

## **MERE SCHOOL**

### **Sex and Relationship Education Policy**

#### What is sex and relationship education?

Sex and relationship education is lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about understanding 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. It is not about the promotion of sexual orientation or sexual activity.

#### Why does sex and relationship education matter?

Our children learn about sex and relationships from the very youngest age, even if we do not talk with them. Some of the things they learn are incorrect, confusing and frightening. Effective SRE does not encourage early sexual experimentation – but it does enable young people to mature, to build up confidence and self-esteem and to understand the reasons for delaying sexual activity until they are ready.

#### Aims

- to clarify the provision of sex and relationship education to all pupils.
- the teaching of human growth and reproduction as set out in the National Curriculum.

#### Statutory Duty of Mere School

The governing body makes this written statement of SRE available to parents. The statement is drawn up in consultation with the staff and head teacher. The head teacher ensures that any sex education is provided in a way that ensures pupils are taught about the nature of marriage and its importance for family life and for bringing up children, and that pupils are protected from teaching materials which are inappropriate. The school is also sensitive to diverse and different family situations.

#### The Content of SRE at Mere School

We have clear parameters on what children will be taught in the transition year before moving to secondary school. Formal SRE will be taught through compulsory science lessons and during PSHE lessons. An SRE programme, tailored to the age, physical and emotional maturity of the children is delivered through the PSHE scheme of work during the summer term in Year 6 by the class teacher and school nurse. Informally, the children will learn about SRE through the values and ethos of the school and through contact with other children.

#### Parents Rights

Parents will be consulted about our SRE policy and informed about what is taught in the SRE lesson. Parents have a right to withdraw their child from some, or all, SRE lessons, but not from statutory science lessons.

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