



Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) Policy

Berkeley Primary School

Policy agreed and uploaded to website	June 2025
Review date	June 2028
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We want all children to grow up healthy, happy, safe, and able to manage the challenges and opportunities of modern Britain. That is why, since September 2020, all primary age children are taught Relationships and Health Education. These subjects are designed to equip your child with knowledge to make informed decisions about their wellbeing, health and relationships as well as preparing them for a successful adult life. The world for all young people looks very different from the way it did 20 years ago when this curriculum was last updated – these changes bring the content into the 21st century, so that it is relevant for your child. We will deliver the content in a way that is age and developmentally appropriate and sensitive to the needs and religious background of our pupils.

Relationships Education

Relationships Education will put in place the building blocks needed for positive and safe relationships, including with family, friends and online. Your child will be taught what a relationship is, what friendship is, what family means and who can support them. In an age-appropriate way, your child's school will cover how to treat each other with kindness, consideration and respect.

By the end of primary school, pupils will have been taught content on:

- families and people who care for me
- caring friendships
- respectful relationships
- online relationships
- being safe

Health Education

Health Education aims to give your child the information they need to make good decisions about their own health and wellbeing, to recognise issues in themselves and others, and to seek support as early as possible when issues arise.

By the end of primary school, pupils will have been taught content on:

- mental wellbeing
- internet safety and harms
- physical health and fitness
- healthy eating
- facts and risks associated with drugs, alcohol and tobacco
- health and prevention
- basic first aid
- changing adolescent body

The Relationship Education, Relationship and Sex Education and Health Education (England) Regulations 2019, made under sections 34 and 35 Children and Social Work Act 2017 make Relationship Education compulsory for all pupils receiving primary education in England. The governing body has wider responsibilities under the Equalities Act 2010, to ensure that no pupil(s) are discriminated against because of their sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, educational needs, religion or belief, nationality, ethnic or national origin, pregnancy, maternity or home circumstances (e.g. looked after children).

Subject aims and objectives

We aim to:

- develop confidence and self-esteem;
- emphasise the role and value of family life;
- generate an atmosphere where questions of a personal or sexual nature can be asked and answered openly without embarrassment and trust and confidentiality are ensured;
- enable pupils to develop knowledge, communication skills and understanding in order to facilitate personal decision-making;
- enable pupils to understand the impact of external factors, such as the media, Internet, peer groups and remain independent decision makers;
- enable pupils to develop the ability to form positive relationships;
- safeguard our pupils against the risk of child sexual exploitation and grooming;
- enable pupils to be aware of personal, psychological, emotional and physical changes in themselves and others;
- enable pupils to understand the process of human reproduction;

Curriculum and School Organisation

We teach SRE through different aspects of the curriculum but mainly within PSHE lessons. While we carry out the main SRE teaching in our PSHE curriculum, we also teach some SRE through other subject areas (for example, science and PE), where we feel that they contribute significantly to a



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child's knowledge and understanding of their own body, and how it is changing and developing. The PSHE Curriculum Overview (on the school website) outlines the skills, knowledge and understanding expectation for each year group.

We teach about the parts of the body and how these work, and we explain to them what will happen to their bodies during puberty. For example, we tell the boys that their voices will change during puberty and we explain to the girls about menstruation. We encourage the children to ask for help if they need it.

In Key Stage 1 we teach children about how animals, including humans, have offspring which grow into adults and we also teach them about the main parts of the body. Children learn to appreciate the differences between people and how to show respect for each other. In Key Stage 2 we teach about life processes and the main stages of the human life cycle in greater depth. In Years 5 and 6 we place a particular emphasis on health education, as many children experience puberty at this age.

We use Big Talk Education to deliver specialist sessions to all children in our school every year. Big Talk Education are leading national specialists in SRE education. We do our best to answer all questions with sensitivity and care. By the end of Key Stage 2, we ensure that both boys and girls know how babies are born, how their bodies change during puberty, what menstruation is, and how it affects women. All teaching in the area of SRE, both in school and by our specialist external provider Big Talk Education, is carried out with due regard for the emotional development of the children (as stated earlier in this policy). Teaching and non-teaching staff observe the Big talk RSE lessons as part of their CPD programme to ensure that they can reinforce the lesson content and answer any follow up questions throughout the academic year.

The role of parents

We are aware and respectful of the fact that the primary role in children's SRE lies with parents and carers, who are key in teaching their children about sex and relationships and helping their children to understand the changes involved in growing up. We wish to build a positive and supportive relationship with the parents of children at our school through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation. The important lessons you teach your child about healthy relationships, looking after themselves and staying safe, are respected and valued under this new curriculum. Teaching at school will complement and reinforce the lessons you teach your child as they grow up.

In promoting this objective, we:

- inform parents about the school's SRE policy and practice;
- invite parents to a briefing meeting from Big Talk Education before they deliver SRE sessions throughout our school;
- answer any questions that parents may have about the SRE of their child;
- take seriously any issue that parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy or the arrangements for SRE in the school;
- encourage parents to be involved in reviewing the school policy and making modifications to it as necessary;
- inform parents about the best practice known with regard to SRE, so that the teaching in school supports the key messages that parents and carers give to children at home. We believe that, through this mutual exchange of knowledge and information, children will benefit from being given consistent messages about their changing body and their increasing responsibilities.

Right to withdraw your child

You cannot withdraw your child from Relationships Education because it is important that all children receive this content, covering topics such as friendships and how to stay safe. The science curriculum in all maintained schools also includes content on human development, including reproduction, which there is no right to withdraw from.

We also choose to teach Sex Education using Big Talk Education. If you'd like to know more about this, we recommend speaking to the school to understand what will be taught and when. If you do not want your child to take part in some or all of the lessons on Sex Education, you can ask that they



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are withdrawn. If a parent wishes their child to be withdrawn from Sex lessons, they should discuss this with the Headteacher, and make it clear which aspects of the programme they do not wish their child to participate in.

Confidentiality

SRE sessions are always conducted in an age appropriate and sensitive manner and in confidence. However, if a child makes a reference to being involved, or likely to be involved in sexual activity, then the teacher will take the matter seriously and deal with it as a safeguarding matter. Teachers will respond in a similar way if a child indicates that they may have been a victim of abuse. Any such disclosures would be dealt with according to our Child Protection and Safeguarding policy.

Monitoring and review

Feedback and suggestions from staff and parents on Big Talk Education's provision as well as their pre and post training confidence in RSE is gathered by Big Talk Education and returned to school to aid the review process.

Questions asked during lessons in year 4, 5 and 6 will be collected and kept for reference by Big Talk Education to ensure pupils' needs are being met. A list of the questions will be produced by Big Talk Education and sent to school as part of the evidence package.

The SRE curriculum is monitored each year by the PSHE leader. The governing body also gives serious consideration to any comments from parents about the SRE programme.