



The Bemrose School

Sex and Relationship Education Policy (SRE)

Manager : E Wilkinson

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What Is Sex and Relationship Education?

SRE is lifelong learning about physical, sexual, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care, for family life. It involves acquiring information, developing skills and forming positive beliefs, values and attitudes.

Effective sex and relationship education is essential if young people are to make responsible and well informed decisions about their lives. This policy is consistent with national guidelines and legislation. A number of other policies and practices affect its delivery including equal opportunities, anti-bullying, child protection and the Code of Conduct. Colleagues may also be affected by issues regarding sex and relationships through their work in subject areas and should follow the guidelines contained in this policy.

Principles and Values

In addition The Bemrose School believes that SRE should:

- Be an integral part of the lifelong learning process, beginning in early childhood and continue into adult life.
- Be an entitlement for all young people
- Encourage every student to contribute to make our community and aims to support each individual as they grow and learn.
- Be set within this wider school context and supports family commitment and love, respect and affection, knowledge and openness. Family is a broad concept; not just one model, e.g. nuclear family. It includes a variety of types of family structure, and acceptance of different approaches.
- Encourage students and teachers to share and respect each other's views. We are aware of different approaches to sexual orientation, without promotion of any particular family structure. The important values are love, respect and care for each other.
- Generate an atmosphere where questions and discussion on sexual matters can take place without any stigma or embarrassment.

- Recognise that parents are the key people in teaching their children about sex, relationships and growing up. We aim to work in partnership with parents and students, consulting them about the content of programmes.
- Recognise that the wider community has much to offer and we aim to work in partnership with health professionals, social workers, peer educators and other mentors or advisers.

Sex and Relationship Education in this school has three main elements:

Attitudes and Values

- learning the importance of values, individual conscience and moral choices;
- learning the value of family life, stable and loving relationships, and marriage;
- learning about the nurture of children;
- learning the value of respect, love and care;
- exploring, considering and understanding moral dilemmas;
- developing critical thinking as part of decision-making
- challenging myths, misconceptions and false assumptions about normal behaviour.

Personal and Social Skills

- learning to manage emotions and relationships confidently and sensitively;
- developing self-respect and empathy for others;
- learning to make choices with an absence of prejudice;
- developing an appreciation of the consequences of choices made;
- managing conflict;
- empower students with the skills to be able to avoid inappropriate pressures or advances (both as exploited or exploiter)

Knowledge and Understanding

- learning and understanding physical development at appropriate stages;
- understanding human sexuality, reproduction, sexual health, emotions and relationships;
- learning about contraception and the range of local and national sexual health advice, contraception and support services (secondary phase only);
- learning the reasons for delaying sexual activity, and the benefits to be gained from such delay (secondary phase only);
- the avoidance of unplanned pregnancy (secondary phase only).

Aims

The aim of SRE is to provide balanced factual information about human reproduction, together with consideration of the broader emotional, ethical, religious, and moral dimensions of sexual health. Our SRE programme aims to prepare students for an adult life in which they can:

- To help and support young people through their physical, emotional and moral development.
- To help young people to learn to respect themselves and others and move with confidence from childhood through adolescence into adulthood.
- To give young people the skills and understanding they need to live confident, healthy and independent lives. To enable them to be effective decision makers.
- To give accurate information and to develop the skills needed to understand difference and to respect others with the purpose of preventing and removing prejudice.
- To contribute to the promotion of spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of young people.

Organisation and Content of Sex and Relationship Education

The Bemrose School specifically delivers Sex and Relationship Education through its PSHE and Curriculum Enrichment day Programme, RE and Science lessons at KS3, and KS4. In addition to the SEAL programme in the primary phase.

Much of the Sex and Relationship Education at The Bemrose School takes place within PSHE lessons and Curriculum Enrichment Days. Teachers generally deliver the PSHE Curriculum with support from professionals where appropriate. Form tutors work closely with their tutees over a number of years and we believe that they are usually the best people to work with the students on many of the SRE topics as they are aware of each student's individual circumstances. This is facilitated through 'Let's Explore'. SRE lessons are set within the wider context of the PSHE curriculum and focus more on the emotional aspects of development and relationships, although the physical aspects of puberty and reproduction are also included. The Science National Curriculum is delivered by staff in the science department. These lessons are more concerned with the physical aspects of development and reproduction, although the importance of relationships is not forgotten.

Any SRE lesson may consider questions or issues that some students will find sensitive. Before embarking on these lessons ground rules are established which prohibit inappropriate personal information being requested or disclosed by those taking part in the lesson. When students ask questions, we aim to answer them honestly, within the ground rules established at the start of the sessions. When it is felt that answering a specific question would involve information at a level inappropriate to the development of the rest of the students, the question may be dealt with individually at another time. More expert or specialist professionals support teachers who are uncomfortable with delivering certain aspects of the curriculum. Support is offered from the school health team or from the PSHE co-ordinator who will help with planning or delivery lessons if required.

The Care and Guidance system together with appropriate outside agencies will provide specific support for vulnerable students including students with safeguarding issues, pregnant students and young mothers and fathers, gay, lesbian students and trans gender (also covered by our Equal Opportunities policy) and those exhibiting inappropriate sexual behaviours. The Designated Safeguarding Lead, will monitor contact with parents and carers regarding sensitive issues.

Specific support for students who are pregnant and fathers is given in all ways possible. The student is consulted before any support package is devised and implemented, to ensure that their needs are being met as far as possible. Outside agencies such as Education Welfare, Health and Social Care can be involved to provide extra support for the student and her / his family. Within school, we respond flexibly to the student's changing needs. Part time timetables, counselling and the opportunity to work off-site are all offered and this level of support can continue after the birth if necessary. Staff are informed on a need to know basis.

Inclusion

Ethnic and Cultural Groups

We intend our policy to be sensitive to the needs of different ethnic groups. For some young people it is not culturally appropriate for them to be taught particular items in mixed groups. We will respond to parental requests and concerns.

Students with Special Needs

We will ensure that all young people receive sex and relationship education, and we will offer provision appropriate to the particular needs of all our students, taking specialist advice where necessary.

Sexual Identity and Sexual Orientation

We aim to deal sensitively and honestly with issues of sexual orientation, answer appropriate question and offer support. Young people, whatever their developing sexuality need to feel that sex and relationship education is relevant to them.

Right of Withdrawal of Students from Sex and Relationship Education

Some parents prefer to take the responsibility for aspects of this element of education. They have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the sex and relationship education except for those parts included in the statutory National Curriculum (i.e. in Science lessons). We would make alternative arrangements in such cases. Parents are encouraged to discuss their decisions with staff at the earliest opportunity. Parents are welcome to review any SRE resources the school uses.

Confidentiality, Controversial and Sensitive Issues

Teachers cannot offer unconditional confidentiality. Teachers are not legally bound to inform parents or Headteacher of any disclosure unless the Headteacher has specifically requested them to do so.

In a case where a teacher learns from an under 16 year old that they are having or contemplating sexual intercourse:

- the young person will be persuaded, wherever possible, to talk to parent/carer and if necessary to seek medical advice.

- safeguarding issues will be considered, and referred if necessary to the Designated Safeguarding Lead under the school's procedures.
- the young person will be properly counselled about contraception, including precise information about where young people can access contraception and advice services.

In any case where safeguarding procedures are followed, the teacher will ensure that the young person understands that if confidentiality has to be broken, they will be informed first.

Health professionals in school are bound by their codes of conduct in a one-to-one situation with an individual student, but in a classroom situation they must follow the school's confidentiality policy.

Monitoring and Evaluation of Sex and Relationship Education

It is the responsibility of the PSHE Co-ordinator to oversee and organise the monitoring and evaluation of PSHE, in the context of the overall school plans for monitoring the quality of teaching and learning.

The Governing Body is responsible for overseeing, reviewing and organising the revision of the Sex and Relationship Education Policy

Ofsted is required to evaluate and report on spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of students. This includes evaluating and commenting on the school's sex and relationship education policy, and on support and staff development, training and delivery.

Performance Indicator

- 0 young teenage pregnancies