

Policy Connections

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Supplementary Guidance for Policies (covering Philosophy & Purpose; Audience, Monitoring & Evaluation; Assessment, Recording & Reporting; and Supporting Learning Beyond the School) and with the Safeguarding, PSHE, Citizenship and Confidentiality policies. Promoting the development of the whole child is an integral aspect of our school aims. At the Loyne Specialist School we believe that Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) is an important aspect of lifelong learning that incorporates physical, moral and emotional development. SRE at the Loyne Specialist School should help pupils develop an awareness of self. Many of our pupils will be able to develop an understanding of their physical and emotional development enabling them where possible to make positive decisions in their lives, whereas others may be able to consider issues of morality. Sex education is an integral part of the much wider Personal, Social Health and Citizenship Education curriculum, and in doing so aims to promote self-esteem, confidence and personal protection for all our pupils.

Aims

The aims of SRE education are to enable pupils at the Loyne Specialist School:

- To be aware of self
- To develop an increasing self-awareness
- To develop positive self esteem
- To enable them to develop confidence and responsibility and make the most of their abilities
- To develop an understanding and knowledge of their physical selves including preparation for puberty.
- To develop an understanding of their physical and emotional reactions to different situations and encourage expression of their feelings in an appropriate manner.
- To discuss an understanding of human relationships and explore the interpersonal skills needed to make and maintain relationships, including where possible the confidence to communicate, talk, listen and think about feelings and relationships.
- To listen to and develop an understanding of factual information about human reproduction, sexuality and sexual health that will help them make appropriate and responsible decisions in these areas.
- To develop the knowledge and skills that enables them to recognise and counter sexually abusive situations and relationships that are abusive by association.

Teaching and Learning throughout The Loyne's programme of SRE, staff aim to present information in an objective, balanced and sensitive manner. This sensitivity includes careful judgement of what a pupil needs to know because of their level of physical development with what a pupil is able to understand at their level of cognitive development.

When teaching SRE teachers will maintain a balance between:

- Attitudes and values
- Personal and social skills
- Knowledge and understanding (See DfEE 116/200.9)

Sex education should not simply promote awareness of the law on sexual behaviour, but should encourage respect for the individual, responsibility and the value of stable relationships and families. This must be done with sensitivity to pupils who have not experienced these values, ensuring that all pupils experience a sense of worth whilst continuing to learn. At the Loyne Specialist School we use a range of teaching and learning styles to deliver the PSHE and Citizenship framework. We place an emphasis on active learning and use a range of communication aids and visual and concrete

teaching aids to involve pupils and to aid their understanding of the issues raised. SRE is taught in class groups or smaller groups. These different groups are usually mixed sex, but on occasions it may be considered appropriate to approach a topic in a single sex group. Arrangements to include individual pupils in other class groups for particular topics are also considered, based on individual pupil need. There may also be exceptional situations where issues need to be addressed when they are raised by a pupil. A flexible approach to time tabling will be needed when such a rapid response is required. Health professional may also be available to provide 1:1 support if a class or module teacher felt this was necessary.

Method of delivery

SRE is cross-curricular, delivered discreetly, and through continuous work which permeate school life.

Early Years Foundation Stage

Pupils follow the guidance in the EYFS curriculum. The Personal, Social and Emotional Developments Strand helps pupils develop relationships, self-confidence, self-awareness and manage their feelings and behaviour which prepares them for the KS1 curriculum.

Discrete delivery

SRE is taught through the PSHE scheme of work and the requirements set out within the National Curriculum Science programme. The following section briefly summarises the areas that are taught to different key stages. However, this content will be tailored to the individual understanding of pupils. Hence all the areas outlined below may not be covered by all pupils.

Key stage 1

Units of work from the PSHE Scheme

- Relationships
- Personal Growth, changes and reproduction and caring for living things

Units of work from Science National Curriculum

- Animals including Humans (babies, children and other animals).
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Key Stage 2

Units of work from the PSHE Scheme

- Healthy Lifestyles
- Emotional Health and Well-being
- Being safe, keeping safe and feeling safe
- Personal growth, change and reproduction

Units of work from Science National Curriculum

- Animals including Humans (growth, reproduction and life cycles)

Key Stage 3 and 4

At KS 3 and 4 SRE is taught through the PSHE scheme of work and the requirements set out within the National Curriculum Science programme.

SRE taught through the PSHE and Health Science Scheme include:

- Recap on body changes from childhood to adulthood including gender identification, naming external and internal sexual organs
- Menstruation, and night time emissions

- Self-examination
- Masturbation
- Consent and trust how to deal with unwanted sexual advances
- Different kinds of relationships
- Making choices about our relationships
- Relationship difficulties and pressures
- Discreet SRE taught each spring during modular science includes the following:
- Recap on Sexual intercourse
- Stages of pregnancy and birth
- Demands of parenting
- Peer to peer abuse including sexting and hazing. (Please read in conjunction with DfE-Preventing and tackling bullying (July 2017)).

In addition pupils will also explore the topic areas 'Personal Growth, Change and Reproduction' and 'Emotional Health and wellbeing'.

Key Stage 5

PSHE and Citizenship is delivered in accordance with the FE Scheme of Work, this includes Personal growth, change, and reproduction, changing world, media influences, personal safety (contraception) emotions and feelings during puberty, relationships, (different types), and STIs and HIV.

Continuous Delivery of SRE

It is recognised that SRE is a whole school issue which is explicitly reflected in the values and ethos of our school where we continually strive to provide opportunities for pupils to develop:

- Personal autonomy
- Make choices and express preferences
- Build positive self-esteem
- Equal Opportunities

The school's programme of sex education is available to all pupils, providing parents have not exercised their rights of withdrawal. A range of communication aids may be used (e.g. Makaton, etc.) where this is helpful. Where a pupil's mother tongue is not English, advice will be sought from the Education Authority.

The delivery of the awareness and understanding of staying safe with regards to sexual content online will be taught on a bespoke basis upon need, understanding and context.

Resources

Resources for SRE are continually being developed. These are held in the central storeroom. Resources that are either considered particularly explicit or likely to be controversial will be discussed with the Governor who has particular responsibility for child protection.

Criteria for selection of resources are as follow:

- Resources must assist pupil understanding of sex education.
- Resources are unambiguous.
- Resources promote equality of opportunity and do not encourage gender stereotyping.

- Whenever possible, resources produced specifically for pupils with severe learning difficulties.
- A wide and varied range of resources should be available in school.
- Resources are within the allocated budget

Working with Parents:

The school aims to work in partnership with parents. A brief description of the programme is contained in the school prospectus and updated regularly. In addition to this parents are encouraged to come into school if they have any issues that concern them. There are regular opportunities to contact school through Annual Reviews and Open Days, the School will ensure that parents are aware of the nature of the sex education that their child is likely to be involved in during the school year. Particular care must be taken to ensure that parents clearly understand the extent of discussion/types of resources to be used when teaching particularly sensitive or controversial issues. Parents are welcome to arrange a visit to school to look at our resources or discuss any aspect of sex education.

Child withdrawal procedures

If parents wish to withdraw their children from any or all aspects of the sex education curriculum, they should write to the Headteacher outlining their concerns. The School will then invite parents to a voluntary meeting where they may, if they wish, discuss their reasons for withdrawal or particular concerns. The School will then be able to provide full information on the approaches, resources used and reasons for teaching these areas. It is hoped that this procedure will prevent any misunderstandings arising about sex education at The Loyne Specialist School. Should parents wish to withdraw their child from any or all aspects of sex education, alternative arrangements will be made within school whilst these aspects are being taught. This will usually mean the child joining another class group for that specific period of time. In a school like The Loyne it may not be possible to match the age of the withdrawn pupil with this group. Whilst we would wish to offer parents as much support in this area as possible, they should note that the biological aspects of human sexual behaviour are covered in National Curriculum Science. Parents are not entitled to withdraw their children from this teaching.

Complaints procedure

Parents who are unhappy about any aspects of the sex education programme should contact the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher to arrange a meeting to discuss the issue. This meeting may involve the Class Teacher or Co-ordinator for sex education. If the issue remains unresolved, the School Advisor or Complex Learning Difficulties Service may be asked for advice and assessment of the situation. If parents remain unhappy, they should write to the Governing Body (Curriculum Committee) who will examine the complaint. If this remains unresolved, the Local Education Authority can then be involved.

Confidentiality (individual and in the classroom)

Confidentiality is essential in order to encourage confidence and avoid embarrassment during sex education lessons. Visitors and members of staff not involved in the lesson are asked to respect their confidential nature by not entering the classroom. Pupils' Personal, Social and Health Education books or files are considered to be their own property and will not be shown to visitors to the school without pupils' permission.

However, teachers cannot offer or guarantee pupils unconditional confidentiality (see child protection policy). Health professionals are bound by their professional codes of conduct in a 1-1 situation with individual pupils, but in a classroom situation they should follow school's confidentiality policy.

Child sexual abuse procedures

In all matters relating to safeguarding, including sexual abuse, there are specific procedures laid down by the Education Authority. Staff are regularly updated on safeguarding procedures and a safeguarding board with key information is available in the staffroom. The school has nominated members of staff responsible for safeguarding procedures. These procedures are available for parents to consult. If sexual abuse is suspected, teachers must follow these procedures.

Contraception

Contraceptive "advice", information and referrals to under 16's (individually and in the classroom). The issue of contraception is covered briefly at Key Stage 4 depending on the needs of the students and considered in more depth at 16-19 years of age. Whilst contraception may be taught in planned lessons and individual questions will be answered as in any teaching situation, contraceptive advice will not be given to pupils under 16. Pupils requiring such advice will be advised to see their General Practitioner or the Family Planning Clinic.

Procedures for the involvement of:

Health professionals:

Health professionals are a valuable resource for information and staff training in the field of sex education. Their contribution would also include assisting with the teaching and management of health and hygiene at school. Health professionals may be invited to the school to deliver 1-1 sessions such as advising on how to deal with menstruation. If the need was identified for a discreet group of pupils, a health professional would be able to deliver sessions on the range of and access to contraception, including emergency contraception and its effectiveness.

Visitors:

The School considers sex education to be a very personal and sensitive issue. Therefore visiting speakers will not be invited to talk to the pupils about issues involving or relating to sex education. However, visiting speakers can play an important part in staff training. Procedures for supporting any member of the school community infected or affected by HIV Equality of learning opportunity should be available for pupils affected or infected by HIV. Should the school be aware of HIV infection in any individual member of the school community, confidential advice will be sought from the Health Authority (Department of Communicable Diseases) and Lancashire County Health and Safety Department. Their recommendations will be followed. Information regarding any personal or medical issue will remain confidential to those members of staff who have contact with the pupil(s). Parents or pupils affected by HIV through knowledge of a friend or relation who is HIV positive will be given the opportunity to discuss the situation. Such discussion will be co-ordinated by the Class Teacher under the supervision of the Co-ordinator for sex education, the Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher.

Parents of individual pupils affected or infected by HIV will be kept fully informed of actions taken by the school.

Dissemination of the Policy

Existing parents will receive notification via our newsletter that an updated policy is available on the website. Prospective parents will be notified that the School has a sex education policy through the Prospectus.

Sex Education

The PHSE Co-ordinator will monitor the teaching of Sex Education alongside other PHSE teaching. The Curriculum Committee also considers issues relating to sex education.

Reviewer: Gemma Dooney

Date: October 2018

Review October 2019