

SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION (SRE) STATEMENT

Sex and relationships education (SRE) is lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of strong, loving relationships as a basis of family life, respect and care. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality, and sexual health.

At Annan, we recognise the importance of this area of learning. Sex and relationships education is an integrated part of our PSHE scheme of work, and as such has a well thought through progression for the children who move up through the school. The class teachers have a clear set of objectives to deliver in each class and are responsible for the delivery of the lessons and activities needed to cover these objectives. The programs of study are regularly reviewed, as is our approach to the teaching of sex and relationships education. We recognise the importance of a child's relationships with others and their understanding of how to help them to be positive and resolve conflict. As the children in our school grow and mature, we want them to develop their self-confidence and self-awareness, along with learning to take responsibility for their own happiness and their own actions: recognising that their actions have consequences for themselves and others. We understand that sometimes relationships don't feel positive and that emotions of all kinds can be incredibly powerful.

Through our PSHE curriculum children at Annan are sensitively prepared for puberty and the physical, emotional and social aspects involved in that stage of development.

In upper Key Stage 2 (and before, if appropriate, on an individual level), we include 'sex education' sessions into the timetable. Before the lessons are delivered we meet with the parents to talk through the content of the lessons, listening to any concerns and talking them through to support and empower parents to be part of the process through which this important and sensitive subject is taught. We acknowledge the parent's right to withdraw their child from these sessions. Any materials that are used in school for the delivery of these sessions (books, video clips etc.) are available for parents to look at prior to the sex and relationships lessons. At Annan we always try to put the children into an empowered position with regard to their learning, and so our sex and relationships lessons are a child-led process, working from what the children already know and answering their questions, as well as addressing any misunderstandings. We work with the children to develop their awareness of the anatomy and changes during puberty for their own gender first, then the opposite gender. Emotional changes and challenges are also discussed. A follow-up session provides the chance to ask any further questions, or go back over anything not quite understood.

Teaching children how to keep safe

As part of the PSHE & SRE children are taught about safeguarding including on-line. Particular attention is paid to helping children to adjust their behaviours in order to reduce risks and build resilience, with particular attention to the Internet, texting and other means of social media. At Annan these practices are delivered through the PSHE and ICT curriculum in an age appropriate manner. Children will be taught the risks posed by adults and young people and peers, who use the internet and social media to bully groom and abuse children.