

Westfield Primary School



Sex Education

Adopted by Governors: January 2020

Chair of Governors: Mrs Lynne Farrow

Acting Head teacher: Miss Pope

Review Date: January 2021

SEX EDUCATION POLICY

Please note that this school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF SCHOOL SEX EDUCATION POLICY

Aim

The school believes that Sex Education should be developmental and should be presented within a cross-curricular framework to encourage the children to adopt a reasonable, informed approach to the subject. Sex Education should be an integral part of the learning process. In partnership with parents we aim to:

- Promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of the pupils at the school and of society.
- Prepare such pupils for the opportunity, responsibilities and experiences of adult life (Education Reform Act 1988).

Moral & Values Framework

The Sex Education Programme reflects the school's commitment to encouraging mutual respect between individuals. The following values will be encouraged:

- Responsibility for own actions and those of others in an ever-widening community.
- Awareness of the needs of self and others.
- Awareness of rights of self and others.

Content Headings for School Sex Education Programme

We believe that children's knowledge of themselves and their bodies should be built up in a gradual and considered way. By the time the children reach Y5/6 work on puberty will be part of the natural progression. Obviously the 'ethos' of the school and the relaxed open approach of teachers to children's enquiries and the attitudes of the staff towards the children, each other and other adults all contribute to a child's perception of sexuality.

During their final term the Y5/ 6 TA will visit the Year 6 group to show them a film and give a presentation in readiness for their transfer to the High School.

Organisation of Sex Education Policy

The PSHE lead will be responsible for ensuring the agreed programmes are delivered and for arranging visits from the School Health Advisor or other agencies to present certain aspects of the programme.

Delivery

- As topics.
- Through planned aspects of science.
- Through Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEALS topics)
- General discussion and in response to situations that may have arisen.
- Addressed occasionally in Assemblies.
- Visits from School Health Advisor or other professionals.
- Through stories and use of non-fiction books.

Teaching Methods

- Active learning methods using children's participation will be encouraged whenever possible.
- Single gender groups will be used when deemed appropriate and relevant.

SPECIFIC ISSUES

Working with Parents

Parents wishing to exercise their right to withdraw their children from Sex Education may do so. The Headteacher will always be available to address any concerns you may have.

What We Do If A Request For Withdrawal Is Made By A Parent?

- We discuss the nature of the concerns with the child's parent and if appropriate attempt to reassure them.
- We consider whether the programme can be amended or improved in a way that will reassure parents - care is taken not to undermining the integrity of the Sex Education Programme and the entitlement of the other pupils, e.g. it may be appropriate and desirable to have single sex classes for some sections of the Sex Education Programme.
- We attempt to ensure that where a pupil is withdrawn there is no disruption to other parts of their education.
- We point out that pupils who have been withdrawn are vulnerable to teasing - we therefore attempt to causing minimal embarrassment to the pupil and minimal disruption to the programme.
- We also point out that pupils may receive inaccurate information from their peers.
- We offer the parents access to appropriate information and resources.

The film will be shown to the parents of Year 6 pupils in their final term if requested. The School Health Advisor will discuss the content of her presentation and answer any questions, before the children see the film.

Answering Difficult Questions

If a child asks an explicit or difficult question in the classroom the teacher will have to use their skill and discretion to decide how best to respond. Questions do not have to be answered directly and can be addressed individually later.

Confidentiality

Having considered all available advice and guidance the Governors and Headteacher state that in circumstances where a pupil is considered at some risk of any type of abuse (e.g. moral or physical) or in breach of the law, the teacher must refer this immediately to the Headteacher in compliance with the LEA procedures for Child Protection. The Headteacher will decide whether to inform the parents and/or appropriate authorities and may arrange for counselling. Although there is no legal duty on a teacher, or a Headteacher, to inform parents of matters which a child has confided to them:

- Teachers must not promise confidentiality even though they cannot be made to break it once given.
- Pupils must be made aware that any incident may be conveyed to the Headteacher and possibly to parents.
- Teachers must use their professional judgement to decide whether confidence can be maintained having heard the information.
- Teachers must indicate clearly to pupils when the content of a conversation can no longer be kept confidential - the pupil can then decide whether to proceed or not.