Truro Prep School Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) Policy

A copy of this is published in the following areas:

Staff Handbook
Parents’ Handbook
School Intranet

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Created by: Head of Prep and Pastoral Care Coordinator

A. Introduction

Sex and relationship education at Truro Prep School is firmly rooted in the framework for PSHE. We acknowledge that effective sex and relationship education is essential if our children are to develop into young people that are able to make responsible and well-informed decisions about their lives. Sex and relationships education is learning about the emotional, social and physical aspects of growing up, relationships, and sex. Some aspects are taught in science, and others are taught as part of personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE). A comprehensive programme of SRE provides accurate information about the body, reproduction, sex, and sexual health. It also gives children essential skills for building positive, enjoyable, respectful and non-exploitative relationships and staying safe both on and offline.

B. Partnership with Parents and Right to Withdrawal from Sex and Relationships Education

The governors and teachers of the school recognise that sex and relationship education is the right and responsibility of the parent. The school aims to provide sex and relationship education to support parents in fulfilling their responsibility.

The school is committed to working with parents. Under the Education Act 1993 pupils can be withdrawn, in writing, by their parents from SRE sessions. Parents wishing to exercise this right are invited to see the Pastoral Care Coordinator who will explore the concerns of the parents and discuss the impact the withdrawal may have on the child. Discussion will take place over the possible negative feelings that may result from exclusion and the ways in which these can be minimised. Once a child has been withdrawn they cannot take part in sex education until the request for withdrawal has been removed.

Sex education materials used in school will be made available to parents if requested.
C. Aims of SRE

Truro Prep School has a Christian ethos, which influences the delivery of PSHE and believes that sex education at the school should:

- Foster an understanding of children’s sexual and emotional development;
- Help and support children through their physical, emotional and moral development;
- Create an atmosphere where children are able to consider and enquire about their own development without fear or shame;
- Teach children to understand human sexuality and to respect themselves and others;
- Encourage children to respect others’ privacy;
- Encourage children to talk openly with their own parents or a trusted adult;
- Reflect the school ethos of responsibility for children’s own actions;
- Promote the idea that sex is something to experience in a stable and loving relationship.

D. Content

The SRE programme:

- Contains three main elements: attitudes and values; personal and social skills; knowledge and understanding
- Provides information which is easy to understand, relevant, sensitive and appropriate to the age and maturity of the pupils
- Encourages the exploration and clarification of values, attitudes and relationships already discussed in the PSHE programme.
- Is taught at age-appropriate stages. See below for details of the content of the course; there will be revision of key elements with an increase in depth each year.

**Years 3 and 4**

Feelings
Friendships and what I like about other people
Anger and conflict
Keeping safe – saying no
Health – bodies (similarities and differences)
Families

**Years 5 and 6**

Bodily processes including puberty and adolescence – how and when this will happen
Changes in boys and girls
Male and female anatomy
Male and female reproductive system
Menstrual cycle – the physiology of menstruation
Sanitary protection (girls only)
Personal hygiene
Sanitary protection (with girls only)
What to expect during menstruation
Strategies for managing menstruation (girls only)
Emotional changes including mood swings
Erections and wet dreams (boys only)
Pregnancy is discussed in PSHE but this is mainly taught through the science curriculum.

E. Organisation and Delivery of SRE

SRE is co-ordinated by the Pastoral Care Coordinator in close conjunction with the Head of Prep.

Delivery
- During PSHE lessons
- Through planned aspects of science

Who will teach it?
- Pastoral Care Coordinator, science teachers and form teachers

Teaching Methods
- Discussion
- Presentation
- Single gender sessions from in Years 5 and 6 including anonymous question and answer opportunities
- Formal science lessons

Evaluation of the programme
- Elements of the SRE programme in the science curriculum will be assessed formally.
- Evaluation forms will be filled in at the end of the programme by pupils to help highlight the most helpful aspects of the sessions and to identify areas for improvement.
- The Pastoral Care Coordinator will feed back evaluation to the Head of Prep after sessions.

F. Inclusion and Equal Opportunities

Truro Prep School is committed to working towards equality of opportunity of all aspects of school life. All resources and methods have been checked against the following equal opportunities criteria:

Resource checklist
- Is it likely to appeal to its proposed audience?
- Is it consistent with the policy aims and objectives?
- Is it appropriate for the needs of the children in terms of language, images, attitude, maturity and knowledge required?
- Does it patronise or respect its audience?
- Does it take into account the ethnicity and religious beliefs of children from other backgrounds?
- Is there an undue bias in the resource?
- Will any staff training be needed?
- Does it conform to the legal requirements for sex education?
- Is it factually correct?
• Will staff be comfortable using this resource?

The school recognises that those with special educational needs will receive differentiated material and teaching styles as appropriate. The school recognises the differing needs of both sexes within the school and will offer single sex guidance and instruction where appropriate. The school is aware of the cultural diversity of its pupils and of the wider community, and educates pupils to understand and respect differences in customs and belief. The needs of EAL pupils are acknowledged, and teachers will ensure that materials will be presented in a clear and comprehensible way.

G. Confidentiality and Advice

The school recognises that the SRE programme may raise issues in which advice and confidentiality may be necessary. Guidelines on how staff should deal with such issues are stipulated in the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy, the Staff Code of Conduct and in the Staff Handbook.

As a rule, the person delivering aspects of the SRE programme will maintain a child’s confidentiality. If a person believes that a child is at risk or in danger this will be referred to the DSL in the first instance, after which the Head of Prep will be consulted. The child concerned will be informed that confidentiality is being breached and the reasons why and the child will be supported throughout the process.

H. Specific Issues Statements

• Safeguarding
  The school has a safeguarding policy that is available on our website.

• Answering difficult questions
  Sometimes an individual child may ask explicit or difficult questions in the classroom. Although it is important that discussions are honest and direct, sometimes it may be considered more appropriate to address some issues individually with a child later. Children concerned about their own sexual and emotional development will be encouraged to talk about it with an appropriate person.

• Use of visitors
  There are various people who can resource and support school-based sex education. These people may include parents, the school nurse, religious or health professionals.