

Sex and Relationships Education Policy

Sex and Relationships Education (SRE)

Sex and relationship education is lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of loving and caring relationships. It is about the teaching of sex, sexuality and sexual health.

Research demonstrates that good, comprehensive sex and relationship education does not make young people more likely to become sexually active at a younger age.

'The Government believe that all pupils should benefit from high-quality sex and relationships education at school; that schools have a clear role in reinforcing the information that children receive from parents, and in providing them with a safe and supportive environment in which to develop the knowledge they need to make wise and informed choices later in life.' (Nick Gibb, Minister of State for Schools, February 2012)

Aims of Teaching Sex and Relationships Education

Our goal is to help and support young people to understand and manage their physical, emotional and social development, through childhood, puberty and adolescence and to prepare them for an adult life in which they can enjoy their sexuality and the benefits of healthy, committed and loving relationships.

To that end, the core aims of an SRE programme in school, taking account of the age, maturity, ability and background of children and young people, should be to enable them to:

- acquire the knowledge and understanding they need about their bodies, how they work and how they develop;
- develop the skills and confidence to think clearly and communicate effectively about feelings and relationships;
- develop the skills and confidence to make decisions and to identify and deal with influences, pressures and risks;
- develop self esteem and the capacity to value and respect both themselves and other people and so avoid all forms of exploitation in relationships;
- be aware of and appreciate their own sexuality and understand the nature of human sexuality and reproduction, free from distortions, myths and misconceptions;
- with positive values and personal integrity, to develop a moral framework to guide their decisions, judgements and behaviour together with an awareness of and respect for the values held by others;

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- gain the knowledge and skills to protect themselves and their partners from the physical and emotional risks associated with immature, irresponsible or unprotected sexual activity, including unwanted conceptions and sexually transmitted infections (STIs);
- acquire the knowledge, confidence and capability to access appropriate sources of help, advice, support or treatment whenever they need it;
- understand the demands and rewards associated with family relationships, whether as a child, husband, wife or partner, or as a parent and be aware of the many variants of these relationships in modern society;
- identify their hopes and aspirations for their personal lives and their relationships and consider how best to achieve these.

The Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) Curriculum taught at the school is delivered in conjunction with the PINK Curriculum written by the Healthy Living and Learning team of Lead Teachers supported by Gloucestershire Local Authority. The curriculum aims to meet the needs of all children and young people in Gloucestershire in primary, secondary and FE settings; it is a 'work in progress', which will be updated and revised frequently. Its aim is to support the development of the necessary skills and knowledge that our children need to lead a happy, safe, healthy life.

The PINK curriculum is free to all schools and settings in Gloucestershire. In addition to the curriculum that has been developed there is an online planning tool, which enables schools to map and plan their SRE/PSHE Curriculum for the academic year. Progress in delivering the curriculum forms part of a review by the Gloucestershire Healthy Living and Learning Team (GHLL).

SRE is taught and reviewed in line with *E-Safety Offer of Early Help* and the *Safeguarding Policy*.

Progression in SRE

SRE is taught to students in Key Stages 3, 4 and 5. Students at Cotswold Chine are typically working within levels relatively low for their age and SRE content is differentiated sensitively to allow students to gain skills and obtain secure knowledge within their level, making progress each lesson. Teachers may draw on units from previous or later years to ensure they match and develop the skills of each student within their class group.

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Organisation of teaching

SRE is taught to each class group by class teachers who have appropriate subject knowledge in this subject area. The curriculum is overseen by the PSHE Coordinator in consultation with the overall Curriculum Coordinator and the Head Teacher.

Assessment

The principle used when assessing students' work is the B-Squared Connecting Steps programme used by the school. Students are assessed prior to learning taking place and continually monitored throughout the year. Teachers give ongoing feedback to students by highlighting their achievements and by giving constructive advice regarding future areas for improvement. Students are given many different opportunities to present their ideas, knowledge and understanding. These include posters, role play, oral contributions, drama and written work. Evidence is collected often through teacher evidence which is recorded after sessions.

Cross Curricular Links

Within the Scheme there are opportunities to develop skills in English through activities which encourage enquiry and communication, using sources of information and discussing and presenting arguments. Students also have opportunities to develop their Computing skills through activities that focus on research using IT based information, handling data, e-mail for communication and exchange of ideas. Safe use of the internet is also discussed. Links with Science include biology links. In addition, the SRE Curriculum compliments the PSHE and Citizenship Schemes of Work, SMSC and British Values.

Community links

The SRE Curriculum gives students the opportunity to visit a range of local facilities in relation to sexual health and medical facilities.

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Inclusion/equal opportunities

The school aims to give every student the opportunity to experience success and achieve as high a standard as possible, regardless of gender, race, religion, disability or social background.

In order to do this, the school:

- teaches the knowledge, skills and understanding that suit students' abilities and needs in order to challenge them;
- is flexible in choosing lesson content from a suitable level and key stage;
- uses materials that are free from discrimination or stereotyping;
- sets high expectations and provides opportunities for all students to achieve, including boys; girls; students with SEN or disabilities; students from all social, cultural and linguistic backgrounds and more able students;
- uses a range of organisational approaches, such as grouping or individual 1 to 1 work to ensure learning needs are appropriately addressed;
- plans work that builds on previous learning interests and experiences of students.

Role of the SRE Coordinator ensures that:

- all teachers are equipped to teach PSHE either as a specialist subject or through other subjects of the National Curriculum;
- they provide advice and support to teachers;
- all teachers have similar expectations;
- they regularly update the policy in light of any school, local or national changes;
- they monitor the progress students make over a period of time;
- they audit and appraise the quantity and quality of resources.

Health and Safety

When teaching SRE teachers ensure all planned lessons and activities adhere to the School's Health and Safety Policies and risk assessments. These are contained within the Statement of Purpose and Health and Safety Files.