



SEX & RELATIONSHIPS (SRE) POLICY

Simon Marks Jewish Primary School
Sex and Relationship Education
(SRE) Policy

Framework & Rationale

SRE is dealt with sensitively, with consideration being given to our Jewish religious belief and cultural values. Children are encouraged to consider the importance of respect for themselves, as well as the acceptance of and responsibility towards the needs and views of others. Through this, it is intended that SRE will provide children with a forum and atmosphere within which they feel able to discuss their expectations, fears, understanding and misunderstandings.

Principles and Aims

We are committed to giving all children the opportunity to develop as responsible citizens. We believe that SRE is an integral part of this development. As such, SRE aims to prepare children for the natural changes that will occur as they grow towards physical & emotional maturity, and to reassure them that these changes are normal and healthy.

In general, the teaching of SRE aims to provide appropriate knowledge about a) loving relationships and b) the process of human reproduction. It is intended that it will lead to understanding and attitudes which will prepare children to view their relationships in a positive manner.

In particular, we aim to:

- Introduce the Jewish themes of: “Na’aseh Adam B’Tzalmeinu Kidmuteinu” (“Let us make man in our image”)
- Explore physical changes including puberty; understanding about menstruation and how to manage it; the life cycle and reproduction; physical maturation.
- Explore emotional changes including emotional changes during adolescence; managing mood swings; expressing feelings and building self-esteem.
- Explore pressure they may face and begin to understand the tools needed to deal with these assertively.
- Explain that some things need to be shared and help sought at appropriate times for both themselves and on behalf of their peers.
- Increase awareness of support networks and people to go to for help and advice.

Skills Development

SRE will help children learn and practise personal and social skills which will in turn help them to develop and maintain relationships. These life skills include:

- Personal skills: around managing emotions and relationships confidently and effectively, and developing empathy for others.
- Communications skills: around listening to others, asking relevant questions, expressing emotions, giving opinions, being assertive appropriately.

- Practical skills: around caring for self and others, accessing support and advice.
- Decision-making skills: around sensible choices made in the light of relevant information, making moral judgements about what to do and acting on those judgements in particular situations, acting responsibly as an individual and with others.

Organisation

SRE is delivered primarily through the Streetwise organisation – an outside Jewish organisation that specialises in delivering SRE in Jewish schools. It is taught through formal sessions that take place during Years 5 & 6 in single-gender groups. An adult from the staff present is at all times.

Working with Parents

We always have regard to parents' views about content and presentation of the programme. A parents' consultation evening presented by a member of the Streetwise team is held annually to introduce the SRE curriculum and give parents the opportunity to ask questions, and letters are written to Parents and carers to inform them of the SRE lessons.

Parent Rights of Withdrawal

Many aspects of SRE remain part of the National Curriculum for Science. These must be taught to all pupils and parents cannot withdraw pupils from these lessons. Other than this, parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the SRE programme.

Confidentiality & Safeguarding

SRE takes place within a secure and supportive environment. Whilst discretion is required, teachers cannot offer unconditional confidentiality. All staff involved in delivering and supporting SRE should be alert to any child protection issues and should follow the appropriate procedures regarding these.

Inclusion

The school is committed to the provision of SRE to all of its pupils and the provision of SRE aims to respond to the diversity of children's cultures, faiths and family backgrounds.