



Calder Vale St. John's CE Primary School Scorton CE Primary School



Sex and Relationships Education Policy

Policy Agreed by Staff: October 2016

Policy Agreed by Governors: October 2016

Review Date: October 2017

Staff Responsible: Helen Hesketh

Governor Committee: Standards and Effectiveness

Introduction

We have based our schools' sex education policy on the DfEE guidance document Sex and Relationship Education Guidance (ref DfEE 0116/2000). In our schools, sex education is defined as 'learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about understanding the importance of 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 teach sex education in the context of the school's mission statement and aims, as follows, and the recommendations of the Church of England General Synod (see below).

Aims

While sex education in our schools 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 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 personal responsibility.

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

Organisation

Having taken note of the statutory requirements contained in the Science programmes of study we also 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, 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.

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. For example, we tell the boys that their voices will change during puberty and we explain to the girls about menstruation. We encourage the children to ask for help if they need it.

It is a statutory requirement of the science national curriculum, in both key stages, that 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. 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 Year 5 and 6 we place a particular emphasis on health education, as many children experience puberty at this age. Whilst the governors and staff, after consultation with the parents, believe that sex education should be offered at our schools as part of the general Health Education programme, they believe that a more detailed approach be offered to children in Year 5 and 6. This will be arranged with the School Nurse.

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 and how their bodies change during puberty. e.g. what menstruation is, and how it affects women, wet dreams for boys etc. We always teach this with due regard for the emotional development of the children (as stated earlier in this policy).

The role of parents

The schools are 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. We will provide an opportunity for all parents and carers of children in Year 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.

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.

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 that we call on may include local clergy. These people must agree to abide by this policy and teachers will be present at all times when visitors are talking to children.

Child Protection

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. (see 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 teacher will listen to the child as a matter of urgency. If the teacher has concerns, they will draw their concerns to the attention of the headteacher. The headteacher will then deal with the matter in consultation with health care professionals. (See also Child Protection Policy.)

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 a regular basis and reports to governors, when requested, on the effectiveness of the policy.

Monitoring and review

The Curriculum and Safeguarding Committee of the governing bodies monitor our sex education policy on an annual basis. These committees report its findings and recommendations to the full governing body, as necessary, if the policy needs modification. The Committees give serious consideration to any comments from parents about the sex education programme.

Policy to be reviewed annually.