

SEX EDUCATION POLICY STATEMENT



POLICY FORMATION

This Policy Statement was drawn up by SLT, approved by Governors, following consultation with appropriate staff notably the PD Co-ordinator (Mrs Smith), the Health Education Team, Heads of Department and Heads of House.

The programme has been devised by the PD Co-ordinator working with the Health Education Team.

The main issues considered in formulating the Sex Education Programme were:

- (i) the timing of particularly sensitive issues
- (ii) gender and puberty/adolescent development
- (iii) flexibility to deal with concerns whenever they arise
- (iv) the expertise of the PD team.

AIMS

1. To help pupils understand the biological functioning of their own bodies and those of the opposite sex and to develop a positive self image.
2. To recognise that healthy sexual development affects many areas of one's life, e.g. physical health, mental health and personal relationships.
3. To explore the concept of responsibility within a moral framework.
4. To increase understanding and the responsibility of parenthood.
5. To encourage the acquisition of the skills of decision making that will enable informed and reasoned choices to be made.
6. To explore the influence of pressures on sexual behaviour, e.g. home/family, school, friends, media, law.
7. To enable pupils to have the opportunity to discuss growing up and personal development openly, yet with sensitivity.

The Programme is devised to reflect the wider aims of the school, in particular to "help all pupils grow in confidence and independence and take responsibility for their own actions and experience the value of co-operation" in the belief that, "pupils should have access to appropriate information, advice and guidance to enable them to make sound decisions". The work is carried out within a moral framework based upon the FAMILY. Pupils are encouraged to "respect the feelings and values of others and to consider thoughtfully their own attitudes, beliefs and values".

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CONTENT

All pupils undertake a course dealing with sex education, involving details of adolescence, sexual intercourse, conception, birth and parenthood. In addition to basic factual details of sexual reproduction, other aspects include:- contraception, sexually transmitted diseases, personal hygiene and special treatment of HIV and AIDS.

Key Stage 3 topics are: Puberty and emotions, Adolescence, Sexual Reproduction, Contraception, sexting and online safety, relationships and underage sex, Sexually Transmitted Diseases (including HIV and AIDS). Year 8 students take part in workshops on healthy relationships including online safety.

Key Stage 4 topics expand on these themes with particular emphasis on sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS. Students will cover study units about contraception in science lessons as well as through targeted health and wellbeing days. Devon and Cornwall police fund a workshop on healthy relationships, rape and child sexual exploitation. The Brook service provides contraception advice to all year 9 and 10 students.

All pupils will experience the same course content in groups of mixed gender and ability.

ORGANISATION

The PD Co-ordinator is responsible for the planning of content and delivery of the Sex Education programme. The Programme is taught by the PD Co-ordinator together with a Personal Well-Being Team who have had training in delivering sex education.

The main methodology and approach to teaching is by teacher-led discussions and use of specialised outside agencies. All classes are specifically mixed ability and gender.

The Sex Education Programme is part of a broader Health Education Theme running across Key Stages 3 and 4.

In Key Stage 3 the pupils learn about the changes taking place during puberty and receive sex education, including an introduction to HIV and AIDS and the law in relation to sex.

In Key Stage 4 pupils are given a greater understanding of sexually transmitted diseases and the responsibility of parenthood.

The Programme aims to support pupils to develop the values and attitudes and the personal skills needed to make sensible choices.

SPECIFIC ISSUES

1. Individual advice is not given to pupils regarding contraception and any such advice is only to be provided through referral to the appropriate agencies including school nurse weekly drop-in sessions. If individual contraceptive advice is sought pupils should be encouraged to seek parental advice/support and be referred to medical professionals.
2. When a teacher is approached for advice by an individual who, it becomes clear, may be involved in illegal sexual relationship the teacher has a general responsibility, having urged the pupil to recognise the implications of such actions and to seek advice, to refer the matter to senior colleagues within the school. When a pupils resists at all costs the involvement of parents, trained staff will bear in mind their over-riding duty to have regard for the interest of the pupil within the law.

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3. Pupils are made aware that 'confidential' information may have to be passed on, before any disclosure is made. Confidentiality cannot be guaranteed and parents must be made aware of any circumstances other than when 'abuse' procedures are involved. Disclosures should be referred to a senior member of staff. If a member of staff believes that a pupil is in moral or physical danger, our designated child protection staff must be informed.
4. Parents are made aware of their legal rights regarding the withdrawal of their children from sex education lessons.
5. The School Nurse is in attendance at the school for one lunchtime a week for individual consultation regarding health matters. In addition, we will consider involving the other appropriately experienced key workers through the CAF process as necessary.

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