

Sex Education Policy



Context

Under the **Education Act 2002** all schools must provide a balanced and broadly-based curriculum which:

- promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society, and
- prepares pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.

The **Relationships Education, RSE and Health Education (England) Regulations 2019** have made Relationships Education and Health Education compulsory in all primary schools. Sex Education is not compulsory in primary schools, however the Department for Education states, *'It is important that the transition phase before moving to secondary school supports pupils' ongoing emotional and physical development effectively. The Department continues to recommend therefore that all primary schools should have a sex education programme tailored to the age and the physical and emotional maturity of the pupils. It should ensure that both boys and girls are prepared for the changes that adolescence brings and - drawing on knowledge of the human life cycle set out in the national curriculum for science - how a baby is conceived and born.'*

Sex education is an additional part of our Health Education curriculum, which as a school community, we teach to our Year 6 pupils in the Summer term. The content of these Sex education lessons goes beyond the statutory content specified in the **Relationships Education, RSE and Health Education (England) Regulations 2019**. As such, parents do have the right to withdraw their child from these specific lessons. This must be done in writing to the headteacher. The school always complies with the wishes of parents in this regard.

Aims

To prepare both boys and girls for the changes that adolescence brings

To extend their knowledge of the human life cycle to include how a baby is conceived

To understand what pregnancy is and how babies are born

To understand the importance of consent and respecting the views of others

To understand that sexual activity should be part of a committed, long-term and loving adult relationship

To understand what is meant by a person's sexuality

To know what to do if they are worried about any sexual matters

Teaching and Learning style

Sex education is taught in Year 6 through discrete lessons. Teachers will determine pupils prior knowledge/starting points at the beginning of the lesson, to find out what is already known, identify misconceptions and key aspects to focus on. Sex Education is taught using a range of different teaching techniques including using: group work, paired work, discussions, video clips, to deliver the content in the most suitable way for the group of children. Links will be made to prior learning within the PSHE, Relationships Education, Health Education and science curriculum as appropriate.

Curriculum planning

The Year 6 Sex Education lessons are based on materials from the '**Medway Public Health Directorate relationships and sex education schemes of work for KS2**' recommended by the PSHE Association. Before teaching, teachers will review the lesson contents and adapt it as necessary to meet the needs of the particular group of Year 6 children that year. Resources, content and teaching styles will be adapted or differentiated to meet the needs of all pupils including those with SEND.

Before the Sex Education lessons are taught, a meeting will be held for parent or carers to view the lesson plans, resources and video clips. It will be a chance for parents or carers to ask questions about the content being delivered prior to their children receiving it.

Assessment

At the end of the Sex Education lessons, teachers will review the understanding of the children against the objectives being taught to make sure there are no misconceptions or areas that need to be revisited.

Policy Availability

The policy will be shared on our school website. If parents required a paper version of the policy, then they should request this at the school office.

Creating a Safe and supportive Learning environment

Clear 'Ground rules' will be established with pupils at the start of the Sex Education lessons, to outline how this sensitive topic will be discussed and to ensure a safe and supportive learning environment is created.

It will be explained to those children receiving the Sex Education lessons, that the content of these sessions should not be discussed with any children in school, or younger children at home, as it could scare or alarm them. If they wish to discuss any of the content they should speak to a parent or carer or the class teacher who delivered the lessons.

We will ensure that where pupils indicate that they may be vulnerable or at risk, this is reported to the designated Safeguarding Lead and the pupil will get the appropriate support, as identified in our Safeguarding/child protection policies.

Managing difficult questions

Primary-age pupils will often ask their teachers or other adults difficult questions which go beyond the content set out for their Sex Education lessons. If this occurs, the teacher will explain to the child that the content of their question is not something we are able to discuss in school but that they could ask a parent or carer when they get home. The teacher should inform the parent or carer of the question the child was asking and explain why it was not able to be answered in school. If there is any safeguarding concern over the content of the question, then the teacher should speak to the Designated Safeguard Lead in school.

Confidentiality

Teachers conduct sex and relationship 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. Parents will be informed should any explicit questions arise as teachers are not able to offer confidential advice to individual pupils. The DSL at the school will be consulted and informed if any questions or concerns arise out of the sex and relationships discussions and lessons.

Entitlement and Equality of opportunity

The **Equality Act 2010 Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED)** acknowledges some protected characteristics - race, disability, sex, age, religion or belief, sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity and gender reassignment. Within our Sex Education teaching, we promote and support the needs and interests of all pupils, irrespective of their gender, culture, ability or personal circumstance. Teachers differentiate teaching and learning to meet the needs of all pupils, including those with SEND. They will take into account the age, readiness and personal circumstances of all pupils when planning learning opportunities to ensure all pupils can fully access the Sex Education lessons. When delivering content, teachers will focus on the facts and laws that surround the subject area and will not let personal beliefs or opinions influence their delivery of the facts to our pupils.

Monitoring and review

The PSHE subject leader is responsible for monitoring the standards of children's work and the quality of teaching. The subject leader supports colleagues in the teaching of Sex

Sex and Relationship Education Policy

Education, by giving them information about current developments in the subject and by providing a strategic lead and direction for the subject in the school. The subject leader is also responsible for giving the headteacher an annual summary report, evaluating strengths and weaknesses in the subject and indicating areas for further improvement.

Note

This Sex Education policy should be read in conjunction with the PSHE, Relationships Education and Health Education, Health and Safety, SMSC and Science policies.

Date Reviewed: Sept 2022

Next Review: Sept 2024