

## **RATIONALE**

Our policy on sex education and relationships is based on the DCSF 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 family life (including marriage), stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. Sex education is part of the personal, social, health education (PSHE) curriculum in our school and the relationships theme in SEAL (Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning). 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.

## **AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

We believe that, by delivering a programme of sex education in school, we will prepare our children for the future and help them develop confidence and self-esteem.

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 loving relationships
- The importance of family life
- Relationship issues, including issues of peer pressure and the right to say 'No' and the confidence to do so
- Through our 'Massage in Schools' programme we teach about 'good touching' and 'bad touching'
- Respect for themselves and the views of other people
- Responsibility for their own actions
- Responsibility for their friends, family, school and the wider community

## **CONTEXT**

We teach sex education in the context of the school's aims and values Framework. The Governors and staff believe that sex education is part of the entitlement of pupils.

Sex education in our Academy means that we provide information which is easy to understand and relevant to the age and maturity of pupils.

We teach sex education in the belief that:

- Sex education should be taught in the context of marriage and family life

**ACADEMY SEX AND RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION POLICY**

**POLICY DATE: JANUARY 2012**

**REVIEW DATE: JANUARY 2013**

- 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
- It is important to build positive relationships with others, involving trust and respect

**To promote a 'healthy school and to fulfill the above aims:**

- We consult with parents and governors on all matters of health education policy
- Training, when available, is offered to all teaching staff
- We listen to the views of the children in our school regarding sex education

**TEACHING AND LEARNING**

The main sex education teaching is delivered through our PSHE curriculum. We also teach some sex education through other subject areas (for example, science), where we feel that it contributes 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 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 and provide opportunities for children to ask questions in confidence.

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. As part of their RE/ PSHE curriculum they learning about relationships and families. They also investigate feelings that make them sad, happy, embarrassed, scared etc

In **Key Stage 2** we teach about life processes and the main stages of the human life cycle in greater depth.

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 in these lessons. Teachers do their best to answer all questions with sensitivity and care. The School Nurse assists the class teacher with the delivery of our Sex Education for this age group.

We inform all parents and carers of children in Year 5 + 6 when the specific programme of sex education lessons are to take place, to explain what the issues are and how they are taught, and to encourage parents to support their

## ACADEMY SEX AND RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION POLICY

POLICY DATE: JANUARY 2012

REVIEW DATE: JANUARY 2013

children by discussing any issues arising from their learning in school. The materials the school uses in its teaching are available in school for parents to review.

Each year, we hold a **Healthy Living week** of activities including:

- Keeping Safe – personal safety, saying ‘NO’, stranger danger
- Personal Hygiene
- Healthy Food and Exercise
- Medicines and Drugs

### THE ROLE OF PARENTS

The school is 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 and consult 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.

*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

**ACADEMY SEX AND RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION POLICY**

**POLICY DATE: JANUARY 2012**

**REVIEW DATE: JANUARY 2013**

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. Through the Healthy Schools Programme, we have accessed resources and guidance.

### **CONFIDENTIALITY**

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 Head teacher. The Head teacher will then deal with the matter in consultation with health care professionals. (See also Child Protection Policy/ Safeguarding Children.)

### **THE ROLE OF THE HEADTEACHER**

It is the responsibility of the Head teacher to ensure that both staff and parents are informed about our sex education policy, and that the policy is implemented effectively.

The Head teacher 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.

### **MONITORING AND REVIEW**

The Health and Safety Committee of the governing body monitors our sex education policy. 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.