

SEX EDUCATION POLICY

1 Introduction

In this document, sex education is defined as ‘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. Sex education is part of the personal, social and health education curriculum in our school. We do not use sex education as a means of promoting any form of sexual orientation.

2 Aims and objectives

* To help develop the individual’s identity and role in the home, family, school and at work and leisure.
  + To provide reassurance about the physical and emotional changes that occurs as children grow.
  + To increase awareness of socially desirable behaviour. To support children in adjusting to these changes.
  + To explain clearly the nature of human reproductions and give information about contraception.
  + To work in an investigational or pro-active style to allow issues to be raised without embarrassment.
  + To explore issues of sexual equality and equal opportunities.
  + To promote responsible attitudes when making informed choices.
  + To consider the responsibilities and implications of good/bad parenting.
  + To consider the implications of ill-informed choices such as unwanted pregnancy, sexually transmitted disease (including HIV), social stigma.

3 Context

* + We teach sex education in the context of the school’s aims. While sex education in our school means that we give children information about sexual behaviour, we do this with an awareness of the moral code and values which underpin all our work in school.

4 Organisation

We teach sex education through different aspects of the curriculum. While we carry out the main sex education teaching in our personal, social, health and citizenship education (PSHCE) curriculum, we also teach some sex education through other subject areas, e.g. Science and PE, where we feel that they contribute significantly to a child’s knowledge and understanding of his or her own body, and how it is changing and developing.

5 The role of parents

The school is well aware that the primary role in children’s sex education lies with parents and carers. We wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents of children at our school through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation. In promoting this objective we:

* + inform parents about the school’s sex education policy and practice;
  + answer any questions that parents may have about the sex education of their child;
  + take seriously any issue that parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy or the arrangements for sex education in the school;

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from all or part of the sex education programme that we teach in our school. If a parent wishes their child to be withdrawn from sex education lessons, they should discuss this with the Headteacher, and make it clear which aspects of the programme they do not wish their child to participate in. The school always complies with the wishes of parents in this regard.

6 The role of other members of the community

We encourage other valued members of the community to work with us to provide advice and support to the children with regard to health education. In particular, members of the Local Health Authority, such as the school nurse, give us valuable support with our sex education programme.

7 Confidentiality

Teachers conduct sex education lessons in a sensitive manner and in confidence. However, if a child makes a reference to being involved, or likely to be involved in sexual activity, then the teacher will take the matter seriously and deal with it as a matter of child protection. Teachers will respond in a similar way if a child indicates that they may have been a victim of abuse. In these circumstances the teacher will talk to the Child Protection Co-ordinator as a matter of urgency.

8 The role of the Headteacher

It is the responsibility of the Headteacher to ensure that both staff and parents are informed about our sex education policy, and that the policy is implemented effectively. It is also the Headteacher’s responsibility to ensure that members of staff are given sufficient training, so that they can teach effectively and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity.

9 Monitoring and review

The Teaching and Learning Committee of the governing body monitors our Sex Education Policy on an annual basis. This committee reports its findings and recommendations to the full governing body, as necessary, if the policy needs modification.