

# Safeguarding through the PSHE curriculum

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# What do we mean by safeguarding through the PSHE curriculum?

In primary:

- germs, personal hygiene and hand washing
- harmful household products and medicines
- road, water and electrical safety
- basic emergency aid
- legal and illegal drugs, their effects and risks
- judging what kind of physical contact is acceptable or unacceptable
- internet safety
- how to resist peer-pressure and how to ask for help .....

# What do we mean by safeguarding through the PSHE curriculum?

In secondary schools, safeguarding education builds on the messages learnt in primary schools but may also include:

- how high-risk behaviours, including some sexual activities and substance misuse may affect individuals, families and communities
- recognising and reducing risk, minimising harm and getting help in emergency and risky situations
- coping with relationship breakdown, bereavement, emotional and mental health
- how the media portrays young people, body image and health issues
- exploitation in relationships
- gang and knife culture
- religious and political extremism .....

## DfE guidance on safeguarding

The 2010 guidance sets out a number of ways in which schools might fulfil their safeguarding duties. This includes:

- using the curriculum (particularly PSHE) to develop young people's understanding, awareness and resilience so that they are better able to judge risks to themselves and take appropriate action to help keep themselves safe
- having effective measures to address bullying and cyber-bullying as well as other forms of abuse by peers or adults within the school setting

## Safeguarding through the PSHE curriculum

'PSHE provides an important opportunity for learning about healthy relationships and to challenge the pervasive influence of pornography on young people. The work of the Office of the Children's Commissioner on the impact of pornography as part of the Inquiry into sexual exploitation in gangs and groups has led to the recommendation that the school curriculum include 'relationship and sex education' which addresses these issues'

*Feeling safe, keeping safe: Good practice in safeguarding and child protection in secondary schools Office of the Children's Commissioner, 2013*

# The importance of SRE in safeguarding

- 'SRE plays a vital part in meeting schools' safeguarding obligations. Ofsted is clear that schools must have a preventative programme that enables pupils to learn about safety and risk in relationships'

*Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century  
Supplementary advice to the Sex and Relationships Education  
Guidance DfEE (0116/2000)*

## However ...

- SRE requires improvement in over 1/3 of schools. In primary there is too much emphasis on friendships and relationships, leaving pupils ill-prepared for physical and emotional changes during puberty.
- In secondary schools there is too much emphasis on 'the mechanics' of reproduction and too little on relationships, sexuality, the influence of pornography on students' understanding of healthy sexual relationships, dealing with emotions and staying safe.

*Not Yet Good Enough: PSHE education in schools Ofsted 2012*

## SRE – statutory requirements

- It is compulsory for pupils in secondary education to have sex education that includes HIV/AIDS and other STIs
- SRE is not compulsory in primary education however sex education is statutory in science programmes of study at key stages 1-3
- The DfE 2000 guidance states that all schools should have an up-to-date policy for SRE which must be available for inspection and to parents/carers on request



## The Ofsted findings

- 'Lack of high-quality, age-appropriate sex and relationships education in more than a third of schools is a concern as it may leave children and young people vulnerable to inappropriate sexual behaviours and sexual exploitation'.

*Not Yet Good Enough: PSHE education in schools Ofsted 2012*

# The Ofsted findings

- 'This is because they have not been taught the appropriate language or developed the confidence to describe unwanted behaviours or know where to go to for help'.

## The facts ...

- In a Childline survey of 13-18 year old, 60% said they had been asked for a sexual image or video of themselves

*NSPCC(2013) Childline Survey*

- One in three 16-18 year old girls experience unwanted sexual touching/groping at school

*YouGov End Violence Against Women poll (2010)*

- 85% of young people are never taught anything about the biological or physical aspects of same-sex relationships

*Stonewall – The School Report (2010)*

# What the pupils want

- 'I think that they would become more useful if you were to be given examples of what you might come up against. I think that you should be taught what to do and how to react in different situations.' *Girl Year 9*
- 'How about something on sex abuse?' *Girl Year 9*

*Not Yet Good Enough: PSHE education in schools Ofsted 2012*

# What the pupils want

- 'Rape culture. What to look for in a healthy relationship.' *Girl Year 12*
- 'The influence of the media such as porn on people's views of sex and the human body.' *Boy Year 10*

*Not Yet Good Enough: PSHE education in schools Ofsted 2012*

# Safeguarding skills

- In just under half of schools, pupils had received lessons about staying safe but few had developed the skills to effectively apply their understanding, such as the assertiveness skills to stand up for themselves and negotiate their way through difficult situations.
- Pupils understood the importance of applying security settings on social networking sites but did not always know how to set them or had not bothered to do so.

*Not Yet Good Enough: PSHE education in schools Ofsted 2012*

# What the children say ...

- 'The lessons should be aimed at ensuring the pupil knows what they can do to keep safe.' *Girl/ Year 12*

# FGM – a teachers' responsibility?

- lack of information about their body, their human rights and protection in law contributes to the continued failure of girls to resist or report the illegal practice of female genital mutilation which the Home Office estimates as a risk factor for 24,000 girls under the age of 15 in the United Kingdom.

*Not Yet Good Enough: PSHE education in schools Ofsted 2012*



## Quality of teaching in PSHE

- Too many teachers lack expertise in teaching sensitive and controversial issues, which resulted in some topics such as sexuality, mental health and domestic violence being omitted from the curriculum.

*Not Yet Good Enough: PSHE education in schools Ofsted 2012*



# Quality of teaching in PSHE

- Too often subject-specific training and support is inadequate. In 20% of schools, staff had received little or no training to teach PSHE education. Teaching was not good in any of these schools.

*Not Yet Good Enough: PSHE education in schools Ofsted 2012*

Thank you  
Any questions?

