



Achieving Excellence Together in a Caring Community

Relationships Education and Sex Education Policy

Approved by:	Resources Committee	Date: June 2020
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Introduction

- This policy covers Dorchester Primary’s approach to Relationships Education and Sex Education.
- This policy encourages positive attitudes from both staff and students alike, and demonstrates our ethos and commitment to equality both in and out of the classroom.
- This policy reflects Dorchester’s overarching aim to achieve excellence in a caring community, as all members of staff take responsibility in delivering high quality Relationships Education and Sex Education.
- This policy has been written using the Relationships Education compulsory regulations from the government.
- This policy recognises that we have a responsibility under the Equality Act (2010) to ensure the best for all pupils irrespective of disability, educational needs, race, nationality, ethnic or national origin, sex, gender identity, pregnancy, maternity, religion, sexual orientation or whether a child is a looked after child.
- This policy is mindful and respectful of faith and cultural beliefs, and therefore teaching must be clear, impartial, scientific and factual.

Defining Comprehensive Relationships Education

- The Department for Education explains Relationships Education in the context of *“teaching the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships, with particular reference to friendships, family relationships and relationships with other peers and adults.”*



- At Dorchester, we believe that comprehensive Relationships Education is designed to help children develop their wider-world skills, and manage healthy relationships both online and in the real world.
- Relationships Education will help children to understand the differences and similarities between themselves and others, and it will develop their understanding that every human being is unique and therefore has the right to be respected.
- Relationships Education at Dorchester will help children to realise that their body is fantastic, and it belongs to them. It will build the foundations of an understanding of consent and personal boundaries.
- Relationships Education will teach children the names and functions of their body parts and children will be reassured that curiosity is natural. By teaching children the correct terms for their private parts, they are safer from abuse.
- Relationships Education at Dorchester also helps children to develop their emotional literacy and vocabulary and it will enable them to ask for help and manage their feelings effectively.

Defining Comprehensive Sex Education

- Whilst Sex Education is *not* compulsory in primary schools, at Dorchester, we deliver a Sex Education programme which is tailored to the age and maturity of our pupils.
- We believe that due to changes in the way children access information, particularly online, it is integral to teach sex education in school, particularly for UKS2 children, so they are empowered with the correct information. Children may have access to online pornography, or they may encounter sexting/inappropriate messaging, and the teaching of the dangers of these needs to be explicit and factual.
- Some Sex Education objectives, such as conception and puberty, are taught in Science lessons, and therefore parents cannot withdraw their child. However, we recognise that some parents may be uncomfortable with Sex Education, and they can withdraw their child from non-Science based Sex Education, after discussion with the teacher. The teachers at Dorchester will speak to the parents openly and honestly about why Sex Education is so important.
- At Dorchester, we believe that Sex Education should allow children a safe space to ask the questions they may have without shame or judgement. We believe that enabling children to talk freely and openly will help to keep them safe from harm, develop positive and healthy relationships, and keep them safer from exploitation, pressure or abuse.

The Organisation of Relationships Education and Sex Education

Relationships Education and Sex Education will be taught within the broader framework of the Foundation Stage Curriculum, the National Curriculum at KS1 and KS2 and within the context of PSHE, using both government and PSHE Association guidelines. Children will be given opportunities to develop their attitudes and values, their personal and social skills and they will acquire a knowledge and understanding of real world issues. The Relationships Education guidance has been split into five sections:

- Families and people who care for me
- Caring friendships
- Respectful relationships
- Online relationships
- Being Safe

At Dorchester, we have adapted these headings to ensure that other areas of the PSHE curriculum are being taught, in addition to Relationships Education and Sex Education. A full breakdown of the PSHE curriculum can be found in the PSHE Co-ordinator file on the school system. These are different for EYFS and KS1 and KS2.

EYFS and KS1:

- Me and my Family
- Me and my Friends
- Me and my Community
- Me and my World
- Me and my Body

KS2:

- Health and Wellbeing
- Living in the Wider World
- Relationships

The PSHE Association coined the terms we use in KS2, and they work extremely well in conjunction with the Relationships Education regulations.

Delivery of Relationships Education and Sex Education

At Dorchester, we base our teaching and learning style on the key principles of our Teaching and Learning Policy. Relationships Education and Sex Education is delivered through a variety of teaching methods and is culturally appropriate and inclusive for all children.

Teachers may use:

- Whole class teaching
- Whole class circle times
- Small group or 1:1 sessions
- Reflection sessions
- Philosophy for Children (P4C)
- Drama and practical learning
- IT including videos, games and software

Within the Science Curriculum, the children should:

- Know that all creatures, including humans, move, feed, grow, use their senses and reproduce.
- Recognise the main external parts of their bodies.
- Know that humans and animals can produce offspring, which grow into adults.
- Recognise the similarities and differences between themselves and others, and treat others with sensitivity.
- Know that the life processes common to humans and other animals include nutrition, growth and reproduction.
- Know about the main stages of the human life cycle.

Sex Education is delivered explicitly in Year 6, however the younger year groups are also taught about safe touch, privacy and positive relationships. At Dorchester, we believe that it is important for both girls and boys to learn about each other's bodies, changes and experiences. We endeavour to break down gender stereotypes and build positive relationships and respect for each other, thus ensuring a safe space for all gender identities including non-binary and transgender children.

Responding to Children's Questions

- We see questions as a positive sign that we have created a safe space where children feel empowered to feed their natural curiosity about themselves, their bodies and the world around them.
- We believe children should receive honest, open answers from safe adults in their lives, rather than it being left to the Internet.
- We believe that answering questions in a matter of fact manner, without embarrassment means that we take the mystery out of Relationships Education and Sex Education. Sex should not be a taboo and we believe children should be taught about their bodies in a positive way. This includes body image.
- We believe that if children ask a question, they deserve an answer. However uncomfortable the question may be, the thought is already in their head and it is therefore better to tackle the question safely and age appropriately, as best we can, as safe adults within the school environment.

Communication with Parents and Carers

- Dorchester Primary School is committed to its partnership with parents and carers, as they have a huge influence over their child's understanding of relationships and sex.
- We respect the culture and ethos of different families within our school, and the school's PSHE programme complements and supports the parental role at home.
- We believe that outstanding Relationships Education and Sex Education can only take place when parents/ carers and the school work together. We endeavour to be transparent and give parents information about the lessons we deliver, and

we realise that this can be a sensitive subject for some families, for a number of reasons.

- We recognise that under government guidance, parents have the right to withdraw their child from elements of Sex Education that go beyond the Science Curriculum.
- Should a parent decide to withdraw their child from a lesson, the class teacher will first discuss the content of the lesson. They will also explain that whilst they can withdraw their own child, they cannot withdraw other children. We believe that it is better for children to hear from safe adults than to hear second hand from their peers.

Safeguarding

- All members of staff who deliver Relationships Education and Sex Education have statutory safeguarding training and are all aware of the school's safeguarding policy and procedures.
- All staff at Dorchester will respect a child's confidentiality but this cannot be unconditional. If in the best interest of the child it has to be broken, then, as far as possible, it must only be with their knowledge. The child should be talked to privately and reassured.
- It is only in the most exceptional circumstances that the school should have to handle information without parental knowledge and child protection issues would need to be addressed.
- If a member of staff suspects or becomes aware that there is a possibility that a child is concerned or frightened about abuse or violence in the home, the school's Child Protection Policy must be followed.

The Role of the Head Teacher

It is the responsibility of the head teacher to ensure that both staff and parents/ carers are informed about this policy, and that this policy is implemented effectively. It is also the head teacher's responsibility to ensure that members of staff are given sufficient training, so that they can teach about sex and relationships effectively, and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity. The head teacher liaises with external agencies regarding the school's Relationships Education and Sex Education programmes, and ensures that all adults who work with our children on these issues are aware of the school's policy, and work within its framework. The head teacher works with the PSHE Co-ordinator to ensure that any changes to policy are up to date and in line with school and government guidelines.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The PSHE Co-ordinator, head teacher and governors will monitor the application of this policy. Staff, governors and parents/ carers will be involved in its review to ensure that the policy reflects parental wishes and the culture of the community the school serves.