

## **SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION POLICY**

Sex and relationships education (SRE) is learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of friendship, respect, love and care. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexual health and understanding of sexuality.

At Channing, SRE is part of Personal, Social, Health and Economic wellbeing Education (PSHE). The teaching of all SRE is set within a clear, balanced and sensitive framework in which girls are encouraged to consider the importance of self-respect, responsibility, self-esteem and loyalty.

There are four main elements:

- knowledge and understanding of sexual intercourse and conception
- understanding the importance of contraception and safer sex
- developing personal and social skills to help pupils develop healthy relationships
- considering sex within a moral, spiritual and cultural context.

Our policy is to inform girls of the biological facts and implications of female and male sexuality. Girls are encouraged to discuss the content within an open and relaxed atmosphere that engenders trust, awareness and insight, enabling them to understand and take responsibility for their own development. Pupils are frequently reminded of the age of consent and are given guidance to deal with pressures to have sex before they feel ready.

The Head of PSHE is responsible for co-ordinating the programme within the school. SRE is taught by form tutors, co-tutors and by specialist staff. Male staff members do not currently teach SRE lessons. A variety of approaches are used to give girls relevant information including class discussions, videos, board games and quizzes, demonstration models and leaflets. ICT is also used to help pupils produce pamphlets and posters to promote health issues such as STI's.

We acknowledge the role of parents in the SRE of their children. We welcome parental interest in the school policy and aim to develop a partnership between home and school to provide a clear understanding of sexual issues to our pupils. Sex and relationship education teaching is complementary to, and supportive of, the parent's role. Parents will, therefore, be notified in writing in advance of the lessons taking place so that they can make an appointment to discuss the materials used if they feel unhappy about lesson content.

Teachers conduct SRE lessons in a sensitive manner, and in confidence. However, if a teacher feels concerned about the wellbeing of a pupil they must report the matter to their Head of Section as soon as possible. If the concern is a more serious child-welfare issue (where a member of staff feels that a pupil may be harmed or harm others) then it should be reported to the School's Child Welfare Officer (The Deputy Head).

The Head of PSHE will review this policy annually.

The Deputy Head is responsible for this policy.

(Jan 2010)