



Oak View Academy

Believe, Expect, Succeed

Sex and Relationships Education Policy

Philosophy

We have based our school's Sex Education Policy on the DfE guidance document Sex and Relationship Education Guidance SRE (ref DfEE 0116/2000). In this document, sex education is defined as 'learning about physical, moral and emotional development, including understanding the importance of family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care.'

Sex education is part of the PSHE curriculum in our school. It is about the teaching of sex, sexuality and sexual health. 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. We do not use sex education as a means of promoting any form of sexual orientation.

The values that our school's aims and ethos are based on place high importance on the strength of family life, self worth and personal responsibility. These values form the basis of a moral framework for sex and relationship education in this school. Our policy aims to promote mutually shared respect operating in a culture where values of peace, care and love are learnt from.

Safeguarding and E-Safety

All staff have Level 2 training in child protection and are aware of the designated lead responsible for all safeguarding issues in school. We actively encourage our children to use modern technology to the fullest of its potential. In this school we believe that the best protection from the dangers that can exist around internet safety is to develop pupil's awareness through our teaching.

Aims and Objectives

We teach children understanding of:

- the physical development of their bodies as they grow into adults;
- Christian moral values and the importance of family life;
- the way humans reproduce;
- moral and spiritual questions;
- relationship issues;
- respect for the views of other people;

Context

We teach sex and relationship 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 Christian moral and spiritual code and values, which underpin all our work in school. In particular, we teach sex education in the belief that:

- sex education should be taught in the context of family life;
- 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;
- children need to learn the importance of self-control.

The National Healthy School Standard

We now participate in the National Healthy School Standard scheme, which promotes health education. As participants in this scheme we:

- consult with parents on matters of health education policy;
- train our teachers to teach sex education;
- listen to the views of the children in our school regarding sex education;
- look positively at any local initiatives that support us in providing the best sex education teaching programme that we can devise.

Organisation

We teach sex education through different aspects of the curriculum. While we carry out the main sex education teaching in our (PSHE) curriculum, we also teach some sex education through Science, RE and PE.

In PSHE we teach children about relationships where we encourage children to discuss issues. We teach about the parts of the body and how these work. We explain 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.

In Science lessons, teachers inform children about reproduction and how a baby is born. For this aspect of the school's teaching, we follow the guidance material in the national scheme of work for Science. In Key Stage 1 we teach children about how animals, including humans, move, feed, grow and reproduce. 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 the children.

A letter is sent to parents and carers of children in Years 5 and 6 informing them that their children will be being taught about puberty. The school seeks permission from parents and carers for the child to attend this talk. The school currently uses the Christopher Winters programme as recommended by the school nurse and local health authority.

The Role of Parents

Oak View Academy is aware that the primary role in children's sex and relationship education lies with parents and carers. In order for us to promote this objective we work closely with our parents by building a positive relationship through mutual understanding, trust and cooperation.

- we inform parents about the school's sex and relationship education policy and practice;
- answer any questions that parents may have about the sex and relationship education of their child;

- take seriously any issue that parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy or the arrangements for sex and relationship education in the school;
- encourage parents to be involved in reviewing the school policy and making modifications to it as necessary;
- inform parents about the best practice known with regard to sex education, so that the teaching in school supports the key messages that parents and carers give to children at home. We believe that, through this mutual exchange of knowledge and information, children will benefit from being given consistent messages about their changing body and their increasing responsibilities.

Parents have the right to request that their child does not attend all or part of the sex and relationship education programme that we teach in our school. If a parent does not wish their child to attend sex education lessons, they should discuss this with the Principal, making it clear which aspects of the programme they do not wish their child to participate in. The school always complies with the wishes of parents in this regard.

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. Other people that we call on include local clergy, social workers and youth workers.

Confidentiality

Teachers conduct sex and relationship education lessons in a sensitive manner and in confidence. However, if a child makes a 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 they 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 Principal. The Principal will then deal with the matter in consultation with health care professionals.

Special needs

The individual needs of each child are planned for. Extra attention is given to ensuring that clear explanations are understood through discussion and questioning.

Equal opportunities

Children are helped to recognise stereotypes and through understanding are encouraged to challenge these stereotypes and explore gender issues.

The Role of the Principal

It is the responsibility of the Principal to:-

- ensure that staff and parents are informed about our sex and relationship education policy the policy is implemented effectively.

- that all members of staff are given sufficient training to effectively teach and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity.

liaises with external agencies regarding the SRE programme ensuring that all adults who work with children on these issues are aware of the school policy and work within this framework.

Monitoring and Review

The Education Committee of the governing body monitors our sex and relationship education policy on an annual basis. This committee reports its findings and recommendations to the full governing body, as necessary, if the policy needs modification. The Aims and Curriculum Committee gives serious consideration to any comments from parents about the sex education programme, and makes a record of all such comments. Governors require the Principal to keep a written record, giving details of the content and delivery of the sex education programme that we teach in our school.

Policy written: November 2014

Last review: September 2018

Date of next review: September 2020