NORTHCOTE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Relationships and Sex Education Policy

Aims

At Northcote Primary School we aim to provide our children with the knowledge, understanding and skills that enable them to make the sort of choices that lead to a healthy lifestyle and develop to their full potential. Our Sex and Relationships Education programme teaches children about respectful relationships, care and consideration for themselves and others, personal hygiene, parts of the body, puberty, change and reproduction. The programme also aims to equip them with the social skills that enable them to make informed decisions in relation to sex and relationships in society.

Sex and Relationships Education will be:

- Appropriate to the age and stage of development of the individual.
- Taught with sensitivity and sympathy towards individual, personal and family circumstances in order to avoid any hurt or distress.

This Policy has been developed in line with Sex and Relationship Education Guidance DfES July 2000. The documentation states that 'Sex and relationship education should be firmly rooted in the framework for PSHE'. The objective of sex and relationship education is to help and support young people through their physical, emotional and moral development.

Overview

Sex and Relationships education for young people remains high on the agenda for both schools and the Government.

The Social Exclusion Report on Teenage Pregnancy, the Government White Paper, Saving Lives: Our Healthier Nation, Merseyside Health 2000 report – in conjunction with local and national reports on Teenage Pregnancy – set multi-agency targets for sexual health, including the following:

- Better prevention through education about sex, relationships, contraception and self-esteem, with special attention to high-risk groups.

As such it is important to see sex and relationships education firmly rooted in the framework for PSHE and the curriculum, and as an integral part of the school ethos. The concept of self-respect, empathy and care begin in the early years and continue throughout school life; their potency is relevant far beyond.

SRE teaching and learning opportunities

Sex and relationships education will be co-ordinated by the PSHE co-ordinators. It will be taught in a variety of ways in foundation stage, key stage 1and key stage 2 either as:

- PSHE planned lessons (*Christopher Winter Project: See Curriculum Overview below)
- Science and P4C (Philosophy for Children) lessons

The National Healthy Schools Standard

The school aspires to reach the National Healthy Schools Criteria for Sex and Relationships Education.

With the criteria in mind, we endeavour to:

- Consult with parents, governors, LEA and Health professionals on all matters of the SRE policy.
- Listen to the views of parents and pupils regarding sex education and thus constantly evaluate the success of the programme delivered.
- Assess the needs of both teachers and pupils on a regular basis.
- Use local initiatives and information to update practice.

Monitoring and review

The PSHE coordinator will monitor SRE through annual monitoring procedures, such as:

- staff discussion to give updated information
- by providing a strategic lead and direction for the subject in the school
- feedback from pupils

Links with other policies

This Policy needs to be considered alongside the following school policies:

- PSHE and Citizenship
- Equal opportunities
- Child Protection
- Behaviour and Discipline
- Teaching and Learning
- Science
- RE and Collective Worship
- Special Educational Needs
- E-Safety / Acceptable Use

Objectives

The objectives of our Sex and Relationships education programme are:

- To provide our children with knowledge and information about puberty and change, feelings, relationships, reproduction and responsibility.
- To enable our children to openly discuss questions related to sex and relationships and so provide a safe environment for young people to share their thoughts and ideas.
- To help children respect their own bodies and in so doing reduce the likelihood of abuse or teenage pregnancy.
- To encourage the children to become more self-confident so that they are able to make sensible and informed choices about their lives.
- To ensure that children are taught about sex and relationships in a consistent manner following guidelines that have been agreed by the LEA, parents, governors and staff.

Practice / Implementation / Organisation

We at Northcote Primary School regard Sex and Relationships Education as a whole school issue, and believe that opportunities to teach about the importance of living a healthy lifestyle occur through the curriculum.

Sex and Relationships Education is delivered in a clear, concise and consistent manner in line with the National and Local Guidelines.

Early Years

The schools' Sex and Relationships Education programme (The Christopher Winter Project) runs from Early Years, initially covering hygiene and daily routines. They are taught to respect themselves and others.

Special Educational Needs

We teach SRE to all children, whatever their ability. Through our SRE teaching we provide learning opportunities that enable all children to make progress. We do this by setting suitable learning challenges and responding to all children's different needs.

Equal opportunities and inclusion

In Northcote Primary School we aim to meet the needs of all of our children irrespective of ethnicity, attainment, age, disability, gender or background.

The Role Of The Headteacher and Governors

It is the headteachers' role to ensure that all staff have appropriate support and training so that they can teach effectively with sensitivity and understanding.

The headteacher will monitor the policy on a regular basis and report to the Governors on request. The governing body has the responsibility to help set down these general guidelines on sex and relationships education.

Role Of The Parents

We wish to build a positive partnership with the parents of our children and this can only be achieved through mutual trust and co-operation.

We aim to:

- Inform parents about the schools' sex and relationships education policy, programme and practice.
- Invite parents to view the materials and resources used to teach sex and relationships education.
- Answer parental questions about sex and relationships education and were necessary signpost a parent to the relevant support agencies.
- Encourage parents to be involved in reviewing the school policy and implementing modifications.
- Inform parents about best practice with regard to current sex and relationships education so that they may support the key messages being given to the children in the school.
- Inform parents of their right to withdraw pupils from any area of Sex and Relationships Education that is not taught under the Science curriculum.

The Role Of The Co-ordinator

The Co-ordinator will regularly attend LEA meetings and courses. They will keep the headteacher, Governors and staff informed on up to date trends and current good practice.

Child Protection

If any disclosure occurs during a health-based lesson and concerns are raised, teachers will follow the school's procedure for Child Protection.
Teachers have a duty of care and so any incident or potential incident (e.g. involving abuse) must be treated as a Child Protection issue.

Confidentiality

Children will be made aware that some information cannot be held confidential and that their best interests will be maintained.

Answering difficult questions

Sometimes a child may ask an explicit or difficult question in the classroom. Teachers have been informed that they do not have to answer questions of this nature directly; they can be addressed individually later. The governors support individual teachers in using their discretion and skill in these situations and can refer to the headteacher if they are concerned.

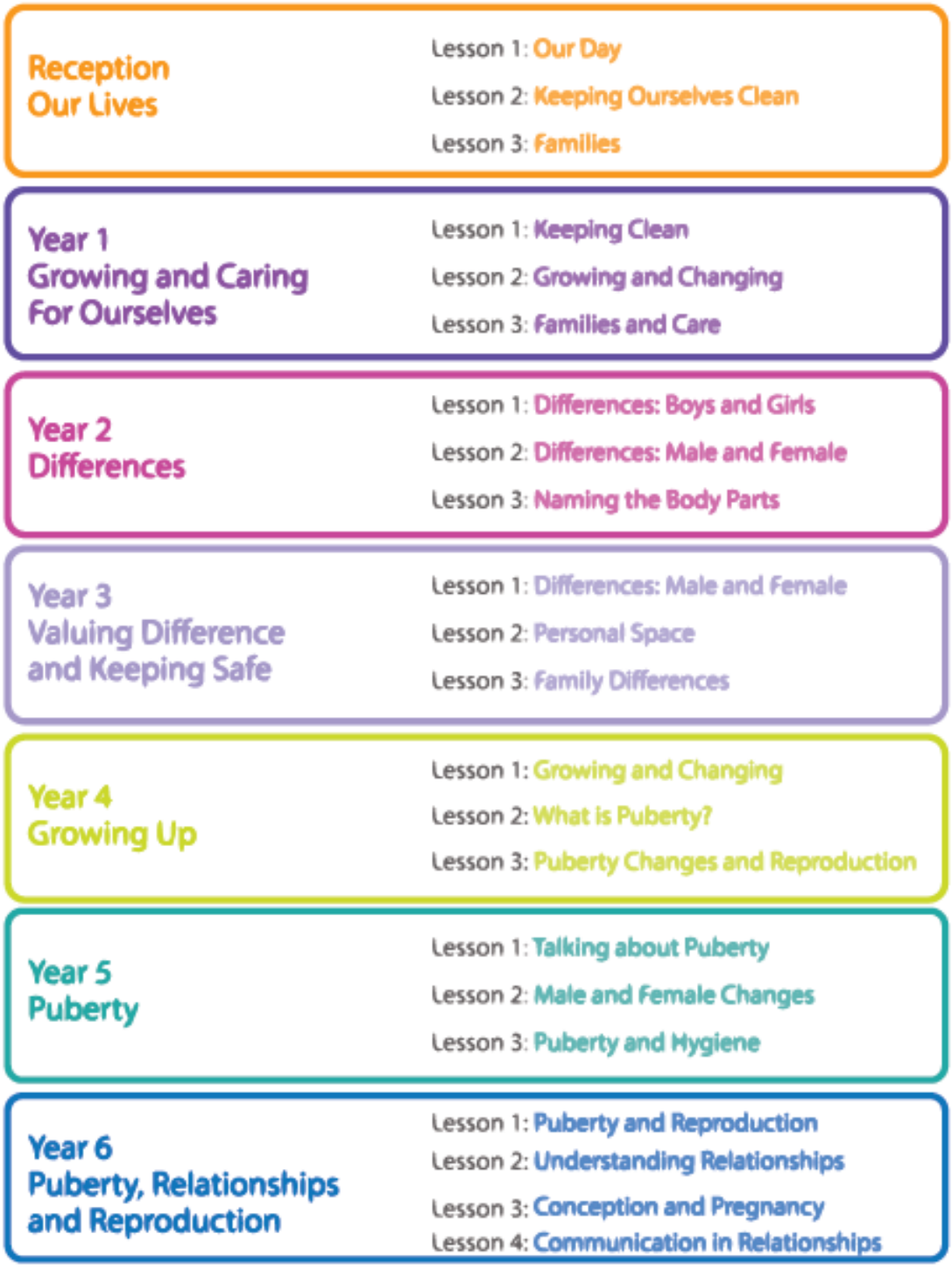
Disclosure or suspicion of possible abuse

Northcote Primary School has a Child Protection policy and procedure for dealing with child sexual abuse based on LEA guidelines and recommendations. This policy is available on request.

Keeping safe online

SRE has an important link to the esafety / acceptable use policy and the Computing policy, 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.



This policy to be reviewed on …….. basis by ……

Member of staff responsible :
Date Policy written: **February 2017**
Date to be reviewed: **February 2019**

Date approved by Governors: **Signature of Chair of Governors:**