

## **Sex and Relationship Education Policy**

This policy is a whole school policy including EYFS

### **1 Introduction**

- 1.1** We have based our school's sex education policy on the DfES guidance document Sex and Relationship Education Guidance (ref DfEE 0116/2000). 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, sexuality, and sexual health'. Sex education is part of the personal, social and health education curriculum in our school. While we use sex education to inform children about sexual issues, we do this with regard to matters of morality and individual responsibility, and in a way that allows children to ask and explore moral questions. We do not use sex education as a means of promoting any form of sexual orientation. Teachers are expected to respect the rights of other and respect those with different views on sexuality, such as same sex couples. Teachers are expected to show a balanced view.

### **2 Aims and objectives**

- 2.1** We 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;
  - sex abuse and what they should do if they are worried about any sexual matters.

### **3 Context**

- 3.1** 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. In particular, we teach sex education in the belief that:
- sex education should be taught in the context of marriage and family life;
  - sex education is part of a wider social, personal, spiritual and moral education process;
  - 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 Organisation**

- 4.1** We teach sex education through different aspects of the curriculum. While we carry out the main sex education teaching in our personal, social and health education (PSHE) curriculum, we also teach some sex education through other subject areas (for example, science), 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.
- 4.2** In PSHE we teach children about relationships, and we encourage children to discuss issues. We teach about the parts of the body and how these work, and we explain to them what will happen to their bodies during puberty. For example, we tell the boys that their voices will change during puberty and we explain to the girls about menstruation. We encourage the children to ask for help if they need it.
- 4.3** In science lessons in both key stages, teachers inform children about puberty and how a baby is born. For this aspect of the school's teaching, we follow the guidance material in the national scheme of work for science. In 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 differences between people and how to show respect for each other. In 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 use the approved teaching materials. 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 their 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 (as stated earlier in this policy).
- 4.5** We arrange a meeting for all parents and carers of children in Year 6 to discuss this particular programme of 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 other members of the community**

- 5.1** 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 education programme. Other people that we call on include local clergy and social workers.

## **6 Confidentiality**

- 6.1** 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 as a matter of urgency. If the teacher has concerns, they will draw their concerns to the attention of the principal. The principal will then deal with the matter in consultation with health care professionals (see also Child Protection Policy).

## **7 The role of the principal**

- 7.1** It is the responsibility of the principal 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 principal'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.
- 7.2** The principal liaises with external agencies regarding the school sex education programme, and ensures that all adults who work with children on these issues are aware of the school policy, and that they work within this framework.

## **8 Monitoring and review**

- 8.1** This policy is the principal's ongoing responsibility along with reviewing its effectiveness in consultation with the staff.

**Signed:**

**Date:**