

LOUDWATER COMBINED SCHOOL

Sex and Relationship Education Policy

“Loudwater Combined School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share in this commitment. Please refer to our Safeguarding Policy.”

At Loudwater Combined School, we believe in the importance of education for the development of the whole child. Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) gives the children the opportunity to develop physically, morally and emotionally within the safe and caring environment of our school. It is about the understanding of the importance of 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 is taught through a whole-school approach, and is embedded within PSHE, to help prepare the children for life. SRE will help young people learn to respect themselves and others and move with confidence from childhood through adolescence into adulthood.

At Loudwater Combined School, SRE is enhanced by a supportive school ethos, where all are valued and encouraged, positive relationships are seen as important and there is a safe and secure school environment which is conducive to learning. Opportunities exist throughout the curriculum for promoting SRE, which will be taught through facts, rather than opinions. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from SRE lessons that fall outside those aspects covered in the National Curriculum science lessons. Parents do not have to give their reasons for withdrawing their children, but will be made aware of the implications of removing children. Children who are withdrawn from SRE lessons will be supervised within other classrooms during these sessions.

Aims

In Sex and Relationship Education we aim to provide opportunities for pupils to:

- Develop their own attitudes and values.
- Learn the importance of respect, love and care.
- Learn the value of commitments, family life and loving relationships.
- Develop confidence in talking, listening and thinking about feelings and relationships.
- Develop the confidence to articulate opinions and participate in discussions.
- Learn to manage emotions and relationships confidently and sensitively.
- Learn to make choices based on factual information.
- Have an appreciation of the consequences of choices made.
- Learn to protect themselves and ask for help and support.
- Learn to take responsibility for their own personal hygiene and personal well being.
- Be prepared for and understand the emotional and physical changes in puberty.
- Develop an understanding of physical development at appropriate stages.
- Understand sexuality, reproduction, sexual health, emotions and relationships.

Programme of Study

Throughout the school, SRE is taught through PSHE, social and emotional aspects of learning (SEALs) Circle Time and through Science topics covered during the year.

Foundation Stage

The Reception class is part of the Foundation Stage therefore, we relate SRE to the objectives set out in the Early Learning Goals, which underpin the curriculum planning for our children aged 4 and 5 years. These cover topics such as: the importance of personal hygiene, making and maintaining friendships, cooperating and sharing with others, feeling safe and expressing emotions, and the importance of families and those who care for us.

Years 1 & 2

- Feeling safe and content within the class
- Knowing how I am special
- Knowing how to make someone else feel welcome
- Beginning to be able to tell if others are feeling scared or lonely and how to make them feel better.
- Understanding what makes a good friend and how to make up with friends when there are disputes
- Listening to others and recognising that they may have a different point of view.
- Knowing how to stand up for own ideas or beliefs
- Knowing who are important people to me
- Understanding what it means to be loved or cared for

Years 3 & 4

- Knowing about others in the class
- Knowing how to make others feel welcome and valued
- Beginning to predict how you might feel in a situation
- Being able to give and receive a compliment
- Knowing how to behave in a friendly way
- Developing and understanding of the consequences of own actions on others feelings
- Understanding how to make amends when things go wrong

Years 5 & 6

- Working and communicating with others in the class
- Developing strategies to deal with uncomfortable feelings
- Understanding that there are different appropriate behaviours depending on the relationship
- Be able to empathise with others
- Knowing that people show their feelings in different ways
- Beginning to understanding feelings of loss or grief

Year 6 only

- Celebrations of birth puberty, marriage and death in different cultures
- Sexuality – what it is and words which describe it
- Messages about health and sexuality from television, films, books and newspapers

- BBC sex education programme which shows birth in a caring family setting; The programmes are:
 - Growing – physical and emotional changes during puberty.
 - Someone new – the development of the womb and the birth of a baby.
 - Life begins – the meeting of the sperm and the egg.
 Children watch the programme together but can be split up afterwards for separate follow up discussion with the class teacher and another appropriate adult. We shall aim to deal with questions in a sensitive, open, frank and matter of fact way. Questions relating to homosexuality, sexually transmitted diseases and contraception will be answered if raised. Parents will be notified in advance of the showing of the video and offered the opportunity to view the programmes if they wish. A consent form will be required to enable children to participate in the programme.

Approaches to teaching and learning

Loudwater Combined School helps young people to develop confidence in talking, listening and thinking about sex and relationships. SRE will be planned and generally taught by class teachers, although when appropriate suitably qualified professionals, for example the School Nurse, may support the teaching of a particular area.

Dealing with sensitive issues

There are guidelines and in school training given on confidentiality, handling sensitive and controversial issues and supporting young people. Teachers and other adults involved in SRE will sometimes hear disclosures that suggest a child may be at risk of abuse. All adults are aware of the school's child protection policy and that the Headteacher is the school's designated teacher for child protection. Where an adult believes a child may be at risk the designated teacher must be consulted before any further action is taken.

Inclusion

We aim to meet the needs of all our children and sometimes this is achieved by treating them differently. We promote the individuality of all our pupils, irrespective of ethnicity, attainment, age, disability, gender or background. Children with specific special educational needs will be taught using an appropriately differentiated programme. This will be developed following advice from their specialist teacher and in conjunction with their parents.

Working with Parents

We seek to work in partnership with parents to provide effective SRE. Our open door policy allows parents to discuss their views and concerns with the school. Parents need to know that the school's SRE programme will complement and support their role as parents and that they can be involved in the determination of the school's policy.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed in line with the governors' policy review cycle.

January 2017