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Education

Sex Education Policy

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Relationships and Sex Education Policy



Reviewed: August 2023

Date of Next Review: July / August 2024

Introduction

In 1986 the Education Act gave Governing Bodies the responsibility of determining a policy on sex education. The policy developed emphasised that sex education should promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils as well as prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

In 1993, Section 241 of the Education Act introduced new arrangements for sex education in schools. This states that all secondary schools will have to provide sex education, including teaching about HIV and Aids and other sexually transmitted diseases. There will be a right for those with parental responsibility to withdraw their children from such teaching, although there will be no right of withdrawal from any of the National Curriculum.

In June 2019 (updated in July 2020), new guidance on Relationships and Sex Education was produced by the DfE under Section 80A of the Education Act 2002 and Section 403 of the Education Act 1996. This replaced the previous Sex and Relationship Education from 2000 and will be reviewed every three years from the first required teaching in 2000.

Aims and Objectives

- The purpose of sex education should be to provide knowledge about loving relationships, the nature of sexuality and the process of human reproduction, enabling pupils to learn to view their relationships in a responsible and healthy manner
- It will be tailored to the age and understanding of pupils
- Sex education will be presented in an objective, balanced sensitive manner
- It will be set within a clear framework of values and an awareness of the law and sexual behaviour
- Pupils will be taught how to respond to unacceptable behaviour by adults and other children
- Pupils will be encouraged to appreciate the value of stable family life, marriage and the responsibilities of parenthood
- Pupils will be helped to consider the importance of self-restraint, dignity and respect for themselves and others
- Pupils will be taught to accept that both sexes must behave responsibly in sexual matters

Equal Opportunities

- At Access School pupils will be helped to clarify sexual attitudes and encourage behaviour which develops self-esteem
- Mutual respect will be encouraged
- Preparation for parenting must be provided for future fathers as well as mothers
- All children including those with special educational needs have entitlement to a planned programme of sex education

Co-ordination

Name of Co-ordinator: Rob Davies

Who will teach it? Various Teachers throughout Upper and Lower School within PSHCE and Science lessons, and Outside Speakers if applicable. The School Therapist will also be available to provide input and assist with group work and 1:1 guidance where required.

The basic principle adopted will be that, wherever possible, the 'deliverers' should be staff that have taught the pupils for some time and have had the opportunity of building up a trusting relationship with them, and that all outside speakers will be experienced providers who are aware of this policy and who have agreed to uphold it.



Methodology and Approach

We are conscious that pupils at Access School are often 'looked after' and that there will be occasions when some of our pupils will have been exposed to inappropriate sexualised behaviour or involvement. As such any sex education planned must take into account the child's history, experiences and be aligned to their Care Plans, IEP's and PEP's as appropriate. Pupils are naturally curious and will doubtless ask questions. Staff will aim to be honest and truthful and answer questions if appropriate to do so. Teachers/LSA's will not discuss anything relating to their own lives or offer personal opinions and values.

All staff will be made aware of the law and will not condone illegal sexual activities. Where questions arise of an explicit nature, teachers have the right to refuse to discuss the issue or refer it to a relevant agency. All staff are fully aware of the Company's policy in relation to 'safeguarding' and of the need to report on any information that might suggest that a child has been subject to or is at ongoing risk of exposure to 'significant harm'. Careful consideration needs to be given to the age, sensitivity and knowledge of the group at all times. All pupils attending Access School are made aware that whilst confidentiality is important it does not override the 'paramountcy' of protecting children. Questions may arise in other areas of the curriculum. All teachers in the school will be made aware of the policy document and will receive a copy, providing the above guidelines have been followed, the school will support decisions made by teachers.

Key Stage 2

5-7 year olds

- Differences
- How did I get there?
- Growing up

7-9 year olds

- Changes
- How babies are made
- How babies are born

9-11 year olds

- Girl talk
- Boy talk

- Lets talk about sex

Whilst it is anticipated that this scheme will be delivered in KS2 at the intervals indicated, it may be delivered at any other appropriate time dependant on a young persons' needs and ability and prior knowledge. We recognise that many young people come to us with gaps in their education and it may be appropriate to substitute age-appropriate schemes that may be individually designed for a child or young person rather than be pre planned in a generic scheme of work.



Key stage 3/4

- What we know, think and feel
- Talking about sex
- Gender difference
- Manage change/Manage feelings
- Unique Identity
- Informed decisions
- Consequences of decisions
- Exploring perceptions of people and situations
- Exploring attitudes and beliefs
- Understanding other's beliefs
- Practice assertive behaviours
- My body /my right/ my choice
- Knowing facts –Terminology to describe
- Sexual language
- Dispelling the myths
- Developing understanding of sex education issues
- The facts of HIV
- Sexually transmitted diseases
- Life choices: in relation to sexual activity
- Clarifying confusions
- Where do we go for advice?
- Different types of relationships
- What is Marriage?
- Roles and responsibilities of parents
- Healthy friendships
- Reconciliation and ending relationships

Relationships and Sex education makes a contribution to the schools PSHCE programme and to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the pupils. The scheme involves:

- Giving information and knowledge
- Challenging beliefs
- Forming positive attitudes and values
- Developing sexual identity
- Promoting the necessary skills for effective communication

Where resource materials are used prior consultation (op cit) will take place and an opportunity will be given to withdraw children from aspects of the programme. All questions raised will be answered in a sensitive, open, frank and factual way.



Teaching

At Key Stage 2 the general teaching of the sex and relationship curriculum will be carried out by the class teacher and science specialist. The therapist within the school may also be asked to aid with some 1:1 direct work, if necessary and agreed with those holding Parental Responsibility depending on the individual needs of the young people. The therapist will work alongside the class teacher. Decisions refer to the company's therapists are always made in consultation with those who have parental responsibility.

At Key Stage 3-4 the emphasis of teaching will be on individual/small group sessions led by the therapists with the science element taught by the subject specialist.

Where children are seen in individual sessions no advice will be given with regard to the individual's sexual behaviour and or contraceptive advice. Any questions on these issues must be referred to the appropriate person, i.e. parent, carer or health professional. If a pupil is to be seen on an individual basis the consent of those with parental responsibility will be sought before any session takes place.

Confidentiality

Children must be aware from the outset of any session, with regard to sex and relationship education, that there are ground rules and that the teacher cannot offer unconditional confidentiality. This will correspond to the company procedure on confidentiality and where serious issues are raised that this could lead to child protection involvement. Teachers should be careful not to guarantee or even suggest confidentiality. If a pupil is believed to be involved in illegal behaviour inside or outside school or are at risk of significant harm staff have a duty to inform the senior management team. When talking with pupils, teachers must make it clear that it may not be possible to maintain confidentiality if this would prejudice the child's welfare.

Statements on Specific Issues

Abortion

The programme will present a broad and balanced viewpoint aimed at helping pupils to distinguish between facts and opinions.

Contraception

Staff will issue information and general advice to groups to try to clarify and to seek understanding, appropriate to their age and maturity. It is vital that pupils have the knowledge before they need it. Teachers are not to give contraceptive advice to individual pupils under the age of consent (to engage in sexual intercourse). A teacher approached by a pupil for specific advice on aspects of sexual behaviour should encourage the pupil to seek advice from relevant health services.

Bullying Procedures

The school has an anti-bullying ethos/policy.

Child Withdrawal

It is the right of the person with parental responsibility to withdraw their children from all parts of the sex education offered. Such requests should be passed onto the Head Teacher. Reasons for withdrawal of sex education need not be discussed. There is no right of withdrawal from the National Curriculum. All young people within the school will require consent from those who have parental responsibility.



Complaints Procedure

Those with parental responsibility have the right to discuss complaints with the Head Teacher as indeed do children and young people.