning we offer pupils to understand their own and others' sexuality, to develop skills for relationships and informed decision making. At Sonning Common Primary School, we believe that relationships and sex education is the entitlement of each child and we are committed to deliver it within the context of a broad and balanced programme of health education.

### Aims

In our school we aim through implicit and explicit learning experiences to:

- Ensure that relationships and sex education is integrated into the curriculum and not isolated, taken out of context or over-emphasised in any way
- Foster self-esteem and respect for others as the cornerstone of good health education and good relationships and sex education
- Nurture a partnership between caring adults - governors, teachers, ancillary staff and parents - to ensure sensitive support for children and young people as they grow and mature
- Ensure children have the ability to accept their own and others' sexuality
- Encourage children to enjoy relationships based upon mutual trust and respect, free from any abuse
- Generate an atmosphere where questions and discussion on sexual matters can take place without embarrassment
- Adopt a whole school approach to relationships and sex education

### Teaching and Learning

Effective teaching of relationships and sex education will increase pupils' knowledge of:

- Body knowledge;
- Human growth and development;
- Families, parenting and life cycles;
- Safety and child protection;
- Helping agencies;
- Sexual identity.

It will also enable pupils to:

- Improve their self-esteem;
- Make informed choices and decisions;
- Develop personal initiative and be able to take responsibility;
- Recognise personal skills and qualities in themselves and others;
- Maintain and develop relationships;
- Develop self-confidence;

- Develop assertiveness in appropriate situations;
- Develop the motivation to succeed.

In the scheme of work used, a variety of resources (with ideas for suggested use) are identified, including video material, worksheets, visits from the school health nurses and books. However, we emphasise the importance of discussion and questioning within the safe, secure and non-judgmental atmosphere of the class with its teacher. The atmosphere of trust, mutual acceptance and confidentiality is built on the PSHCE programme.

Within the taught and hidden curriculum, i.e. the whole school environment, pupils should be given frequent and regular opportunities to work on feelings and to practice personal and interpersonal skills. We value and respect the learning that occurs in the community and in the home believing that these, alongside school links, are essential dimensions of sex and relationships education. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from receiving sex education from a PSHCE perspective at school, but not to withdraw them from the teaching of the science national curriculum: Sc2 Life processes and living things – 2f: the main stages of the human life cycle.

#### **Further Information**

For further Guidance see Oxfordshire's Curriculum Matters 9.

For information on child protection and confidentiality see OCC guidance.

Our Health Nurse continues to offer support and guidance on any health issues, including sex education.

#### **Dissemination**

The Policy is available on the school web site and a paper copy is held in the main school admin office. A short summary will be included in the school prospectus. The policy and schemes of work will be available on request to parents, LA, OFSTED and others working for the school, through the Head teacher.

#### **Reviewing the Policy**

This policy will be reviewed annually by the PSHCE Subject Leader and monitored by the Link Governor changes made to ensure that the Policy is relevant and up to date.