

SEX EDUCATION POLICY

Aim

To offer all students the opportunity of receiving a comprehensive well-planned programme of sex education throughout their time at school, in accordance with the guidance given in Circular 5/94 'Education Act 1993 : Sex Education in Schools'.

Objectives

- To prepare students for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.
- To promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of all students.
- To provide equal opportunities for all students.
- To recognise and take account of the different levels of physical and emotional maturity of students within a group.

Moral and Values Framework

The sex education programme will:

- Present facts in an objective and balanced manner, to enable students to comprehend the range of sexual attitudes and behaviour in present day society.
- Enable students to know what is and is not legal.
- Help students to consider their own attitudes and to make informed, reasoned and responsible decisions about the attitudes they will adopt both in school and as adults.
- Teach the physical aspects of sexual behaviour in a way which encourages students to consider the importance of dignity and respect for themselves and others and the physical, emotional and moral risks of casual sexual behaviour.
- Foster a recognition that both sexes have a responsibility in sexual matters.
- Stress the importance of family life while accepting that not all family groupings are the same. Emphasise the ideas of caring, stable, secure relationships and the responsibilities of parenthood.

Sex Education Programme : An Outline

Year 7: Puberty

- basic reproduction
- changes to the body
- cleanliness
- teeth
- exercise

Year 8: Adolescence

- emotional changes
- mood swings
- self-esteem

Year 9: Relationships

- types of relationship
- reproduction
- contraception
- education for parenthood

Year 10: Relationship

- sexually responsible behaviour
- sexually transmitted diseases including HIV and AIDS

Year 11: Marriage and the family

Years 12/13: Personal relationships and social pressures

Additionally, the Science National Curriculum requires that students at Key Stage 3 be taught about human reproduction and the physical and emotional changes that take place during adolescence.

Organisation of the Sex Education Programme

- Sex education will be delivered as part of the Personal and Social Education programme.
- It will be delivered in Years 7 and 8 by the form tutors.
- From Years 9 – 13 the programme will be taught by a small team of specialist PSHCCE teachers.
 - Staff will have the expertise to deliver the programme of sex education in a professional and sensitive manner.
 - The team will be aided by the School Health Sister, who will ensure that there is adequate liaison with the primary feeder schools, to facilitate effective progression from primary to secondary schools.
 - Other health professionals will be invited to contribute to the sex education programme, as appropriate.
 - All staff teaching sex education, will follow the agreed approaches and attitudes, outlined in the Sandhurst School Sex Education Programme – ‘Approaches to Topics’.

Working with parents

- Parents who wish to discuss the sex education programme, should in the first instance, contact the Headteacher at the school. It is the intention of the governors and staff that the teaching offered in the sex education programme should complement and support the role of parents and should give due regard to their views.
- Parents who wish to withdraw their child from part or all of the sex education programme should write to the Headteacher, stating that they do not wish their child to participate in the sex education programme.