



Sex Education & Relationships Policy Fordham All Saints

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Fordham All Saints C.E. Primary School

Sex and Relationships Education Policy

Realizing the potential of every child in a caring Christian environment.

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 according to the Equality Act 2010. Only questions that relate to the National Curriculum, the DfE PSHCE (Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education) guidelines are answered.**

2 Aims and objectives

2.1 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;**
- **inappropriate sexual behaviour and what they should do if they are worried about any sexual matters**

3 Context

3.1 We teach sex education in the context of the school's aims and Christian values framework. 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 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 The National Healthy School Standard

- 4.1 We now participate in the National Healthy School Standard scheme, which promotes health education. As participants in this scheme we:
- 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.

5 Organisation

- 5.1 We teach sex education through different aspects of the curriculum. While we carry out the main sex education teaching in our personal, social health and citizenship education (PSHCE) curriculum, we teach some foundational aspects through science, which is compulsory.
- 5.2 In PSHCE we teach children about relationships from KS1, and we encourage children to discuss issues. We teach about the parts of the body and how these work and change. In Key Stage 2 we tell the children that boys 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.
- 5.3 In Key Stage 1 and 2 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. In science lessons in key stage two, 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. 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.
- 5.4 In Year 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. 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.
- 5.5 We make available programmes of work to be carried out each year and give parents the opportunity to meet with staff to discuss any issues they may have. This provides parents with the opportunity to have elements of the curriculum explained and to see the materials the school uses in its teaching. Additional copies of the materials are also available for parents to borrow and use with their child/children at home.

6 The role of parents

6.1 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 by letter at least 3 weeks before sex education takes place in Year 6 (see appendix A).**
- **inform parents about the school's sex education policy and practice at the beginning of each academic year;**
- **provide parents with an outline of the scheme of work to be delivered within each year class in the school via the Sex and Relationships Education folder.**
- **provide parents with the opportunity to examine and view any materials before they are delivered to the pupils ;**
- **material will be available for parents to borrow if they wish to follow up particular aspects of the programme at home: (see appendix B)**
- **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;**
- **encourage parents to be involved in reviewing the school policy and making modifications to it as necessary along with appropriate dynamic pupil involvement;**
- **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.**

6.2 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.

7 The role of other members of the community

7.1 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. Other people that we may call on include local clergy, social workers and youth workers.

8 Confidentiality

- 8.1 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. 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 headteacher. The headteacher will then deal with the matter in consultation with health care professionals.

9 The role of the headteacher

- 9.1 It is the responsibility of the headteacher to ensure that both staff and parents are informed about the 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.
- 9.2 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.
- 9.3 The headteacher monitors this policy on a regular basis and reports to governors, when requested, on the effectiveness of the policy.

10 Monitoring and review

- 10.1 The Curriculum Committee of the governing body monitors our sex education policy on an annual 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.

Appendix A

Dear Parents,

Re: Year 6 PSHCE SRE Education.

During their PSHCE lesson in three weeks time XXXXXX Year 6 will be studying how their bodies are changing.

The sex and relationships education sessions for Year 6 will take place over 4 sessions, and where appropriate delivered separately to the Year 6 girls by Julia Bowles and to the Year 6 boys by Mr Wainwright. The topic will be discussed in a sensitive but informative manner and follows the recommended guidance from the Local Authority and the NHS. The topics of puberty and personal hygiene will also be presented.

At the end of the lessons pupils are given the opportunity to ask questions anonymously using a question box. Only questions that relate to the National Curriculum and the DfE PSHCE guidelines are answered.

As parents you have the legal right to withdraw your child from these sessions, please notify us if you wish to do so. You are invited to see the materials that will be used in the sessions after school on XXXXXX.

Following the sessions, pupils often talk to their parents afterwards at home. For this reason we are keen that you are informed and prepared for such discussions. Should you be concerned about any aspect of this work, a copy of the Governors' SRE and PSHCE Policy is available on the school website for your information. If, after reading the Policy and examining the materials, you require any further clarification, please feel free to contact me directly.

Yours sincerely,

Signed:

Date:

Appendix B:

The core material that will be used from June 2015 will be 'Growing up Growing wise' produced by Lovewise.

Alongside this we will also be using the RE Today- Body and Soul, subject to approval..