

Policy reviewed: July 2018
Policy review date: July 2019
Designated SLT Link: Kay Young
Archway School has a duty to monitor the operation and effectiveness of policies. Designated authority: Governors' Curriculum and Standards Committee



Sex and Relationships Education Policy

Rationale

This policy is written in accordance with the most recent DFE Sex and Relationship Education Guidance and the Education Acts of 1996, Sex & Relationships Guidance 2000, Children's Act 2004 and takes into account the SRE guidance for 21st century.

The DFE Sex and Relationship Education Guidance document states:

- The objective of sex and relationship education is to help and support young people through their physical, emotional and moral development.
- As part of sex and relationship education, pupils should be taught about the nature and importance of marriage for family life and bringing up children. But the Government recognises – as in the Home Office, Ministerial Group on the Family consultation document “**Supporting Families**”- that there are strong and mutually supportive relationships outside marriage. Therefore pupils should learn the significance of marriage and stable relationships as key building blocks of community and society. Care needs to be taken to ensure that there is no stigmatisation of children based on their home circumstances.

SRE is “lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of marriage for family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality and sexual health.”

Under the 1993 Education Act, parents have the right to withdraw their children from the non-science components of the school's SRE programme and those in the statutory National Curriculum.

Aims

The DFE suggest that SRE is provided in a way that encourages pupils to consider: personal relationships in the widest sense, morals, the importance of marriage and family life. Archway School wholeheartedly supports the DFE philosophy and believes it is best taught as part of the PSHCE and programmes of learning.

We believe in a whole school approach, that contributions can be made by different curricular areas and that teaching can be reinforced by the general ethos of the school in creating a caring and supportive environment for all students.

SRE at Archway contributes to promoting the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of students and stresses the importance of family life, stable and loving relationships, marriage, respect, love and care. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality and sexual health.

In our teaching we aim to create an atmosphere where questions about personal relationships and sex can be asked and answered without embarrassment.

Principles

SRE should:

- Help young people to make wise and informed choices with regards to sex and relationships
- Help students to be able to be assertive and able to negotiate
- Make students aware of the variety of lifestyles experienced by individuals and groups
- Promote a positive self-image and so respect for self and others
- Present sexual activity as a natural part of a fulfilling human relationship
- Encourage young people to view sexual activity in the context of a responsible, loving relationship
- Develop self-esteem, self-confidence and an understanding of students' own sexuality
- Explore issues around sexuality and personal relationships
- Place sexual activity in a moral context
- Provide knowledge and understanding of:
 - The functions and development of the human body
 - Various methods of contraception
 - Sexually transmitted diseases including HIV and AIDS
 - Pregnancy and abortion
 - Violent and abusive sexual behaviour
- Help students understand how the law applies to sexual relationships
- Help students to learn about safety and risks in relationships
- Help keep students safe from harm, both on and offline

Agencies

Health professionals and visitors from known agencies will be involved in the programmes as appropriate.

Students seeking individual contraceptive and sexual health advice will be directed to the School Nurse or other relevant health care professional.

Right to Withdraw

Parents may exercise their right to withdraw children from SRE, other than those aspects prescribed in the National Curriculum programmes of study, by writing to the Headteacher.

Governors will receive and take account of representations or advice from religious groups and ethnic minority communities where appropriate.

Responsibilities

Head of RS/PSHCE – responsible for the development, monitoring and evaluation of the programme.

Head of Science – responsible for areas covered in the Science National Curriculum

SLT Link – Curriculum Deputy Head

The Governing Body

Further References

PSHCE and Science Department schemes of work

Sex and relationships Education Guidance (DFES 0116/2000)

Education Act 1996 Section 352

Current Status of SRE, Sex Education Forum (March 2011)

Archway School Policies: Safeguarding; Curriculum; Teaching and Learning

Sex and Relationship Education for the 21st Century