

Sex and Relationships Education Policy

New Marston Primary School

INTRODUCTION

The Educational Reform Act (Section 1) states that schools should provide a curriculum which “*promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils...and of society; and prepare such pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.*” Sex education is an important dimension of this statutory requirement.

Sex and relationships education is an important dimension of a child’s statutory entitlement.

RATIONALE

Sex and Relationships Education is an umbrella term for all the teaching and learning we offer pupils to understand their own and others’ sexuality, to develop skills for relationships and informed decision making. At New Marston Primary School we believe that sex education is the entitlement of each child and we are committed to deliver it within the context of a broad and balanced programme of health education.

AIMS

In our school we aim through implicit and explicit learning experiences to:

- Ensure that sex education is fully integrated into the curriculum and not isolated, taken out of context or over-emphasised in any way.
- Foster self-esteem and respect for others as the cornerstone of good health education and good sex and relationships education.
- Nurture a partnership between caring adults- governors, teachers, ancillary staff and parents – to ensure sensitive support for children and young people as they grow and mature.
- Ensure children have the ability to accept their own and others’ sexuality.
- Encourage children to enjoy relationships based upon mutual trust and respect, free from any abuse.
- Generate an atmosphere where questions and discussion on sexual matters can take place without embarrassment.
- Adopt a whole school approach to sex and relationships education.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Effective teaching of sex education will increase pupils’ knowledge of:

- Body knowledge
- Human growth and development
- Families, parenting and life cycles
- Safety and child protection
- Helping agencies
- Sexual identity

It will also enable pupils to:

- Improve their self-esteem.
- Make informed choices and decisions.
- Develop personal initiative and be able to take responsibility.
- Recognise personal skills and qualities in themselves and others.
- Maintain and develop relationships.
- Develop self-confidence.
- Develop assertiveness in appropriate situations.
- Develop the motivation to succeed.

Within the taught and hidden curriculum i.e. the whole school environment, pupils should be given frequent and regular opportunities to work on feelings and to practise personal and interpersonal skills. We value and respect the learning that occurs in the community and in the home believing that these, along side school links, are essential dimensions of sex and relationships education. It is important to involve, whenever possible, and certainly to inform parents, about the sex and relationships education programme within the curriculum. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from receiving sex education from a PSHCE

perspective at school, but not to withdraw them from the teaching of the science national curriculum: Sc 2 Life Processes and Living Things and Sc 2f (the main stages of the human life cycle).

DIFFERENTIATION

Differentiation and progression will be ensured by a variety of approaches:

- The same activity but different expectations of outcome.
- The same theme but different levels of input.
- Allowing for different pace of working.
- Different groupings of children.

RESOURCES

In the delivery of sex and relationships education a variety of resources are used, including video material, worksheets and books. The school health nurses deliver some of the curriculum to pupils in year 5 and year 6 and these pupils are sometimes taught with girls and boys in separate groups. However, we emphasise the importance of discussion and questioning within the safe, secure and non-judgemental atmosphere of the class with its teacher. The atmosphere of trust, mutual acceptance and confidentiality is built on the PSHCE programme.

Resources are kept in a labelled box in the Resources room.

MANAGEMENT

There is a designated PSHCE coordinator to oversee the planning and resourcing of sex and relationships education in the school. The coordinator, along with the Head Teacher, will be responsible for informing the rest of the staff about new developments and, where appropriate, for organising (and providing) appropriate training. The coordinator will attend Partnership and Network meetings and keep staff informed of developments

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

We have an inclusion approach to PSHCE at New Marston Primary School, and so children with SEN, including the hearing impaired children, will be a part of the school sex and relationships education programme. Teachers differentiate the lessons to adapt to the needs of the pupils concerned.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

See Equal Opportunities Policy.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further guidance see Oxfordshire's Curriculum Matters 9.

For information on Child Protection and confidentiality see OCC guidance p.22-23.

OUR Health Nurse continues to offer support and guidance on any health issues, including sex education.

Co-ordinator: Hannah Brown

Governors: Teaching and Learning Committee

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