



Relationships and Sex Education Policy



Introduction

We have based our school's **Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)** policy on the DCSF guidance document 'Sex and Relationship Education Guidance'. In this document sex education is defined as 'learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about understanding the importance of marriage as a context 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. We will teach within a framework of Christian values and the Christian understanding that sex is a gift of God as part of creation. Whilst 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 have taken account of the guidance provided in teaching materials supplied by the Diocese.

Sensitivity and respect should be shown to all children when teaching about personal relationships and sex education and RSE should be taught in a way to ensure that there is no stigmatisation of children based on their home/personal circumstances.

All Staff are aware that everyone has views on RSE related issues. Whilst pupils are given the opportunity to explore their own attitudes, values and beliefs and to develop an individual moral code that will guide their actions this is exercised within an understanding of the right of people to hold their own views within a framework of respect for others.

Aims and objectives

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 marriage and family life;
- ◇ moral questions;
- ◇ relationship issues;
- ◇ respect for the views of other people;
- ◇ what they should do if they are worried about any sexual matters.

Context

We teach sex education in the context of the school's aims and values framework (See Curriculum Policy values statement.) 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 Christian values which underpin all our work in school. In particular, we teach sex education in the belief that:

- ◇ the sanctity of marriage is central in Christian teaching and practice

- ◇ children should learn the significance of marriage and families as key building blocks of community and society
- ◇ this school recognises that there are strong, mutually supportive relationships outside marriage which will be the norm for many pupils. Our children will learn about marriage and stable relationships as part of learning to respect and understand difference and diversity.
- ◇ children should learn that some people choose not to engage in sexual activity and that this should be respected and valued as a response to the gift of faith
- ◇ 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.
- ◇ children need to learn how to keep themselves safe when using the internet and other forms of technology.
- ◇ children need to be aware of responsible use of all forms of technology in order to respect the wellbeing and integrity of others

Healthy School Programme

We will participate in the Healthy School programme, which promotes health education in schools. In line with the Healthy Schools toolkit, we will:

- ◇ consult with parents on all matters of health education policy;
- ◇ train all our teachers to teach sex education;
- ◇ listen to the views of the children in our school regarding sex education;
- ◇ look positively at any local initiatives that support us in providing the best sex education teaching programme that we can devise.

Organisation

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 and PE, RE), 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.

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. Children are taught that boys' voices will change and that menstruation begins for girls during puberty. We encourage the children to ask for reassurance if they need it.

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 and the appropriate vocabulary. 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.

In Key Stage 2 RE children will learn about the commitment of people of faith to each other in marriage and how this is expressed in marriage ceremonies. They will learn about the beliefs and values that underpin this commitment and support the nurture and care of children in the family.

In Years 5/ 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 and involve the School Nurse in the programme. 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).

Year 5 and 6 children are taught about relationships and sex as part of an annual programme within Science, PSHE and Religious Education. On a 2-year cycle, pupils use the CBBC Programme 'Operation Ouch – Don't Panic About Puberty' as the main resource, supplemented by additional material considered appropriate by members of staff including those regarding how a baby is conceived, develops and birth. Resources from the donor conception network regarding donor conception are incorporated into this series of lessons to ensure all children are considered and feel included. All resources are reviewed by the Y5/6 teacher in conjunction with the Local Governance Committee.

We arrange a meeting for all parents and carers of children in Years 5 and 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.

The role of parents

The school is well aware that the primary role in children's sex education lies with parents and carers. We wish to build a positive and supportive relationship with the parents of children at our school through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation. In promoting this objective we:

- ◇ inform parents about the school's sex education policy and practice;
- ◇ answer any questions that parents may have about the sex education of their child;
- ◇ take seriously any issue that parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy or the arrangements for sex education in the school;
- ◇ Inform parents about the teaching about sex education in school so that the parents and school can work together to support the child with regard to sex education. We believe that, through this mutual exchange of knowledge and information, children will benefit from being given consistent messages about their changing body and their increasing responsibilities.

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from all or part of the sex education programme that we teach in our school. If a parent wishes their child to be withdrawn from sex 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 in this regard.

The role of other members of the community

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 from whom we could seek advice include local clergy, our parent support advisor, the Life Education centre, social workers and youth workers.

Confidentiality and Safeguarding Children Procedures

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. If the teacher has concerns, they will draw their concerns to the attention of the headteacher and/or the designated teacher for child protection and safeguarding. The headteacher will then deal with the matter in consultation with health care professionals and with close reference to the school's child protection policy and procedures.

Advice for teachers on particularly sensitive issues which may arise can be found at: <http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/wholeschool/familyandcommunity/childprotection>
[Donor Conception Network | Supporting families through donor conception \(dcnetwork.org\)](http://www.dcnetwork.org)

The role of the headteacher

It is the responsibility of the headteacher 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 headteacher'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.

The headteacher 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.

The headteacher monitors this policy on an annual basis with governors.

Monitoring and review

The LGC led by the Curriculum Link Governor, monitors our sex education policy on an annual basis. The Curriculum Link Governor reports their findings and recommendations to the Local Governance Committee, as necessary, if the policy needs modification. The Curriculum Link Governor gives serious consideration to any comments from parents about the sex education programme, and makes a record of all such comments. Governors require the headteacher to keep a written record, giving details of the content and delivery of the sex education programme that we teach in our school. Governors should scrutinise materials to check they are in accordance with the school's ethos.

The Relationships and Sex Education policy should be read in conjunction with other school policies aimed at promoting pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, including the:

- ◇ *Anti-bullying Policy*
- ◇ *Behaviour Policy*
- ◇ *Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy*
- ◇ *Collective Worship Policy*
- ◇ *Health and Safety Policy*
- ◇ *Computing Policy*
- ◇ *PSHEC Policy*
- ◇ *Religious Education Policy*
- ◇ *Special Educational Needs & Disability Policy*

RELATIONSHIPS & SEX EDUCATION

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