

Michaela Community School

Sex and Relationship Education Policy (SRE)

What is Sex and Relationship Education?

SRE is lifelong learning about physical, sexual, moral and emotional development. It involves acquiring knowledge and information, developing skills and forming positive beliefs, values and attitudes. It is about the understanding of the importance of stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care, for family life.

Principles and Values

Michaela Community School believes that SRE should:

- Be an integral part of the lifelong learning process, beginning in early childhood and continue into adult life.
- Be an entitlement for all young people.
- Be set within the wider school context and support family commitment and love, respect and affection, knowledge and openness. SRE should acknowledge that family is a broad concept and include a variety of types of family structure.
- Encourage pupils and teachers to share and respect each other's view. Pupils should be aware of different sexual orientations and respect them without prejudice.
- Generate an atmosphere where questions and discussion on sexual matters can take place without any stigma or embarrassment.
- Recognise that parents are the key people in teaching their children about sex, relationships and growing up. We aim to work in partnership with parents where appropriate.

Aims

The aim of the SRE is to provide balanced factual information about human reproduction together with consideration of the broader emotional, ethical, moral and religious dimensions of sexual health. Our SRE programme aims to prepare pupils for an adult life in which they can:

- Develop positive values and moral frameworks
- Understand the consequences of their actions and behave responsibly within sexual relationships
- Avoid being exploited or exploiting others
- Communicate effectively by developing appropriate terminology for sex and relationship issues.
- Develop awareness of their sexuality and understand human sexuality
- Challenge sexism and prejudice and promote equality and diversity
- Understand the arguments for delaying sexual activity
- Understanding the reasons for having protected sex
- Have sufficient information and skills to protect themselves and their partners from unwanted conceptions and sexually transmitted infections including HIV.
- Be aware of sources of help and acquire the skills and confidence to access confidential health advice, support and treatment if necessary
- Know how the law applies to sexual relationships

Delivery of SRE

Our SRE curriculum is delivered through the science curriculum and in PSHE sessions during tutor time. The Religion curriculum also helps to shape pupils' understanding of the social aspects of SRE, including cultural and religious diversity.

Right of Withdrawal of Pupils from Sex and Relationship Education

Some parents prefer to take the responsibility for aspects of this element of a pupil's education. They have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the sex and relationship education programme except for those parts included in the science curriculum (i.e. the study of human growth, puberty, menstruation and reproduction).

We would make alternative arrangements for pupils in such cases. Parents are encouraged to discuss their decisions with staff at the earliest opportunity. Parents are welcome to review and SRE resources the school uses.

Confidentiality, Controversial and Sensitive Issues

Teacher cannot offer unconditional confidentiality and this should never be offered to pupils.

In a case where a teacher learns from a pupil under the age of consent that they are having or contemplating sexual intercourse:

- The young person will be persuaded, wherever possible, to talk to their parents and if necessary to seek medical advice.
- Child protection issues will be considered and referred if necessary to the Designated Safeguarding Lead under the school's procedures.
- The young person will be properly counselled about contraception, including precise information about where young people can access contraception and advice services.

In any case where child protection procedures are followed, the teacher will ensure that the young person understands the circumstances where confidentiality can be broken.

Health professionals in school are bound by their codes of conduct in one-to-one situations with pupils.

Approval by Governing Body and Review Date

This policy and plan has been formally approved and adopted by the Local Governing Body at a formally convened meeting.

Signed:  _____
Chair of Governing Body

Date: 7 July 2016

Review date: July 2017

End of Statement