



Sex and Relationship Education Policy

Approved by FGB on 27.11.18

Staff Responsible: Maryam Kazeminia

Current School Situation.

Holmwood moved into new premises in January 2001.

An increasing number of children have identified Emotional and Behavioural difficulties, and most have a complex and wide range of learning difficulties. The pupils attend from the whole of the Middlesbrough area and beyond, which includes a wide social mix and a fluctuating ethnic representation. Boys are significantly over-represented through the school.

1. Introduction

Legal obligations

- Primary School Governing Bodies have the responsibility of deciding whether to offer sex education in addition to the National Curriculum.
- The governing body must make and keep up to date a separate written statement of their policy with regard to the content and organisation of sex education.
- The governing body and the head teacher must take such steps as are reasonably practical to ensure that sex education is given in such a manner as to encourage pupils to have due regard to moral considerations and the value of family life.
- The head teacher must ensure that the sex education curriculum is compatible with the governors' policy.
- Schools must publish in their prospectus a summary of the content and organisation of sex education.
- Governing bodies must make copies of the statement available for inspection and provide a free copy to parents who request one.
- Parents may withdraw their children from any sex education not part of the National Curriculum.

In addition to the legal obligations outlined above the new Learning and Skills Act 2000 obliges schools:

- "Governing bodies and head teachers must have regard to the Secretary of State's guidance". (Section 148(4));
- "The Secretary of State must issue guidance designed to secure that when sex education is given to registered pupils at maintained schools-
 - (a) they learn the nature of marriage and its importance for family life and the bringing up of children, and
 - (b) they are protected from teaching and materials which are inappropriate having regard to the age and the religious and cultural background of the pupils concerned". (Section 148(4))

- “A school’s education policy must include a statement of the right of parents to withdraw their children from sex education”.

2. Aims

The programme contains elements, which help children: -

- To be aware of, understand and accept the physical and emotional changes, which are taking place in their bodies;
- To learn to take responsibility for their own health and hygiene;
- Develop within the context of family life an understanding of loving relationships and respect for others;
- To be able to understand and act on common sense defence.

3. Objectives

Sex and Relationship Education is approached from within National Curriculum Science and is delivered under Personal, Social & Health Education (PSHE) through the National Healthy School Standard using the Themes identified in DfEE 0116/2000 (p19).

These four broad themes are:

- Developing confidence and responsibility and making the most of pupil's abilities;
- Preparing to play an active role as citizens;
- Developing a healthier, safer lifestyle;
- Developing good relationships and respecting differences between people.

At primary school level sex and relationship education should contribute to the foundation of PSHE and citizenship by ensuring that all children:

- Develop confidence in talking, listening and thinking about feelings and relationships;
- Are able to name parts of the body and describe how their bodies work;
- Can protect themselves and ask for help and support;
- Are prepared for puberty.

Key Stage 1 Children will be taken through a programme which will help them to:-

- Know that humans develop at different rates and that human babies have special needs;
- Be able to name parts of the body including the reproductive system and understand the concept of male and female;
- Know about personal safety, e.g. know that individuals have rights over their own bodies and that there are differences between good and bad touches; begin to develop simple skills and practices which will help maintain personal dignity and safety;
- Appreciate ways in which people learn to live and work together – listening, discussing, sharing.

Key Stage 2 Children will be taken through a programme which will help them to:-

- Begin to know about and have some understanding of the physical, emotional and social changes which take place at puberty;
- Know the basic biology of human reproduction and understand some of the skills necessary for parenting;
- Know that there are many different patterns of friendship – being able to talk about friends with important adults.

(Taken from HEALTH EDUCATION 5 Curriculum Guidance 5-13 NCC

4. Equal Opportunities

Holmwood School has an Equal Opportunities Policy which covers all curriculum areas and school issues.

5. Entitlement

“Mainstream schools and special schools have a duty to ensure that children with special educational needs and learning difficulties are properly included in sex and relationship education. Sex and relationship education should help all pupils understand their physical and emotional development and enable them to make positive decisions in their lives.

Some parents and carers of children with special educational needs may find it difficult to accept their children’s developing sexuality. Some pupils will be more vulnerable to abuse and exploitation than their peers, and others may be confused about what is acceptable public behaviour. These children will need help to develop skills to reduce the risks of being abused and exploited, and to learn what sorts of behaviour are, and are not, acceptable”. DfEE 0116/2000 (p.12)

6. Approach

Sex Education is taught by the pupils’ own classteacher at the appropriate stage. The school Nursing Sister makes herself available for appropriate parts of the programme.

As an overall policy, the theoretical aspects of reproduction will be introduced through an appreciation of life during an integrated approach through a topic or theme.

The teaching in human sexual relationships is kept to the basic biology of reproduction. There will be no specific teaching of controversial topics, however questions arising will be answered in an appropriate, direct and easily understandable way, the extent and depth of which will be determined by the age and maturity of the children present.

There will be specific teaching to help children approach puberty with confidence and understanding of the changes taking place. These sessions will sometimes be single sex groups containing the children in Y6 as well as other children who may be approaching puberty, or who it is felt would benefit from the programme.

7. Parental Partnership

It is in areas such as Sex Education where the partnership with parents is of great importance. Sex is so manifestly part of life that the parents' contribution is evident throughout, as all teaching is set in the context of family life.

Parents will be informed how and when the subject is being tackled so that they can complement the teaching in the home and help develop the elements in the school programme.

The Holmwood School Brochure gives parents full information on working with, and consultation with the school.

The school maintains an 'Open Door' policy for parents wishing to discuss any matters arising. If parents have any reservations or concerns about their child being included in the Sex Education Programme, they are invited to discuss this matter with the Head teacher.

In certain circumstances, and where parents request, a child may be withdrawn from all or part of the programme.

Any complaints can be fed through either the Head teacher or the Governing Body.

8. Staff Training

The Curriculum Co-ordinator is responsible for keeping up to date with Government and LEA initiatives and guidance. Training will be offered within the Schedule defined by the current Training Programme.

Staff are kept up to date with developments by the curriculum co-ordinator.

9. Resources

Sex and Relationship Education Guidance DfEE 0116/2000

Health Education 5 Curriculum Guidance 5-13 NCC

Health for Life 1

School Nursing Sister and Senior Medical Officer.

Videos and samples provided by West Lane Hospital.

10. Child Sexual Abuse Procedures

Any issues are followed up strictly within the Middlesbrough Child Protection Procedures under the direction of the Nominated Teacher.