

Sex and Relationship Education Policy

The Davenport School



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Sex and Relationship Education Policy

1. Aims

The aims of sex and relationship education (SRE) at our school are to:

- Teach pupils the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies.
- Provide a framework in which sensitive discussions can take place.
- Prepare pupils for puberty, give them an understanding of sexual development and the importance of health and hygiene.
- Help pupils develop feelings of self-respect, confidence and empathy.
- Create a positive culture around issues of sexuality and relationships.

2. Statutory Requirements

SRE is not compulsory in primary schools. However, primary schools are required to teach the elements of sex education contained in the science curriculum. If primary schools do teach SRE, they must have regard to guidance issued by the secretary of state as outlined in section 403 of the Education Act 1996.

At The Davenport School we teach SRE as set out in this policy.

Under section 3.6 of the National Curriculum, SRE is compulsory from Key Stage 3 (Year 7) onwards. Secondary schools must have regard to guidance issued by the secretary of state as outlined in section 403 of the Education Act 1996.

3. Policy Development

This policy has been developed in consultation with staff, pupils and Carers/Parents, the consultation and Policy development process involved the following steps;

1. Review – a member of staff or working group pulled together all relevant information including relevant national and local guidance.
2. Staff consultation – all school staff were given the opportunity to look at the policy and make recommendations.
3. Carers /stakeholder consultation – carers and any interested parties were invited to attend a meeting about the Policy.
4. Pupil consultation – we investigated what exactly pupils want from their SRE.
5. Ratification – once amendments were made, the policy was shared with The Proprietor and ratified.

4. Definition

SRE is about the emotional, social and cultural development of pupils, and involves learning about relationships, sexual health, sexuality, healthy lifestyles, diversity and personal identity. SRE involves a combination of sharing information, exploring issues and values, SRE is not about the promotion of sexual activity.

5. Delivery of SRE

SRE is taught within the personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education curriculum, biological aspects of SRE are taught within the science curriculum, and other aspects are included in religious education (RE).

Pupils can receive stand-alone sex education sessions delivered by a trained health professional. Carrie Martin is the trained health advisor who supports The Davenport School.

Across all Key Stages, pupils will be supported with developing the following skills;

- Communication, including how to manage changing relationships and emotions.
- Recognising and assessing potential risks.
- Assertiveness.
- Seeking help and support when required.
- Informed decision-making.
- Self-respect and empathy for others.
- Recognising and maximising a healthy lifestyle.
- Managing conflict.
- Discussion and group work.

These skills are taught within different subject in the school ie PHSE and science as well as in the context of family life.

6. Roles and Responsibilities

Proprietor:

The Proprietor will approve the SRE policy, hold the Teacher in Charge to account for its implementation. The Proprietor has delegated the approval of this policy to Gordon Shaw

The Teacher in Charge:

The Teacher in Charge is responsible for ensuring that SRE is taught consistently across the school, and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from components of SRE (see section 7).

Staff:

Staff are responsible for:

- Delivering SRE in a sensitive way.
- Modelling positive attitudes to SRE.
- Monitoring progress.

- Responding to the needs of individual pupils.
- Responding appropriately to pupils whose parents wish them to be withdrawn from the components of SRE.

Staff do not have the right to opt out of teaching SRE, staff who have concerns about teaching SRE are encouraged to discuss this with the Teacher in Charge.

Pupils:

Pupils are expected to engage fully in SRE and, when discussing issues related to SRE, treat others with respect and sensitivity.

7. Parents' Right to Withdraw

Carers / Parents' have the right to withdraw their children from the components of SRE, requests for withdrawal should be put in writing and addressed to the Teacher in Charge. A copy of withdrawal requests will be placed in the pupil's educational record, the Teacher in Charge will discuss the request with Carers/Parents and take appropriate action. Alternative work will be given to pupils who are withdrawn from SRE.

8. Training

Staff are trained on the delivery of SRE as part of their induction and it is included in our continuing professional development calendar.

The Teacher in Charge will also invite visitors from outside the school, such as school nurses or sexual health professionals, to provide support and training to staff teaching SRE. Within Ethelbert Children's Services there is a specialist Sexual Health Advisor who can support the staff and children. Carrie Martin is the Sexual Health Advisor.

9. Monitoring Arrangements

The delivery of SRE is monitored by Karen Dean, pupils' development in SRE is monitored by class teachers as part of our internal assessment systems. This Policy will be reviewed by the Teacher in Charge, Karen Dean, at every review, the policy will be approved by the Chair of The Davenport School.