



Sex and Relationship Education Policy

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Sex Relationship Education is lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of a stable and loving relationship for family life (including marriage), respect, love and care without stigmatising students based on their home circumstances.

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 has 3 main elements:

1. Attitudes and Values
2. Personal and Social Skills
3. Knowledge and Understanding
4. At North Chadderton, SRE is principally taught through 2 main curriculum areas – SMSC/RE and Science.

Parents are the key people in teaching their children about sex, relationships and growing up. Their important role as sex educators is recognised in the Home Office strategy “Supporting Families”, and North Chadderton seeks to work in close partnership with parents in this field. The key purpose of this policy statement is to reassure parents that North Chadderton’s SRE programme will complement and support their role as parents.

OFSTED is statutorily required under Section 10 of the School Inspections Act 1996 to evaluate and report on the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils at any school they inspect. This includes evaluating and commenting on a school’s sex and relationship education policy and programme of study.

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Rationale

The purpose of the Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) Policy is to contribute to the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of students at North Chadderton School. North Chadderton School aims to equip all groups of students to take their place in a rapidly changing and challenging world. We also aim to contribute to the National Healthy School Standard.

Through the SRE Policy, North Chadderton has the following objectives:

- To teach about one-to-one relationships, the value of love and care and the responsibilities of parenthood.
- To be inclusive of all our young people, regardless of gender, culture or family circumstances.
- To build self-esteem.
- To teach students how to take responsibility for themselves and others and how to deal with the consequences of their actions.
- To provide students with information about different methods of contraception, safe sex and how to access local sources of advice and treatment.
- To provide our learners with a clear understanding of the arguments for delaying sexual activity and resisting pressure.
- To link SRE with issues of peer pressure and other risk-taking behaviour in order to promote young people's safety and well-being.
- To ensure students understand how the law applies to sexual relationships.

This policy takes into account the Personal, Social & Health Education (PSHE) framework, the National Healthy School Standard, the Social Inclusion Unit report on teenage pregnancy and the DfE "Sex & Relationship Education Guidance" of July 2000 (Ref: DfE 0116/2000) and Ofsted 2006 report on Sex and Relationships (HM1433).

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What is Sex and Relationship Education?

SRE is lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of stable and loving relationships including marriage for family life, as key building blocks of community and society. Care must however be taken that there is no stigmatisation of students based on their home circumstances.

It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality and sexual health. It is not about the promotion of sexual orientation or sexual activity - this would be inappropriate teaching.

SRE has three main elements:

Attitudes and Values

- Learning the importance of values, individual conscience and moral considerations

Learning the value of family life, stable and loving relationships and marriage for the nurture of children without stigmatising students based on their home circumstances.

Learning the value of respect, love and care

Exploring, considering and exploring moral dilemmas and developing critical thinking as part of decision making.

Personal and Social Skills

- Learning to manage emotions and relationships confidently and sensitively

Developing self-respect and empathy for others

Learning to make choices based on an understanding of difference and an absence of prejudice

Developing an appreciation of the consequences of choices made

Managing conflict; and Learning how to recognise exploitation and abuse and to develop strategies to deal with these issues

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

Learning the reasons for delaying sexual activity, and the benefits to be gained from such delay

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The avoidance of unplanned pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections

Understanding the implications of on-line relationships and know how to manage them safely.

Principles:

North Chadderton's Sex and Relationship Education policy is based upon the following principles:

- Effective sex and relationship education is an essential part of the curriculum if young people are to make responsible and well informed decisions about their lives.
- The key objective of sex and relationship education is to help and support young people through their physical, emotional and moral development.
- As part of the new PSHE framework, sex and relationship education will help students to develop the necessary skills and understanding for them to lead confident, healthy and independent lives.
- As part of sex and relationship education, students should be taught about the nature and importance of marriage as well as issues relating to the demands of family life and parenthood.
- Students should learn the significance of stable relationships and marriage as key building blocks of community and society. However, care must be taken to ensure that there is no stigmatisation of students based on their home circumstances.
- Students should be given accurate and up to date information and encouraged to develop skills that promote an understanding of difference and a respect for themselves and others.
- Effective SRE does not encourage early sexual experimentation. Students should be taught the reasons for delaying sexual activity and the benefits to be gained from such delay. They will also be encouraged to seek appropriate advice on sexual health matters.
- It is the responsibility of the School to ensure that the needs of all students are met, whatever their developing sexuality. However, there should be no direct promotion of sexual orientation.

How is Sex and Relationship Education Delivered at North Chadderton School?

SRE at North Chadderton follows current DfE guidelines for schools (2000). It is principally delivered through two main curriculum areas:

SMSC/RE

In addition to our own staff we draw upon the expertise of various multi-agency organisations to help in the delivery of SRE. These include: School Nurse Sexual Health team, Brook Advisory and Salt Cellar Youth Project. Brook is the country's largest young people's sexual health charity. For 50 years, they have been providing sexual health services, support and advice to young people under the age of 25.

Brook exists to:

Promote the health, particularly sexual health, of young people and those most vulnerable to sexual ill health through providing information, education and outreach, counselling, confidential clinical and medical services, professional advice and training.

With over 50 years of experience working with young people, Brook come into our school and use their expertise to engage participants on a variety of topics. Their courses teach our students about negotiating relationships, managing risky behaviour, sexual health and wellbeing; helping them to develop important life skills and self-confidence.

National Curriculum Science

N.B: SRE related issues may, on occasion, be raised in other subjects.

SMSC and RE

KEY STAGE 3

In Year 7 students will learn about:

- Friendship
- Personal Hygiene
- Puberty
- Negotiating with adults

In Year 8 students will learn about:

- Sex Education and the Law
- Effects of changes caused by divorce, separation, bereavement and new family members
- Peer pressure
- Abortion
- Contraception

In Year 9 students will learn about:

- Sexual activity
- Abortion
- Contraception
- Human reproduction
- Pregnancy

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- Sexually transmitted infections
- Relationships

National Curriculum Science

At secondary school, the National Curriculum in Science requires that the following elements of SRE should be taught:

KEY STAGE 3

- Fertilisation in humans is the fusion of a male and female cell
- The physical and emotional changes that take place during adolescence
- The human reproductive system, the menstrual cycle and fertilisation
- How the foetus develops in the uterus
- How the growth and reproduction of bacteria and the replication of viruses can affect health

KEY STAGE 4

- The way in which hormonal control occurs, including the effects of sex hormones
- Some medical uses of hormones, including the control and promotion of fertility
- The defence mechanisms of the body
- How sex is determined in humans

The Role of Parents

Parents are the key people in teaching their children about sex, relationships and growing up. Their important role as sex educators is recognised in the Home Office strategy “Supporting Families”, and North Chadderton seeks to work in close partnership with parents in this field.

As teachers have a key responsibility for the safety and welfare of pupils, they consequently act in loco parentis. Therefore it is important to reassure parents that the personal beliefs and attitudes of teachers and the representatives of outside agencies, will not influence the teaching of sex and relationship education within the school’s PSHE framework. All SRE teaching will reflect and support the values set out in this policy document and current legislation.

The SRE policy will be communicated to parents via the website. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from some, or all SRE lessons, but not statutory science lessons.

The key purpose of this policy statement is to reassure parents that North Chadderton’s SRE programme will complement and support their role as parents.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The SRE programme is regularly reviewed by the Curriculum Leader of SMSC and the Curriculum Leader of Science. Individual lessons are reviewed on a constant basis by SRE teachers.

The Sex and Relationships Education Policy is reviewed in the context of the new PSHE framework and current government guidelines and legislation.

It is the responsibility of the governing body and the Headteacher to ensure that the SRE policy is developed and made available for inspection.

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