



# Sex and Relationships Education Policy

(To be read in conjunction with the school policy on Child Protection.)

	Date	By	Role	Ratified	Date
Version 1	October 2013	A Harrison	HT	Governing Body	Oct 2013
Version 2					
Version 3					

This policy will be reviewed in every 3 years

## **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 Our school's policy on sex and relationship education is based on the Department for Education guidance *Sex and Relationship Education Guidance* (DfE 0116 2000) and underpinned by the Learning and Skills Act 2000. We ensure that our policy meets the requirements set out in these regulations. Governors take seriously their responsibility to ensure pupils are protected from inappropriate teaching materials for children of their age.
- 1.2 In the DfE document sex and relationship education is defined as "learning about physical, moral and emotional development". The guidance states, "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, sexuality, and sexual health".
- 1.3 Sex and relationship education is part of the personal, social and health education (PSHE) curriculum in our school. When we inform our pupils through sex and relationship education about sexual issues, we do this with regard to morality and individual responsibility, and in a way that allows children to ask and explore moral questions. We do not use sex and relationship education as a means of promoting any form of sexual orientation.

## **2 Aims and objectives**

- 2.1 This policy sets out our school policy with regard to sex and relationship education so that all parents and carers are clear about our school's approach to this aspect of our educational provision. We are well aware of the sensitivity involved in this aspect of our work and the school will seek the views of parents and carers when developing this policy further.
- 2.2 As part of our curriculum for PSHE including sex and relationship matters we will teach children about:
- the physical development of their bodies as they grow into adults;
  - the way humans reproduce;
  - respect for their own bodies and the importance of sexual activity as part of a committed, long-term and loving relationship;
  - the importance of family life;
  - moral questions;
  - relationship issues;
  - respect for the views of other people;
  - sexual abuse, and what they should do if they are worried about any sexual matters.

- 2.3 This policy sets out the statutory responsibilities for primary schools in this regard and what rights and responsibilities parents and carers have if they have any concerns regarding the approach taken by our school.

### **3 Context**

- 3.1 We teach about sex and relationships in the context of the school's aims and values. While sex and relationship 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. We teach sex and relationship education on the understanding that:
- it is taught in the context of a loving relationship, marriage and family life;
  - it is part of a wider process of social, personal, spiritual and moral education;
  - children should be taught to have respect for their own bodies;
  - children should learn about their responsibilities to others, and be aware of the consequences of sexual activity;
  - it is important to build positive relationships with others, involving trust and respect;
  - children need to learn the importance of self-control.

### **4 Curriculum organisation**

- 4.1 We teach about sex and relationships through different aspects of the curriculum. While we carry out the main sex and relationship education in our personal, social and health education (PSHE) curriculum, we also do some sex and relationship education through other subject areas (e.g. science and PE) which we believe contribute significantly to children's knowledge and understanding of their own bodies, and how they are changing and developing.
- 4.2 In PSHE, we teach children about relationships, and we encourage them to discuss issues. We teach pupils about the parts of the body, and how these work, and we explain to the children what will happen to their bodies during puberty. For example, we teach the children that boys' voices will change during puberty, and we explain menstruation to both boys and girls. We encourage the children to ask for help if they need it.
- 4.3 Sex and relationship education is a statutory part of the National Curriculum for science. Consequently in science lessons teachers will explain to children about the changes that will occur to their bodies during puberty and how a baby is born. For this aspect of our teaching, we follow national guidance in science. During Key Stage 1 we teach children about how animals, including humans, move, feed, grow and reproduce, and we also teach them about the main parts of the body. Children learn to appreciate the fact that people are not all the same, and that we need to respect each other. During Key Stage 2, we teach about life processes, and the main stages of the human life cycle, in greater depth.
- 4.4 In Year 6, we place a particular emphasis on health education, as many children experience puberty at this age. We liaise with the Local Health Authority about suitable teaching materials to use with our children in these lessons. Teachers do their best to answer all questions with sensitivity and care. By the end of Key Stage 2, we ensure that both boys and girls know how babies are born, how children's bodies change

during puberty, what menstruation is, and how it affects women. We always teach this with due regard for the emotional development of the children.

- 4.5 We arrange a meeting for all parents and carers of children to discuss the content of the lessons, to explain what the issues are, and how they are taught, and to see the materials the school uses in its teaching.

## **5 The role of parents and carers**

- 5.1 The school is well aware that the primary role in sex and relationship education lies with parents and carers. We therefore wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents and carers of children at our school, through mutual understanding, trust and cooperation. To promote this objective, we:

- inform parents and carers about the school's sex and relationship education policy and practice;
- answer any questions that parents or carers may have about the sex and relationship education of their child;
- take seriously any issue that parents or carers raise with teachers or governors about this policy, or about the arrangements for sex and relationship education in the school;
- encourage parents and carers to be involved in reviewing the school policy, and making modifications to it as necessary;
- inform parents and carers about the best practice known with regard to sex and relationship education, so that the teaching in school supports the key messages that parents and carers give to children at home.

We believe that through this mutual exchange of knowledge and information, children will benefit from being given consistent messages about their changing bodies and their increasing responsibilities.

- 5.2 Parents and carers have the right to withdraw their child from all or part of the sex and relationship education programme that we teach in our school (but not from the biological aspects of human growth and reproduction necessary under the National Curriculum for science). If a parent wishes their child to be withdrawn from sex and relationship 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 and carers in this regard.

## **6 The role of other members of the community**

- 6.1 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 and other health professionals, give us valuable support with our sex and relationship education programme. Other people that we could call on include local clergy, social workers and youth workers.

## **7 Confidentiality**

- 7.1 Teachers conduct sex and relationship education lessons in a sensitive manner, and in confidence. However, if a child makes a reference to being involved (or seems likely to be involved) in sexual activity, then the teacher will take the reference 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. They will not try to investigate, but will immediately inform the named person for child protection issues about their concerns. The headteacher will then deal with the matter in consultation with social service professionals (see also our policy on Child Protection).

## **8 The role of the headteacher**

- 8.1 It is the responsibility of the headteacher to ensure that both staff and parents or carers are informed about our Sex and Relationship 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 about sex effectively, and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity.
- 8.2 The headteacher liaises with external agencies regarding the school sex and relationship education programme and ensures that all adults who work with children on these issues are aware of the school policy and work within its framework.
- 8.3 The headteacher monitors this policy on a regular basis, and reports to governors, when requested, on the effectiveness of the policy.

## **9 Monitoring and review**

- 9.1 The curriculum committee of the governing body monitors the impact of our sex and relationship policy on an annual basis. This committee reports its findings and recommendations to the governing body, as necessary, if the policy needs modification. The curriculum committee will give serious consideration to any comments from parents and carers about the sex and relationships education programme, and will make a record of all such comments.
- 9.2 This policy will be reviewed every three years or sooner if necessary.