

# CANTRELL PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL



## SEX & RELATIONSHIPS POLICY

February 2019

## **Background Information**

Cantrell Primary and Nursery School is a member of the Excellence in Cities Zone Schools, catering for children aged between 3 – 11 in the City of Nottingham. The children are predominantly white and come from both single and dual parent families. This policy was developed by the school PSHE co-ordinator through a variety of consultation methods involving pupils, parents, staff and governors. All views were taken into account when developing this policy and the Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) programme. On a bi-annual basis the SRE Governor is consulted as are the rest of staff. The school prospectus is used to advise parents of any changes in the policy.

## **Policy Statement**

Under the Education Act 2002/Academies Act 2010 all schools must provide a balanced and broadly-based curriculum which:

- *promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society, and*
- *prepares pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.*

SRE is set within a wider legislative context. The 2006 Education and Inspections Act laid a duty on Governing Bodies *'to promote the well-being of pupils at the school'*. The duty came into effect in September 2007. Governing bodies also have wider responsibilities under equalities legislation (most recently the Equalities Act 2010) and should ensure that their school strives to do the best for all of the pupils, irrespective of disability, educational needs, race, nationality, ethnic or national origin, sex, gender identity, pregnancy, maternity, religion or sexual orientation or whether they are looked after children. This means that sex and relationships education must be sensitive to the different needs of individual pupils and may need to evolve and adapt over time as the pupil population changes. At all times the overarching principle is to ensure the present and future wellbeing of pupils and to meet their learning needs. It is also crucial for lessons to help children to realise the nature and consequences of discrimination, teasing, bullying and aggressive behaviours (including cyber bullying), use of prejudice-based language and how to respond and ask for help.

## **Aims and Objectives**

Our School's overarching aims and objectives for our pupils are to provide a comprehensive programme of SRE ensuring accurate information about the body, reproduction, sex, and sexual health. Our aim is to give the children in our care 'the essential skills for building positive, enjoyable, respectful and non-exploitative relationships and staying safe both on and offline' (PSHE Association Feb 2014).

We believe at Cantrell Primary School that effective SRE can make a significant contribution to the development of the personal skills needed by pupils if they are to establish and maintain relationships. It also enables young people to make responsible and informed decisions about their health and well-being.

This policy provides guidance and information on all aspects of SRE in the school for staff, parents and governors. To be accessible to all of these groups the document is available on request and intended to be presented in a way that is easy to understand.

## **Rationale**

We define SRE as learning about 'the emotional, social and physical aspects of growing up, relationships, sex, human sexuality and sexual health. Some aspects are taught in science, and others are taught as part of personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE).' (PSHE Assn Feb 2014)

We consider that our SRE provision will include accurate information about the body, reproduction, sex, and sexual health. It also gives children and young people essential skills for building positive, enjoyable, respectful and non-exploitative relationships and staying safe both on and offline.

We believe it is important to address this often sensitive area of the curriculum because we want our children to be prepared for the physical and emotional changes of puberty, to learn about positive relationships and how to stay safe online.

The SRE programme at Cantrell Primary School reflects the school ethos and demonstrates and encourages the following values:

- Respect for self;
- Respect for others;
- Responsibility for their own actions;
- Responsibility for their family, friends, schools and wider community.

### **Equal Opportunities Statement**

The school is committed to the provision of SRE to all of its pupils. Our programme aims to respond to the diversity of children's cultures, faiths and family backgrounds. Equal time and provision will be allocated for all groups but there may be occasions where pupils with Special Educational Needs are given extra support from SEN staff.

### **Content**

In KS1 pupils learn to recognise similarities and differences between themselves and others, identify and be able to talk to someone they trust, be introduced to and encouraged to use the scientific language to describe the male and female body parts. The topics covered in KS1 will be revisited and built upon in KS2.

In KS2 pupils learn to express their opinions about relationships and bullying and to listen to and support others, including respecting other people's viewpoints and beliefs. They learn to recognize their own worth and identify positive things about themselves and try to balance the stresses in life in order to promote their own mental health and well-being of others. Life processes are discussed including the physical and emotional changes that take place at puberty, why they happen and how to manage them. Reproduction and birth will be covered in KS2.

We currently use the 3rd edition of Teaching SRE with Confidence in Primary Schools, a comprehensive and inclusive resource for teachers which provides schemes of work and lesson plans that combine a range of teaching styles and active learning techniques. All lesson plans include hyperlinks to stimulating teaching and white board materials. The content of the lessons is based on the teaching materials provided for each year group.

The parents were consulted on the use of these materials, the City SRE Consultant modelled the lessons on puberty with groups of children, parents have been invited to see the resources and the teaching staff have had the opportunity to become familiar and confident with the teaching materials used. The range of material used is available to parents and informative books are available for use by the children. Links are made in wider PSHE with SEAL topics being taken account of wherever possible.

The staff advise the PSHE co-ordinator on a termly basis of topics covered from the PSHE Skills ladder, so that the co-ordinator can monitor the coverage being taught.

## **Organisation**

SRE should not just be delivered in isolation but firmly embedded in all curriculum areas. Elements of the sex education in the science curriculum are assessed formally. Teachers are required to keep their own personal evaluation of each lesson which can be used by the coordinator to inform future planning. Staff are encouraged to assess and evaluate the knowledge and understanding of the children after each specific SRE lesson.

Cantrell Primary School believes in the importance of training for staff delivering SRE. Staff are encouraged to access appropriate training and support to help them deliver effective SRE. As a staff it has been agreed that the specific SRE lessons are to be taught in the second half of the spring term.

## **Specific Issues within SRE**

### Withdrawal

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the Sex and Relationships Education provided at school except for those parts included in statutory National Curriculum. Those parents wishing to exercise this right are invited in to see the Head Teacher who will explore any concerns and discuss any impact that withdrawal may have on the child. This is made clear through the School Prospectus. Materials are available to parents who wish to supplement the school SRE programme or who wish to deliver SRE to their children at home.

### Confidentiality

As a general rule a child's confidentiality is maintained by the teacher or member of staff concerned. At Cantrell School we believe it is important to set a climate of trust when sensitive topics are discussed. If this person believes that the child is at risk or in danger, she/he talks to the named Child Protection Coordinator. The child concerned will be informed that confidentiality is being breached and reasons why. The child will be supported by the teacher throughout the process, as it is important to us that the children know who to talk to if they wish to discuss concerns or worries on a 1:1 basis.

### Child Protection

The school has a separate Child Protection policy. Effective SRE may bring about disclosures of child protection issues and all staff are made aware of the procedures for reporting their concerns.

### Controversial and Sensitive Issues

All staff are aware that views around SRE related issues are varied. However, while personal views are respected, all SRE issues are taught without bias. Topics are presented using a variety of views and beliefs so that pupils are able to form their own, informed opinions but also respect others with different opinions.

### Dealing with Questions

Both formal and informal SRE concerns arising from pupil's questions are answered according to the age and maturity of the pupil(s) concerned. Questions do not have to be answered directly, and can be addressed individually later. The school believes that individual teachers must use their skill and discretion in this area and refer to the Child Protection Coordinator if they are concerned. A Worry Box is provided in the foyer for children to anonymously ask questions if they so wish.

### Sexual Identity and Sexual Orientation

Cantrell Primary and Nursery School believes that SRE should meet the needs of all pupils regardless of their developing sexuality and be able to deal honestly and sensitively with sexual orientation, answer appropriate questions and offer support. Incidents of homophobic bullying are extremely rare, but should they occur will be dealt with strongly yet sensitively. The school will liaise with parents on this issue to reassure them of the content and context, using normal school procedures.

## **Dissemination**

All staff members and governors receive a copy of the SRE policy. Training will be delivered to staff on the policy content, as and when required. Copies of the SRE policy are available from the school office on request from parents and the policy is also available to view online via the school's website.

Review date: February 2021