

Sex Education Policy

Meidrim School

INTRODUCTION

In this document, sex education is defined as learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is, about understanding the importance of loving relationships, respect, love and care. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality, and sexual health'.

Sex education is part of the Science and Personal, Social and 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.

AIMS AND 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.

CONTEXT

We teach sex education in the context of the school's aims and 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 Christian values that underpin all our work in school. In particular, we teach sex education in the belief that:

- 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;

ORGANISATION

We teach sex education through different aspects of the curriculum. While we carry out the main sex education teaching in our Science and Personal, Social Education/ Development (PSE)

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 PSE 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. This part of the curriculum is delivered to Year 6 by our School Nurse and parents will be asked for written permission for their child to participate in this lesson.

In Science lessons in both Key Stages through the various Cornerstones topics, we teach children that 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 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 our pupils.

THE ROLE OF PARENTS

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 will:

- 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. The School Nurse is generally available by telephone and parents have the chance to ask for advice or discuss any worries they may have confidentially. She will also visit parents at home if requested
- 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.

Sex Education is a part of the statutory PSD subject. However the school will inform the parents of the School Nurse visits, should they wish to discuss the contents or withdraw their child from this aspect.

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.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Teachers conduct sex education lessons in a sensitive manner and in confidence. However, if a child makes 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 he/she 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 the Local Authority's Child Protection Team (refer to the Model School Child Protection Policy).

MONITORING AND REVIEW

The Governing body monitors our sex education policy on an annual basis.