



SEX AND RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION POLICY

“Effective sex and relationship education is essential if young people are to make responsible and well informed decisions about their lives.”

“Research demonstrates that good, comprehensive sex and relationship education does not make young people more likely to enter into sexual activity. Indeed it can help them learn the reasons for, and the benefits to be gained from, delaying such activity.”

(Sex and Relationship Guidance published by the DfEE July 2000)

The school fully endorses these views and believes that children who receive this information acquire and develop a higher self-esteem and are able to make safer and more responsible decisions relating to their own sexual health and development. It is acknowledged that staff will always attempt to answer questions in an honest and non-prejudicial way.

Our sex and relationship education teaching consists of three main elements: developing attitudes and values, personal and social skills and knowledge and understanding tailored to the age and maturity of the pupils. This policy is inextricably linked to the School’s Personal and Social Education Policy.

This policy will enable children to:-

- receive sex and relationship education that helps and supports them through their physical, emotional and moral development from teachers, nurses and counsellors
- understand the importance of loving and caring relationships, including marriage
- develop self-respect and an empathy with others
- learn how to deal with emotions confidently and sensitively
- develop confidence in talking, listening and thinking about feelings and relationships
- to widen their knowledge and understanding of the basic biology of human growth and reproduction
- have their questions answered honestly, openly and sensitively
- know and have some understanding of the physical, emotional and social changes which take place at puberty
- know that there are different patterns of friendships and relationships and be able to talk about these with a supportive adult
- protect themselves and ask for help and support if or when they need it

We shall be succeeding when:-

- staff have the confidence to answer children’s questions adequately and to ask for advice and support
- the School’s Code of Practice and Schemes of Work are fully implemented

Current practice ensures:-

- teachers contributing to sex and relationship education work totally within this agreed policy
- teachers receive support and training to deliver the sex education programme sensitively and effectively if there is an identified need
- teachers have access to current guidance and resources
- parents are informed of our Sex and Relationship Education Policy in the School’s Prospectus and how it falls into our overall curriculum policy and practice. They are also

informed of our teaching approaches, the materials being used, and the dates and times when video programmes are shown.

- parents are invited to view the relevant materials and are encouraged to discuss the content with their own children at home. Parents are required to make a written request to the Head of School if they wish their children to be withdrawn from lessons that are not a legal requirement of the National Curriculum.
- the Head of School has the responsibility for ensuring all pupils at Key Stage 2 have had access to a programme of sex education.

Code of Practice for Dealing with Issues Sensitively

The School acknowledges that issues related to Sex and Relationship Education need to be dealt with sensitively. During sex education lessons teachers will:

- be sensitive to parental views where they are known and answer in a way that allows consideration of ethical and family attitudes.
- never refer to identifiable people.
- say if they don't know an answer, but attempt to find the required information as soon as possible.
- if presented with questions obviously intended to shock or excite, answer them after the lesson with another adult present.
- answer questions that could be considered outside the norm very sensitively.
- alert parents if a child is overly concerned.
- take great care if asked to handle a confidential problem. They will sensitively inform the child that they may not be able to keep the concern confidential and that they may have to pass the matter for referral. (This is a requirement of the Children Act.)

Regarding the handling of 'sensitive issues' on puberty, menstruation, contraception, abortion, HIV/Aids and sexuality the teacher will use care when attempting to answer questions. They will consider the age and understanding of the children so that clear, precise and appropriate information can be provided.

Year 6 Programme of Study

The children will watch the Channel 4 series of three programmes Living and Growing which is designed to help children to develop the skills and self-esteem to achieve fulfilling relationships within a wide variety of family structures and friendship groups.

The programme deals with the issue of puberty and how it effects both sexes. Some of these sessions will be single sexed but all children will have the opportunity to view all the programmes. The unit of study will include menstruation, personal hygiene, body changes, old wives tales, friendships and relationships.

The programme deals with adult questions Year 6 children will be starting to think about, often triggered by the media and adult language.

Puberty

The School recognises that boys and girls need to be prepared for puberty. As children reach puberty they will need to know and understand that they will change and develop. They need to have confidence in managing these physical and emotional changes.

In answering children's questions about puberty the staff will attempt to lead the children to a greater understanding of the changes that are happening to their bodies and to be aware that some habits and practices may endanger good health and development e.g. smoking, alcohol and substance abuse. Through unscripted drama and role-play, children will be taught how to make simple choices and exercise some basic strategies for resisting pressure from peers and others.

Menstruation

The School recognises that the onset of menstruation can be distressing for girls if they are not prepared for it. The School encourages all parents to discuss this with their children before their periods start.

The school seeks to make adequate arrangements to help girls cope with menstruation and with requests for sanitary protection.

Contraception

The knowledge of the different kinds of contraception is part of the secondary schools sex education programme. We recognise however, that there may be rare occasions when a pupil raises the issue of contraception during sex education or PSE lessons. If this should happen we will advise the child that this can be discussed later on an individual basis and that the child's parents will be informed of this. Parental permission will be sought.

Abortion

The school recognises that there are strongly held views and religious beliefs about abortion and does not consider it an appropriate topic to be included in the Sex and Relationship Education programme of Key Stage 2. Should pupils raise the issue they will be advised to discuss the matter with their parents.

Current Scheme of Work

Year 5

Children in Year 5 are visited by the school nurse who discusses puberty with the children. Girls and boys are given separate talks but receive the same information.

Reviewed: September 2013
Next Review: September 2016