



River Learning Trust

Sex and Relationships Education

Policy Statement

Person responsible for policy: Chief Executive

Revised: May 2016

Review Date: May 2019

What must be taught and the parental right to withdraw their children¹

Local authority maintained schools in England are obliged to teach sex and relationships education (SRE) from age 11 upwards, and must have regard to the Government's [SRE guidance](#). The Funding Agreements for Academies and free schools also require these schools to have regard to this guidance. In line with this guidance all River Learning Trust schools must have an up-to-date policy which is made available for inspection and to parents.

The policy must:

- *define sex and relationship education;*
- *describe how sex and relationship education is provided and who is responsible for providing it;*
- *say how sex and relationship education is monitored and evaluated;*
- *include information about parents' right to withdrawal;*
- *and be reviewed regularly.*

The DfE recommends that sex and relationship education is delivered through the PSHE and Citizenship framework. Schools therefore will want to have an overall policy on PSHE and Citizenship including sex and relationship education. It is also essential that governing bodies involve parents in developing and reviewing their policy. This will ensure that they reflect parents' wishes and the culture of the community the school serves. Governors and parents will need to address the issue of how those who miss lessons on sex and relationship education can catch up on another occasion.

The policy will also need to reflect the views of teachers and pupils. Listening and responding to the views of young people will strengthen their confidence and self-esteem

Schools may also wish to consider other advice for schools published by the PSHE Association, the Sex Education Forum and Brook, "[Sex and relationships education \(SRE\) for the 21st century](#)", and any such resource should be regarded alongside the Government's SRE guidance.

Parents are free to withdraw their children from SRE if they wish to do so. The only exceptions to this are the biological aspects of human growth and reproduction that are essential elements of Science within the National Curriculum.

Individual School Policies

Within the River Learning Trust, individual school policies will:

- Give information to staff, parents and carers, governors, pupils and outside visitors about the content, organisation and approach to teaching SRE
- Enable parents and carers to support their children in learning about SRE

¹ See [Sex and Relationship Education in Schools](#) – Government Briefing Paper, April 2016

- Give a clear statement on what the school aims to achieve from SRE, the values underpinning it and why it is important for primary school pupils
- Set out how the school meets legal requirements in respect of SRE
 - (i) Duty to promote well-being (Children Act 2004)
 - (ii) Duty to prepare children for the challenges, opportunities and responsibilities of adult life (Education Act 2006)
 - (iii) Protect pupils from unsuitable teaching and materials (Learning and Skills Act 2006)
 - (iv) Teach statutory SRE elements in the Science National Curriculum
 - (v) Have a current policy developed in consultation with pupils and parents (Education Act 1996)
 - (vi) Meet the school's safeguarding obligations
 - (vii) Make the policy available to pupils and parents (Education Act 1996)
 - (viii) Right of parental withdrawal from all or part of SRE except those parts included in the national curriculum (Education Act 1996)
 - (ix) Take account of the DfE guidance on SRE (2000)
 - (x) Prevent discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different groups (Equality Act 2010)