

Sex & Relationship Education Policy

Review Date: April 2021

Review by: Curriculum, Standards and Progress/Personnel/Student Care and Discipline

School Context

Bishop Stopford School is a Church of England Academy which takes children of all abilities and from a variety of Christian denominations and other faiths.

All Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) will be taught in the context of the Christian ethos of the Academy.

The Core Values of the School which relate specifically to this policy state that we are working together to form relationships based on

- **Faith** – everyone in School is invited to develop their understanding of Christian belief, worship and lifestyle.
- **Justice** – everyone in school is entitled to be treated fairly and to promote the self-esteem of others.
- **Responsibility** – everyone in school is expected to understand the consequences of their actions.
- **Truth** – everyone in school is required to be honest and to communicate in a positive manner.
- **Compassion** – everyone in school is encouraged to be generous in their concern for others

Such values contribute to the School's common purpose of "Striving for high quality education with a strong Christian ethos".

Data Protection

Any personal data processed in the delivery of this policy will be processed in accordance with the school Data Protection policy.

Introduction

- SRE is an important and sensitive subject, and the Academy's role is to deliver an agreed SRE Curriculum, not to replace discussions students may have with their parents¹
- Teachers and those contributing to SRE will work within the agreed values framework of the Academy, and training will be given to ensure personal beliefs and attitudes do not adversely influence the teaching of SRE
- Parental² rights to withdraw their sons or daughters from SRE will be explained and alternative arrangements made for students, where this right is exercised.

Definitions

Sex and Relationships Education (SRE): the understanding of the importance of stable relationships for family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. It is also about the teaching about sex, sexuality and sexual health (See Appendix 1)

Policy

- SRE will be delivered through PSHE (Key Stage 3), Sexual Health Days) and Conferences (at Key Stage 4 and 5)
- A specialist team of staff will deliver SRE, including appropriate inputs from paraprofessionals, such as health service colleagues
- Students will learn the significance of marriage and stable relationships as key building blocks of community and society
- Teaching will be planned to ensure sensitivity to the beliefs and cultures of students

¹ *Parents* refers to any adult with parental responsibility

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- Single sex teaching may occur where deemed appropriate by the SRE team
- Curriculum content will be published to parents through curriculum booklets
- Reproduction will be taught through the Key Stage 3 Science curriculum. (There is no right to withdraw students from this part of the curriculum.)
- Safeguarding principles will be communicated to students in SRE lessons, including on-line safety

Responsibilities

Assistant Head (Wider Curriculum) – Publish the parents’ rights to withdraw children from lessons through the weekly newsletter in the first month of the academic year.

PSHE Co-ordinator – to manage, implement and review the Schemes of Work for SRE.

Head of Science – to ensure coverage of designated curriculum within Science.

Designated Lead Child Protection – to respond to any issues raised by staff as per the Safeguarding / Child Protection Policy.

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Working with Parents

The Academy will respect parents' views and work in partnership with parents to provide support and complement their role as they are key in:

- Teaching their children about sex and relationships;
- Maintaining the culture and ethos of the family;
- Helping their children to cope with the emotional and physical aspects of growing up;
- Preparing them for the challenges and responsibilities that sexual maturity brings.

Parents' rights to withdraw children from lessons will be published through the weekly newsletter in the first month of the academic year. Parents who wish to exercise their right to withdraw their child/ren from SRE must inform the Assistant Head (Wider Curriculum). Staff will make appropriate arrangements for the supervision of these students.

Confidentiality

Members of staff cannot offer or guarantee absolute confidentiality and this will be confirmed for all staff at least annually through training and written communication. Should disclosures occur during the delivery of SRE, the normal school procedures for Safeguarding should be used.

Dissemination

- The policy will be made available for the whole school community
- Health professionals involved in the delivery of SRE, will receive a copy of the policy

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Appendix 2

Detailed definition of SRE

SRE is the understanding of the importance of stable relationships for family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. It is also about the teaching about sex, sexuality and sexual health. There are three main components:

- Attitudes and values
- Personal and social skills
- Knowledge and understanding

The objective of SRE is to help and support students through their physical, emotional and moral development.

Students will be helped to clarify knowledge and develop assertiveness skills for negotiating relationships.

Intimate issues

a) Contraception

- Knowledge of different types of contraception, access to and availability is a major part of government strategy to reduce teenage pregnancy
- Trained staff will give information about different types of contraception
- Students may raise further issues with staff arising from classroom discussions. Trained teachers can also give students – individual and as a class – additional guidance on where to obtain confidential advice, counselling and where necessary, treatment

b) Abortion

- The religious convictions of students and parents will be respected

c) Safer Sex, Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) and Consent

- Students will be taught recognition of symptoms, treatment of STIs and how to use contraception to reduce the risk of STIs.
- Students will be taught the personal and legal significance of consent, and how to develop attitudes and behaviour which promote safety in this context.

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