

SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS POLICY



Barkisland CE (VA) Primary School
WE BELIEVE, WE NURTURE, WE SUCCEED!

The teaching of Sex and Relationships Education, using an integrated and consistent approach, is an important aspect of pupils' education. Sex and Relationship Education includes supporting young people in developing self-confidence in preparing for physical and emotional changes into adulthood. We believe that the teaching of Sex and Relationship Education should be shared with parents and be mutually supportive and complementary. It promotes an understanding of the range of family types and other people who contribute to providing children with the care, love and support they need to grow and develop.

Sex and Relationships Education relates to 'learning about physical, moral and emotional development.' It is about understanding the importance of family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care and promoting the British value of tolerance. We do not use Sex and Relationships Education as a means of promoting any form of sexual orientation.

The policy has been developed to ensure that staff and parents or carers are clear about the statutory requirements regarding Sex and Relationships Education, and that the pupils receive their educational entitlement. Through implementation of this policy, the school will meet specific aspects of the legal and statutory requirements.

Every child is entitled to receive Sex and Relationships Education. It is our intention that all children have the opportunity to experience a programme of Sex and Relationships Education at a level which is appropriate for their age and physical development with differentiated provision if required. In this school, effective sex and relationship education is seen to be essential if young people are to make responsible and well informed decisions about their lives. It will not be delivered in isolation. It will be firmly rooted within PSHE and other areas of the curriculum.

The Moral and Values Framework

Sex and Relationships Education is required to be taught within a moral framework. Children will learn about moral values through all aspects of school life and in all curriculum areas, not just in Sex and Relationships Education. We aim to:

- help pupils develop sensitivity and respect for themselves and others;
- provide a friendly and caring environment in which children are able to ask questions and further their understanding;
- support pupils in taking responsibility for their actions and the consequences of their actions;
- provide equality of opportunity for all children in a caring community in which each individual is encouraged to make a valuable contribution.

Aims of Sex and Relationship Education

Taking account of the age, maturity and needs of the pupils, Sex and Relationships Education aims to provide the knowledge and information to which all pupils are entitled:

- to help children to develop feelings of self-respect, self-esteem, self-confidence, sympathy and empathy;
- to provide the confidence to be participating members of society and to value themselves and others;
- to prepare pupils for puberty and encourage them to take responsibility for their own actions;
- to provide an understanding of reproduction and sexual development;
- to provide an understanding of the importance of health and hygiene;
- to develop and use communication skills and assertiveness skills to cope with the influences of their peers and the media;
- to respect and care for their bodies;
- to answer pupils' questions honestly and sensitively – referring the children to parents where appropriate;
- to give information on where individuals and families can get help and support, where appropriate.

The Role of Parents

The school is well aware that the primary role in children's Sex and Relationships Education lies with parents and carers. We wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents of children at our school through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation. In promoting this objective we:

- inform parents about the school's Sex and Relationships Education policy and practice;
- answer any questions that parents may have about the Sex and Relationships Education of their child;

- take seriously any issue that parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy or the arrangements for Sex and Relationships Education in the school.

Parents and carers have the right to withdraw their child from some, or all, Sex and Relationships Education lessons, but not statutory Science lessons. However, should you be considering such a step, first talk it through with your child and their class teacher, and then, if necessary, contact the headteacher.

The Role of the School and Other Members of the Community

We encourage other valued members of the community to work with us to provide advice and support to the children with regard to health education. Health professionals are expected to work within the school's Sex and Relationships Education policy and on the instructions of the headteacher.

CONCLUSION

Effective sex and relationship education will be achieved through a whole-school approach, which will ensure that the school's policy and educational programme is tailored to the age and the physical and emotional maturity of the children. Staff will be given appropriate training and support to carry out their work sensitively.

Revised and adopted by the Governing Body - November 2016