

Newlands Primary School Sex and Relationship Education Policy



Headteacher: Mr C Markham
Last reviewed: July 2017
To be reviewed: July 2018

SIGNED BY HEADTEACHER/ CHAIR.....


26/7/17
DATE.....

Introduction

Member(s) of staff Responsible: **Mrs J McManus** (PSHE Coordinator)

Next Review Date: July 2018

Background Information

Newlands is a large primary school situated on the border of Ramsgate. A school of our size naturally caters for the whole range of ability, however our percentage of children with special educational needs is much higher than average. The large majority of pupils are from white British backgrounds. A relatively small number are from other ethnic backgrounds. The number of pupils in the school at an early stage of learning English fluctuates, and some remain only a short time. Newlands has achieved the bronze award for Healthy Schools Status.

Policy Statement

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

Effective SRE can make a significant contribution to the development of the personal skills needed by pupils if they are to establish and maintain relationships. It also enables young people to make responsible and informed decisions about their health and well-being.

The 1996 Education Act consolidates all relevant previous legislation and states that all primary schools must provide an up to date policy that describes the content and organisation of SRE provided outside the National Curriculum Science Order. The DFE Sex and Relationship Education Guidance (2000) supports this legislation and recommends that all primary schools should have a sex and relationship education programme tailored to the age and physical and emotional maturity of the children.

Other related policies and documents include the Anti-Bullying Policy, Drug Education Policy, Child Protection Policy and Equality Policy documents.

Aims and Objectives

- To provide reassurance that body changes, physical, social and emotional are normal and acceptable.
- To correct misconceptions and myths
- To understand at a basic level how babies are made,
- To inform the children of the changes that male and female bodies undergo during puberty
- To inform the children what happens when sexual intercourse takes place
- To emphasize the value of sex within a stable and loving relationship where care and respect are paramount.
- To encourage children to respect their own bodies and take responsibility for themselves.

Moral and Values Framework

The SRE programme at Newlands Primary School reflects the school ethos and demonstrates and encourages the following values:

- Understanding the importance of marriage, family, stable and loving relationships
- Respect for self;
- Respect for others;
- Responsibility for their own actions;
- Responsibility for their family, friends, schools and wider community.

Equal Opportunities Statement

Newlands school equal opportunities policy also applies to Sex and Relationship Education. The school is committed to the provision of SRE to all of its pupils. Our programme aims to respond to the diversity of children's cultures, faiths and family backgrounds. Parents are always welcome to discuss these items with staff.

Organisation of Sex and Relationship Education

The resource used to teach Sex and Relationship Education at Newlands Primary School is the Channel 4 programme Living and Growing- Alternative Units 1, 2 and 3, along with follow up work. These resources were agreed by parents, governors and staff at Newlands in 2013.

KS 1 follow Living and Growing Unit 1 which is for pupils aged 5-7 and aims to gently introduce children to issues relating to sex education including living and growing, families and our bodies, differences between boys and girls and relationships at home and at school. The video features three 15-minute programmes:

- Differences
- How did I get here?
- Growing up.

KS 2 Years 3 and 4 follow Living and Growing Units 2 and 3 which builds upon the programmes in Unit 1 and is designed for use with pupils aged 7-9. The programmes examine issues such as the human life cycle in the context of all

living things, changes within or beyond our control, friendship, puberty, sexual relationships, pregnancy and the birth of a baby. The video features three 15-minute programmes:

- Changes
- How babies are made
- How babies are born.

KS2 Years 5 and 6 follow Living and Growing Unit 2 which aims to help prepare children to face adolescence and puberty confidently. The first two programmes offer schools flexibility in class management.

The video features three 15-minute programmes:

- Girl talk - Viewed as an all-girl group
- Boy talk - Viewed as an all-boy group

It was suggested by parents during a consultation period that Girl Talk should also be viewed by the boys, as an all boy group, and visa versa, therefore this is how the teaching of this unit will be organized.

SRE is included in the PSHE whole school yearly plan, and each year group has been supplied with all the teaching resources necessary.

Organisation

SRE should not be delivered in isolation but firmly embedded in all curriculum areas, including Personal, Social Health Education (PSHE) and citizenship. At Newlands the main content is delivered in PSHE lessons in the summer term to all year groups from Year 1 onwards. This ensures a coherent spiral curriculum.

SRE is delivered by class teachers in mixed gender groups other than in year 6 where single sex groups were deemed to be more appropriate by both staff and parents. Active learning methods which involve children's full participation are used. If staff require advice they should refer to the SRE co-ordinator.

A set of ground rules will help teachers create a safe environment for pupils to ask questions.

Occasionally, appropriate and suitably experienced and/or knowledgeable visitors from outside school may be invited to contribute to the delivery of SRE in school. Newlands Primary School has a code of practice for using visitors to support the delivery of the curriculum. Teachers are required to keep assessments of the key objectives taught in relation to PSHE and this includes SRE. The assessment sheets will then follow the children through the school.

Cross curricular links

All curriculum areas make a contribution to SRE. Some subjects make a clear contribution, such as Science and PSHE, while other subjects make a less obvious, but important, contribution, such as:

- Literacy – discussion of specific relationships and moral dilemmas
- R.E. – discussion of family and marriage
- History and Geography – discussion of wider social issues
- Art and Music – discussion of feelings and emotions within relationships

Specific Issues within SRE

Withdrawal

Parents/Carers have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the sex and relationships education provided at school except for those parts included in statutory National Curriculum. Those parents/carers wishing to exercise this right are invited in to see the Head teacher who will explore any concerns and discuss any impact that withdrawal may have on the child. However, if parents still wish to withdraw their children they must inform the school in writing with a letter addressed to the Head-Teacher and SRE Co-ordinator. Once a child has been withdrawn they cannot take part in the SRE programme until the request for withdrawal has been removed.

Confidentiality

As a general rule a child's confidentiality is maintained by the teacher or member of staff concerned. If this person believes that the child is at risk or in danger, she/he talks to the named child protection coordinator who may confer with the Headteacher before any decision is made. The child concerned will be informed that confidentiality is being breached and reasons why. The child will be supported by the teacher throughout the process.

Child Protection

The school has a separate Child Protection Policy. Effective SRE may bring about disclosures of child protection issues and staff should be aware of the procedures for reporting their concerns.

Controversial and Sensitive Issues Staff are aware that views around SRE related issues are varied. However, while personal views are respected, all SRE issues are taught without bias. Topics are presented using a variety of views and beliefs so that pupils are able to form their own, informed opinions but also respect others that may have a different opinion.

Dealing with Questions

Both formal and informal SRE arising from pupils' questions are answered according to the age and maturity of the pupil concerned. Questions do not have to be answered directly, and can be addressed individually later. The school believes that individual teachers must use their skill and discretion in this area and refer to the Child Protection Coordinator if they are concerned. Teachers can refer pupils to the Family Liaison Officer.

Sexual Identity and Sexual Orientation

Newlands Primary School believes that SRE should meet the needs of all pupils regardless of their developing sexuality and be able to deal honestly and sensitively with sexual orientation, answer appropriate questions and offer support. Homophobic bullying is dealt with strongly yet sensitively. The school liaises with parents on this issue to reassure them of the content and context.

Dissemination

All staff members, governors and PTA committee members receive a copy of the SRE policy. Several copies are available from the school office on request from parents.

Monitoring and Review The PSHE coordinator facilitates the gathering of policy feedback from parents, staff and pupils every two years.