



ST. ANDREW'S CE (VA) JUNIOR SCHOOL



"Promoting Excellence Within a Caring Christian Community"

Sex Education Policy

1 Introduction

1.1 We have based our school's sex education policy on the DfEE 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.

2 Aims and objectives

2.1 We aim

- To offer all pupils a planned programme of education about human development, relationships, sexuality and family life which is developmental and appropriate to age and maturity of the child.
- To teach sexuality within a moral framework emphasising stable relationships and family life.
- To encourage pupils to develop a positive attitude to all body functions
- To help pupils understand that they have rights over their bodies.
- To recognise peer social pressure and boost self- esteem.
- To work with other schools and the local authority to share good practice in order to improve this policy.

3 Context

3.1 We teach sex education in the context of the school's Christian aims and values. 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, stable relationships 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 and PE), 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. We encourage the children to ask for help if they need it.

4.3 In Years 5 and 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 in these lessons. 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.

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

5.1 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 supporting 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 best practice known with regard to sex education, so that the teaching in school supports the key messages that parents and carers give to children at home. 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.

5.2 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.

6 The role of other members of the community

6.1 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.

7 Confidentiality

7.1 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, closely following our Child Protection Policy. Teachers will respond in a similar way if a child indicates that they may have been a victim of abuse. In these circumstances, the teachers responsible for child protection will follow the guidelines in our Child Protection Policy.

8 The role of the headteacher

8.1 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 training, so that they can teach effectively and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity.

8.2 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.

8.3 The head teacher will monitor the effectiveness of this policy on a regular basis.

9 Monitoring and review

9.1 The Curriculum Committee of the governing body monitors our sex education policy on a three year basis. This committee reports its findings and recommendations to the full governing body, as necessary, if the policy needs modification. The Curriculum Committee gives serious consideration to any comments from parents about the sex education programme, and makes a record of all such comments.

Head Teacher signed:

Chair of Governors signed:

Date: June 2016

Review: June 2019