

## **Case study of the introduction of Sex and Relationships Education at Brudenell**

Brudenell is an inner city primary with an 85% EAL population the majority of whom are of Pakistani origin. Like all schools, we have broached the development of Sex and Relationships Education with sensitivity, especially in relation to our high proportion of Muslim children. We wanted to make SRE fit in the whole Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE) curriculum rather than cover this as a one off lesson at the end of Y6

We began in 2007 by attending a seminar about Faith and Values in Sex and Relationships (SRE), led by Marilyn Raby, Primary SRE consultant for Education Leeds and Hansa Patel Kanwal, independent SRE consultant.

The next step was to gather a group of parent governors who were willing to work with the PSHCE co-ordinator to agree on what SRE meant in our school and what would be taught from foundation stage upwards- all fitting into our whole school PSHCE lessons. This group also produced a leaflet, outlining the new SRE programme at Brudenell, which went out to all parents in school.

In 2008-9 we taught puberty lessons to Y5 and 6 as a part of a literacy unit on information leaflets. Before the unit, we held a parents' meeting to discuss any concerns about the lessons and a group of about 12 parents attended. After the meeting none of them chose to remove their children from the lessons. The week went very well and the class teachers were very pleased with the outcomes.

In the summer 2009 we had a meeting of the health subcommittee of governors explain the Year 6 unit as we wanted to begin preparing to teach the next stage which covers sexual intercourse, foetal development and birth. The governors agreed to go ahead. A further pair of governors helped the deputy to select video material appropriate for our school.

We have recently held two parents meetings - one to again show the Y5 material to the new Y5 parents and a second meeting to inform Y6 parents of the further lessons we will be doing to cover 'How are babies made?'. Throughout these meetings we are slowly learning approaches which help our parents to feel more comfortable about coming along and we have some useful suggestions to share:

The real success story was a Y6 parent who attended the last meeting to discuss the revision of the unit, having taken part in the parents' meeting last year. A year ago she

was very concerned about the content of the 'Boy Talk' DVD and argued against showing all of it to her son. However she allowed him to attend the lesson and, a year on, was full of praise for how the lessons had help him to speak maturely at home about growing up and to make sure he was washing himself properly. Recently, this parent has encouraged other parents to think more openly and be braver in recognising their children were growing up.

We still have a long way to go in ensuring that the other areas of SRE are taught effectively through the rest of school, that issues such as homosexuality and media images are dealt with appropriately and that we continue to engage parents in the partnership of supporting their children to grow up. But we also feel that we have moved on a long way from the one off 'sex talk' lesson at the end of Y6 to a more coherent and useful approach which places relationships and sexual health into context for our children and families.

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11.5.10