



# Sex & Relationship Education Policy



## 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This policy takes into account circular 5/94, Education Act 1993 Sex Education in Schools:
- a. **Promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of the students at the school and of society and**
  - b. **prepare such students for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.**
- 1.2 In maintained secondary schools, governing bodies will have the responsibility of considering whether, or at what stage, to offer sex education. They must keep an up to date written statement of the policy they choose to adopt, which must be available to parents. The sex education programme must include human reproduction, sexually transmitted diseases and information about HIV and AIDs. Other than this, the law does not define the purpose and content of sex education.

### Importance of Sex Education

- 1.3 Sex education is one aspect of our PSHCEE programme. It is important that it is not over emphasised, isolated or left to chance. Learning will focus on the responsibility of the individual and positive attitudes. Respect for self and others is an integral parts of personal education and also of sex education. We aim to support the personal and social development of students in order that they can understand, accept and cope with the changes that take place in their own development and those around them.

## 2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 Sex education should:
- i. Equip students with knowledge and understanding, personal and inter-personal skills, attitudes, values and beliefs at an appropriate level for each student's development.
  - ii. Be an integral part of the learning process, beginning in childhood and continuing into adult life.
  - iii. Encourage exploration of values and moral issues, considerations of personal relationships and development of communication and decision making skills.

### Objectives of the school's Sex & Relationships Education Policy

- 2.2 To create a programme which:
- Caters for students' needs and is sensitive to individuals and groups.
  - Assists students to understand their personal responsibilities for their own bodies.
  - Encourages the acceptance of sexual matters without embarrassment.

- Enables students to accept variations in rates of growth and development, physical, social and emotional.
- Creates an atmosphere where questions and discussions can take place without embarrassment.
- Provides reassurance that change is part of the life cycle and enables students to develop strategies for coping with change.
- Involves extended service providers who specialise in sex and relationship education as part of the PSHCEE programme and enrichment.
- Enables students to communicate about any unwanted invasion of personal body space and or their body.
- Raises awareness of sources of help and enables students to acquire the skills and confidence to use them – provides drop in sessions ie. Just Ask on Mondays (Youth Service) and CHAT on Thursdays (Authority Health Advisors).
- The school's Pastoral system and nurses will refer students for external advice and liaise with parents to secure students welfare.

### **3 MORALS AND VALUES FRAMEWORK**

3.1 These are in keeping with the school's values.

3.2 Morality is an essential part of sexuality and relationships. The sex education programme will work towards promoting the values that are common to all societies that respect human dignity these include:

- Value of family life
- Respect for individual and human rights
- Respect for human dignity
- Freedom from exploitation
- The acceptance of minority groups without persecution

3.3 We will aim to:

- Teach and present facts in an objective and balanced way
- Teach and present topics relating to sex education with due regard to the sensitive nature of some of the issues raised eg. abortion, contraception
- Ensure students know what is legal and the UK laws relating to sexual activity
- Enable students to consider their own attitudes
- Provide information to enable students to make reasoned and informed decisions about attitudes they adopt now and in adulthood
- Ensure that homosexuality is not promoted as a pretended family relationship whilst not encouraging homophobia
- Provide information to help to prevent the spread of diseases eg. HIV, AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases
- Present sex education as part of the core curriculum for all students.

### **4 SEX EDUCATION PROGRAMME**

4.1 The programme addresses:

- Self esteem

- Human growth and development
- Knowledge of body
- Relationships
- Personal and social education skills
- Safety
- Families and responsibilities

#### 4.2 Themes of sex education:

- Rights
- Responsibilities
- Risks
- Respect

## **5 EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY**

- 5.1 The school regards access to a coherent programme of sex education as a fundamental right for all students. We will aim to give appropriate courses for all students. The programme is structured to stress the individual students' responsibility for the health of their own body.
- 5.2 All aspects of sex education are taught within a moral framework and with due regard to religious traditions.
- 5.3 Students will be taught in mixed gender groups.

## **6 GUIDELINES FOR PARENTS**

- 6.1 All parents have a legal right to withdraw their child from the Sex Education programme.
- 6.2 A minority of parents may wish to do so, and in this event, they should contact the Headteacher. The school will discuss individual cases with the family concerned and take the necessary action for alternative provision.