

Sex and Relationships Education – Frequently Asked Questions

What are the aims of SRE in our school?

Depending on the age of the children and the lessons in their particular year group, we want SRE to:

- *Develop the confidence to talk, listen and think about their feelings and relationships*
- *Develop friendship/relationship skills*
- *Develop positive attitudes, values and self esteem*
- *Provide knowledge and understanding about puberty and the changes that will take place*
- *Provide knowledge and understanding about reproduction and sexuality*
- *Address concerns and correct misunderstanding that children may have gained from the media and peers*
- *Develop skills to help children protect themselves against unwanted sexual experience*
- *Know where and how to seek help*

Can you explain the school's SRE Morals and Values Framework?

SRE follows the school's agreed aims, values and moral framework which is sensitive to the needs and beliefs of pupils, parents/carers and other members of the school community. SRE will be delivered within the school's agreed equal opportunities framework.

SRE will support the importance of marriage or stable relationships, for family life and bringing up children. Care is taken to ensure there is no stigmatisation of children based on their different home circumstances.

Pupils will be encouraged to understand that thinking about morals and values also includes:

- *Respect for self and others*
- *Commitment, trust and love within relationships*
- *Understanding diversity regarding religion, culture and sexual orientation*
- *Honesty with self and others*
- *Self-awareness*
- *Exploration of rights, duties and responsibilities*

Misunderstandings about SRE

There is sometimes concern that SRE in school might promote sexual activity or cause confusion about an individual's sexuality. The research on quality SRE points to a more positive outlook: 87 programmes from many countries were examined by UNESCO in 2009. This led to the conclusion that if SRE has an effect it is a positive one: *"sexuality education can lead to later and more responsible sexual behaviour or may have no discernible impact on sexual behaviour"*.

In the UK the research is even more positive. Analysis by the National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles team over several years consistently shows that men and women who said that lessons at school were their main source of information about sex were more likely to have started having sex at a later age than those for whom parents or other sources were their main source. Schools have an important role to play in SRE.