



# RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION POLICY

NORTHBOURNE.SP.019

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Northbourne CE (A) Primary School

Cockcroft Road,  
Didcot  
OX11 8LJ

## Relationships and Sex Education Policy

Northbourne CE (A) Primary School strives to nurture excellence amongst all of our pupils. Our school vision is to do this through:

- An inspiring curriculum that develops the unique talents of all of our children
- Helping children learn about themselves and the world
- Learning and growing together within the Christian story

Sex and Relationships Education is a key part of the second of these points and runs through a number of aspects of the curriculum including Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE), the Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) programme and Science. It also has close links with the moral, spiritual and cultural development of pupils, which run through the whole of the school curriculum.

Sex and Relationships Education is about “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.” (Sex and Relationship Education Guidance, DfE, 2000). Our wider PSHCE Policy gives full details about our approach to the relationships element of this subject, such as the development of personal and social skills needed to manage a whole range of relationships confidently and sensitively. As such, this policy will concentrate largely on Sex Education, and form an appendix to the school’s PSHCE Policy.

### 1. Elements of SRE

Sex and Relationships Education at Northbourne has 3 main elements:

- Attitudes and values (*including the importance of moral considerations; the role of family life, marriage and stable and loving relationships for the nurture of children; the value of respect, love and care; and exploring, considering and understanding moral dilemmas*)
- Personal and social skills (*managing relationships with others and emotions; developing self-respect and empathy; developing an appreciation of the consequences of choices made; and managing conflict*)
- Knowledge and understanding (*learning and understanding physical development at appropriate stages; understanding human sexuality, reproduction, sexual health, emotions and relationships*)

Our approach to Sex Education is to teach the knowledge and understanding hand-in-hand with developing the attitudes, values, and personal and social skills outlined above.

### 2. Topics within SRE

Specifically, the following topics are taught within Sex Education sessions:

- In Y5, pupils are taught about the changes in the body associated with puberty, including periods and voices breaking
- In Y6, pupils are taught about how babies are conceived and born.

These topics are taught in mixed gender, single year group classes and are led by Northbourne’s School Health Nurse team. Teaching aids include a Channel 4 DVD and other interactive resources; these can be made available to parents on request. Class teachers sit in on each session, and both include, towards the end of the lesson, a short period where boys and girls are taken separately and are able to ask any questions which they would like answered.

In addition to this, Science objectives outlined in the National Curriculum related to reproduction, are also taught throughout a pupil’s time at school, specifically:

- In Key Stage One:
  - *That animals including humans, move, feed, grow, use their senses and reproduce*
  - *to recognize and compare the main external parts of the bodies of humans*
  - *that humans and animals can produce offspring and these grow into adults*
  - *to recognize similarities and differences between themselves and others and treat others with sensitivity*

- In Key Stage Two, pupils are taught:
  - *that the life processes common to humans and other animals include nutrition, growth and reproduction*
  - *about the main stages of the human life cycle*

### **3. Parents' rights concerning withdrawal**

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the Sex and Relationship Education provided at school except for those parts included in the statutory National Curriculum. Parents are advised of the timing of SRE sessions up to a month before these take place and, at this point, are given an invitation to borrow the DVD and to request that their child does not take part in these. Where a parent wishes to withdraw their child from SRE, alternative arrangements are made for this time.

### **4. Inclusion**

Every child is entitled to a programme of SRE regardless of ability, background or culture. The faith and culture of each individual and family within the school, will be considered when planning and delivering SRE.