

HEALING  
SCHOOL



A Science Academy

# Healing School – A Science Academy

## Sex and Relationship Education Policy

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# **POLICY STATEMENT**

## **Aims of this Policy**

In line with the School Mission Statement, we aim to prepare pupils for adult life. To that end we believe that sex education should provide knowledge about loving relationships, the nature of sexuality and the process of human reproduction. It should lead to the acquisition of understanding and attitudes which prepare pupils to view their relationships in a responsible and healthy manner and to develop the necessary skills to allow them to fulfil those relationships. Within this framework, and with an awareness of the law on sexual behaviour, fact will be presented in a balanced, objective and sensitive manner.

## **Moral and Values Framework**

This policy acknowledges that the prime responsibility for bringing up children rests with parents. Teaching offered by this School will be supportive to the parental role and will have regard to the views of parents in the formulation of the specific programme. Sex education will be delivered within a framework which encourages an appreciation of the value of family life, marriage and the responsibilities of parenthood. Pupils will be encouraged to consider the importance of self-restraint, respect for themselves and others, loyalty and fidelity. They should be able to recognise the physical, moral and emotional implications and indeed the risks of certain types of behaviour.

## **What is Sex and Relationship Education?**

It is the lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of 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.

It has three main elements:

Attitudes and values:

- learning the importance of values and individual conscience and moral considerations
- learning the value of family life, marriage and stable and loving relationships for the nurture of children
- learning the value of respect, love and care
- exploring, considering and understanding moral dilemmas
- developing critical thinking as part of decision making.

Personal and social skills:

- learning to manage emotions and relationships confidently and sensitively
- developing self-respect and empathy for others
- learning to make choices based on an understanding of difference and with an absence of prejudice
- developing an appreciation of the consequences of choices made
- managing conflict
- learning how to avoid exploitation and abuse.

Knowledge and understanding:

- learning and understanding physical development at appropriate stages
- understanding human sexuality, reproduction, sexual health, emotions and relationships
- learning about contraception and the range of local and national sexual health advice, contraception and support services
- learning the reasons for delaying sexual activity, the benefits to be gained from such delay, and
- avoidance of unplanned pregnancy.

### **Content of Sex and Relationship Education programme**

As an outline the following aspects will be covered in our programme so that at an appropriate time in their secondary school career, pupils will learn about:

changes and development in the body/physiology  
emotional development  
puberty  
friendship  
dating  
gender roles  
sexual aspects of culture/religion  
sexual relationships and personal decisions  
marriage, commitments, the family  
loving, caring, tolerance and restraint  
making and breaking relationships  
assertiveness in relationships  
conception  
childbirth  
contraception  
abortion  
STIs  
HIV/AIDS  
Child Sexual Exploitation  
Grooming

## **Organisation of Sex and Relationship Education within the school**

This programme will be delivered through Personal, Social and Health & Citizenship Education (PSHCE) lessons in KS3 and KS4, supported by the National Curriculum Orders in Science, which mean that some aspects of Sex and Relationship Education will be taught as part of the Science Curriculum from Year 7. However, Sex Education is not taught as a separate topic isolated from other subjects but is allowed to develop naturally out of pupils' work in many subjects.

In year 7 pupils learn how life begins and develops and how their own bodies change and develop through puberty and how all relationships play an important aspect in their lives. During year 8 and year 9 the PSHCE programme develops pupils' awareness of personal responsibilities, relationships and lifestyles. Pupils also learn about the effects of lack of exercise, smoking, drugs, alcohol and HIV/AIDS can have on people's lifestyles.

The School will continue the programme of the school nurse, pastoral staff and outside agencies delivering key presentations in year 8 & 9 regarding methods of contraception and how to maintain healthy lifestyles. In KS4 pupils will complete units of study including: Personal Awareness, Healthy Lifestyles, Relationships and Differences and Personal Safety & Safeguarding.

Although contraception will be part of the Sex and Relationship Education programme and discussed in class or group forum, no "advice" will be given to individuals in Years 7 – 11 without the express permission of parents/carers.

### **Procedures for the Involvement of Outside Agencies**

Where it is considered appropriate, advice and input into the programme will be sought from relevant and suitable agencies. (See details within the Section "Organisation of Sex and Relationship Education").

### **Equal Opportunities**

Sex and Relationship Education will be delivered within the framework of the School's Equal Opportunities Policy.

### **Child sexual abuse procedures**

All child protection issues are dealt with as described in the School Child Protection policy and are in keeping with the LA guidelines.

### **Complaints procedures and the right of withdrawal**

Complaints about any aspect of Sex and Relationship Education should be dealt with under the Complaints Procedure which is available from the School.

Whereas we acknowledge that under Section 241 of the 1993 Act, parents have the right to withdraw their children from any or all parts of this programme, other than those elements which are required by the National Curriculum Science Order, we affirm the importance of sex and relationship education within the curriculum as a whole.

Please Note: The School makes arrangements for parents to exercise their statutory right of withdrawal of their children from sex education

### **Monitoring & Review**

The subject teachers' delivery of PSHCE is monitored as part of the School's policy on monitoring the quality of teaching in the classroom. Teachers are encouraged to help pupils reflect on their learning through discussion at appropriate points during the delivery of Sex and Relationship Education. This helps them identify areas where pupils may need to address issues in more depth or require additional information. At the end of each specific topic, pupils are encouraged to reflect on the issues and provide feedback to staff. Any relevant points raised are considered for appropriate action by the staff with overall responsibility for Sex and Relationship Education. Pupils are signposted to support services as necessary.