# Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) Policy

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<th>Approving Body</th>
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<td>Date Approved</td>
<td>October 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Version</td>
<td>V.01</td>
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<td>Reviewed</td>
<td>October 2018</td>
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<td>Review Date</td>
<td>October 2019</td>
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<td>Further information/Guidance</td>
<td>Sex and relationships education (SRE) for the 21st century&quot; - Supplementary advice to the Sex and Relationship Education Guidance DfEE (0116/2000)</td>
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1. **Context**

The provision for SRE education at The Oakwood Academy is based upon guidance from the PSHE Association’s most recent document “Sex and relationships education (SRE) for the 21st century” - Supplementary advice to the Sex and Relationship Education Guidance DfEE (0116/2000) which was published on the 1st June 2017 and can be found at [https://www.pshe-association.org.uk/](https://www.pshe-association.org.uk/). This document provides relevant and appropriate guidance to supplement the Statutory Guidance provided by the Government in 2000 and Statutory Duties outlined in the Education Act 2002.

This policy will be reviewed in 2019 after further research, planning and consultation is completed. This will be guided by the government releasing new regulations and statutory guidance relating to Relationships Education, RSE and Health Education, which will replace the old Sex and Relationships Education Guidance released by the DfEE in 2000. This will ensure that The Oakwood Academy will meet the statutory legislation that will be compulsory in all schools in 2020.

2. **What is Sex and Relationships Education?**

Sex and relationships education is learning about the emotional, social and physical aspects of growing up, relationships, sex, human sexuality and sexual health. Some aspects are taught in science, and others are taught as part of PSHE sessions. It gives children and young people essential skills for building positive, enjoyable, respectful and non-exploitative relationships and staying safe both on and offline. It also gives a comprehensive programme of SRE and provides accurate information about the body, reproduction, sex, and sexual health.
3. Further Context

SRE plays an important part in fulfilling the statutory duties all schools have to meet. As section 2.1 of the National Curriculum framework (DfE, 2013) states: ‘Every state-funded school must offer a curriculum which is balanced and broadly based and which:

- promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society
- prepares pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.’

These duties are set out in the 2002 Education Act and the 2010 Academies Act. Whole school (Section 5) Ofsted inspections consider the extent to which a school provides such a curriculum. In the recent review of the National Curriculum, the government has made it clear that all state schools ‘should make provision for personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE), drawing on good practice’. (National Curriculum in England, DfE, 2013) and that ‘sex and relationship education (SRE) is an important part of PSHE education’ (Guidance – PSHE education, DfE, 2013).

In any school that provides SRE, parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of SRE (excluding withdrawal from sex education in National Curriculum science) although very few choose to exercise that right.

**SRE:** It is compulsory for pupils in secondary education to have sex education that includes HIV and AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections.

**SRE GUIDANCE:** Any school that provides SRE has a statutory duty to have ‘due regard’ to the Secretary of State’s Sex and Relationship Education Guidance (DfEE, 2000)

**NATIONAL CURRICULUM:** Statutory sex education in science programmes of study at Key Stages 1 to 3.
SRE POLICY: The Secretary of State's 2000 guidance states that all schools should have an up-to-date policy for SRE, which must be available for inspection and to parents/carers on request.

4. Aims of the policy

- Give children and young people essential skills for building positive, enjoyable, respectful and non-exploitative relationships and staying safe both on and offline.
- Give a comprehensive programme of SRE to provide accurate information about the body, reproduction, sex, and sexual health.
- Ensure good quality sex and relationships education (SRE) is delivered consistently at The Oakwood Academy.

5. Why is sex and relationships education in schools important?

High quality SRE helps create safe school communities in which pupils can grow, learn, and develop positive, healthy behaviour for life. It is essential for the following reasons:

- Children and young people have a right to good quality education, as set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Children and young people want to be prepared for the physical and emotional changes they undergo at puberty, and young people want to learn about relationships. Older pupils frequently say that sex and relationships education was ‘too little, too late and too biological’. Ofsted reinforced this in their 2013 ‘Not Yet Good Enough report’.
- SRE plays a vital part in meeting schools’ safeguarding obligations. Ofsted is clear that schools must have a preventative programme that enables pupils to learn about safety and risks in relationships.
- Schools maintain a statutory obligation under the Children Act (2004) to promote their pupils’ wellbeing, and under the Education Act (1996) to prepare children and young people for the challenges, opportunities and responsibilities of adult life. A comprehensive SRE programme can have a positive impact on pupils’ health and wellbeing and their ability to achieve, and can play a crucial part in meeting these obligations.
The Department of Health set out its ambition for all children and young people to receive high quality sex and relationships education in the Sexual Health Improvement Framework (2013), while the Department for Education’s paper ‘The Importance of Teaching’ (2010) highlighted that ‘Children need high quality sex and relationships education so they can make wise and informed choices’.

6. What is high quality sex and relationships education?

The Oakwood Academy expects that sex and relationships education through PSHE sessions and curriculum lessons:

- is a partnership between home and school.
- includes the acquisition of knowledge, the development of life skills and respectful attitudes and values.
- has sufficient opportunity to cover a wide range of topics, with a strong emphasis on relationships, consent, rights, responsibilities to others, negotiation and communication skills, and accessing services.
- helps pupils understand on and offline safety, consent, violence and exploitation.
- is inclusive of difference: gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, ethnicity, culture, age, faith or belief, or other life experience.
- teaches pupils about the law and their rights to confidentiality even if they are under 16, and is linked to school-based and community health services and organisations.
- promotes equality in relationships, recognises and challenges gender inequality and reflects girls’ and boys’ different experiences and needs.

7. Confidentiality and Safeguarding work in the context of SRE lessons

At The Oakwood Academy the classroom is never a confidential place to talk, and that remains true in PSHE sessions and any curriculum lessons that deliver any aspect of SRE. Pupils are reminded that lessons are not a place to discuss their personal experiences and issues – or to ask others to do so – through the establishment of ground rules. At appropriate times in PSHE sessions, appropriate support in and out of school is sign posted for students.

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Young people are kept informed about how any information they have disclosed will be treated by the school, and who will have access to it (see the Child Protection Policy). All staff members are bound to share anything of concern to the Designated Safeguarding Lead or the Designated Safeguarding Officer.

8. **Key Questions and considered when planning the SRE programme**

The Oakwood Academy has sought advice and guidance from the PSHE Association and their latest guidance document “Sex and relationships education (SRE) for the 21st century” - Supplementary advice to the Sex and Relationship Education Guidance DfEE (0116/2000).

**How does The Oakwood Academy ensure SRE is fully integrated into the PSHE programme and linked to other subjects?**

The school’s commitment to high quality SRE is part of a broader developmental PSHE education programme delivered through PSHE sessions.

Science teaches about the biological facts relating to human growth, puberty and reproduction. It may also include teaching about contraception and STIs. PSHE helps pupils to think about the different social contexts, influences and beliefs that affect personal behaviour. PSHE also develops a positive vocabulary and the strategies and skills children and young people need to stay healthy and safe.

It is important to link to the ICT/computing curriculum, which teaches about online safety. It is vital for SRE to teach that the internet and social media are important resources for learning and information, and a great opportunity to build social networks, as well as teaching about the risks and how to stay safe online.

There will also be relevant learning in other subjects, such as citizenship or religious education, about the law and the views of religious and secular groups on different issues.
How does The Oakwood Academy teach about healthy relationships, sexual consent, exploitation and abuse?

Pupils are taught about all aspects of the law and sexual consent and how to identify behaviour in a relationship which is positive and supportive and that which is exploitative and controlling.

How does The Oakwood Academy help address violence in relationships?

SRE lessons are a safe place for all pupils, and students are encouraged to consider the importance of equality and respect within relationships, and to develop positive, non-violent behaviour. SRE lays the foundations for developing empathy and understanding between girls and boys, young men and young women. It gives pupils the chance to challenge gender stereotypes and expectations, and to introduce positive, diverse perspectives on gender roles, hopes and aspirations.

How does The Oakwood Academy teach about ‘sexting’?

SRE encourages pupils to think about what they want others to know and see about them – whether on or offline. Internet safety is also included in the computing curriculum. It is important that all schools address the core issues of safety, privacy, peer influence and personal responsibility. Pupils learn that it is illegal to produce, possess or distribute an indecent image of a person under the age of 18 – even if it’s a picture of themselves.

How does The Oakwood Academy make sex and relationships education inclusive?

The schools have a clear duty under the Equality Act 2010 to ensure that teaching is accessible to all children and young people, including those who are lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT). Inclusive SRE fosters good relations between pupils, tackles all types of prejudice – including homophobia – and promote understanding and respect, enabling schools to meet the requirements, and live the intended spirit of the Equality Act 2010.

All children and young people, whatever their experience, background and identity are entitled to quality sex and relationships education that helps them build confidence and a positive sense of self, and to stay healthy. To encourage pupils to participate in lessons, teachers use inclusive language to reflect the diversity of the
school community, and help each and every pupil to feel valued and included in the classroom.

9. How SRE is taught

SRE is taught though PSHE sessions and through the formal curriculum. This includes:

- Learning through watching dramatic performances by educational companies that specialise in sessions and performances of this nature.
- Interactive workshops with subjects such as Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE).
- Special assemblies on issues like consent and healthy relationships (equality of power).
- Events that are delivered by the Healthy School team which includes workshops.
- Tutor time PSHE sessions that include at times, age-appropriate assemblies and tutor times sessions.
- Science lessons that look at the mechanical/biological understanding of sexual reproductive activity.
- English lessons that explore relationships between characters in different contexts through carefully chosen texts and class discussion.
- R.S. lessons that explore beliefs about sex and relationships in different faiths and religions.
- Lessons like ICT explore online safety and ‘sexting’.

References

“Sex and relationships education (SRE) for the 21st century” - Supplementary advice to the Sex and Relationship Education Guidance DfEE (0116/2000)