

RELATIONSHIPS & SEX EDUCATION POLICY

Approved by Staff & Curriculum Committee Chair: March 2013
Review Date: March 2015



Introduction

Kennet Valley is a C of E VA School with 3 classes in the Marlborough cluster. Children range in age from 4 to 11. The catchment area we serve is predominantly, white, Christian, British families from a mix of socio-economic backgrounds. We currently have no pupil with English as a second language. Our class structures are R/1/2, 2/3/4, 5/6. The policy is called a 'relationships and sex education policy' rather than a 'sex education and relationships' policy as we feel that relationships are developed at the earliest of ages and this should therefore be the lead followed by the introduction of the sex education. As a church school the importance of our relationships is paramount to us.

Purpose of the policy

The purpose of the RSE policy is to set out the ways in which our school provision for RSE supports pupils through their spiritual, moral, social, emotional and physical development and prepares them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life.

Key roles and responsibilities:

Headteacher - over all responsibility and the person to whom parents should speak if they wish to withdraw their child from RSE teaching

Chair of Governors, representing the governing body whose responsibility it is to set the policy for RSE (SRE in many other schools)

PSHE leader, who is responsible for the PSHE policy and scheme of work including the appropriate links to ensure that RSE teaching does not stand alone

All class teachers have the responsibility to teach RSE with respect for all children and the relationships within the families we serve.

The process of developing the policy

This policy was developed by working groups consisting of school teaching and support staff, governors, parents and pupils. Governors and staff were supported by the LA PSHE advisor and the Diocese of Salisbury. Parents were offered 2 sessions to view the materials we will use and ask questions and share their views. Pupils were consulted through the school council.

Issues parents raised were relating to suitability of materials for the age of children

Governors raised similar issues as parents with the added legal requirements

Teachers raised issues around mixed class teaching and questions children ask

Rationale

This policy follows the national guidance and legal requirements as set down in the Learning and Skills Act 2000 and the DFEE SRE Guidance 2000.

Kennet Valley School Aims To:

- Adopt a whole school approach to sex and relationships education in the curriculum, which fulfils the entitlement of every child to learning in this area

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- Teach, in a way that is sensitive to the cultural backgrounds of all pupils, about relationships, love and care and the responsibilities of parenthood, as well as about sex and sexuality
- Equip its pupils with knowledge, understanding and skills to enable them to make choices leading to a healthy lifestyle
- Provide appropriately for the distinctive needs of boys and girls in these aspects of their personal development
- Ensure that all children
 - Develop confidence in talking, listening and thinking about feelings and relationships
 - Develop their self esteem and sense of responsibility
 - Are able to name parts of the body and describe how their bodies work
 - Are prepared for puberty
 - Can protect themselves and ask for help and support

Content and delivery of RSE

- Integration within wider themes of the PSHE & Citizenship curriculum
- ‘Spiral curriculum’, relevant to age, experience, maturity of pupils
- The programme ‘Living and growing’ is the scheme of work that we will be using to supplement the science programme and will link to relationships in the PSHE scheme of work. Parents will be notified in advance of the work to be covered and will have the opportunity to view material in use at that time. DVDs are used for much of the content supported by the use of worksheets and discussion.
- Linking SRE with issues of peer pressure and other risk-taking behaviour such as drugs, smoking and alcohol
- Links to Science and other curricular and extra-curricular contexts
- Cross phase liaison to ensure consistency and progression.

Delivery

- Staff who will teach SRE
- Methodology and approach, including active learning, and honesty and balance in handling of controversial issues
- Classroom arrangements for single-sex and/or mixed groupings
- Support from outside agencies: school nurse, other professionals, theatre in education (and measures to ensure their contribution is integrated into school’s overall programme, messages consistent with school’s approach, input planned and delivered in conjunction with class teacher)
- Forms of assessment used to support pupils’ learning, and evaluation used to ensure effectiveness of the programme – including pupil feedback

Specific Issues

Kennet Valley School has a child protection policy and this policy supports that. We believe that giving the correct information to children will protect them and help them to make appropriate choices as they develop. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from RSE and they can do this after making contact with the headteacher. The naming of body parts at appropriate ages is however a part of the Science scheme of work and this is not optional but mandatory. Any child who experiences any form of bullying due to their beliefs or practises or those of their family or friends should talk to a member of staff immediately as this will not be tolerated and reference to the anti-bullying policy will be made. There is a complaints procedure in place at Kennet Valley and this must be followed should parents feel this necessary. If the school has been made aware of any family dealing with the effects of HIV these matters will be dealt with sensitively and confidentially.

Partnerships

Kennet Valley has good links with external agencies and the school nurse visits year 5/6 to talk about puberty alongside the teacher input. Health visitors are involved with the school and if necessary they will be contacted to offer any necessary support to families. Parents will be offered the opportunity to view the materials being

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used before their children see the materials in the lesson. If the school has any concerns about a child they will always make an appointment/ phone parents to discuss their concerns

Confidentiality

Children are given the chance to share their concerns/worries /or ask questions in single sex groups and on a one to one basis as well as through a question box without fear of being judged or reprimanded. Teachers explain what confidential means and they reinforce the fact that they cannot keep things confidential if potential harm may occur to the child. This links to the child protection policy and is explained to the children in advance.

Staff training and support

- It is recognised that staff may need to receive appropriate training to support their work in SRE or in implementing other elements of this policy and this is organised appropriately
- It is the responsibility of the School PSHE Coordinator to identify, and access on behalf of staff, training opportunities available through Wiltshire Health Promotion Services, Wiltshire LEA Health Team, or other local or national organisations

Links to other policies

This RSE policy links to other policies in use at Kennet Valley School these are as follows:

- Behaviour / discipline / anti-bullying policy
- PSHE and Citizenship policy
- Health and Safety policy
- Child Protection policy
- Procedures for external trips and visits
- School Improvement Plan

Dissemination, Monitoring and Evaluation

This policy is available on the school website for everyone to have access to and has been circulated to all members of the S&C governing body committee and staff. Parents have been notified through the school newsletter where to find all policies.

Key roles:

Headteacher	– Mrs Karen Venner
Chair of Governors	– Rev'd Maria Shepherdson
PSHE leader	– Mrs Carol Oliver