

ST. ANTHONY'S SCHOOL

Sex and Relationship Education Policy



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Sex Education Policy

Definition

Sex and relationship education is a lifelong process, learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about understanding the importance of marriage for family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality and sexual health.

The aims of this policy are:

- That sex and relationship education will contribute to promoting spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of all pupils, preparing them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life. It will encompass/ comprise of three main elements:
 - 1 Attitudes and values
 - 2 Personal and social skills
 - 3 Knowledge and understanding
- That this policy is to be developed in consultation with parents and the wider community (i.e., Family Planning Association, Health Promotion Team, Social Services, etc.).
- That the curriculum content and delivery should match the maturity and needs of each pupil.
- That sex and relationship education will be monitored and evaluated.
- That parents will be informed of their right to withdraw.
- That this policy will be reviewed

Sex and relationship education will comprise of three main elements:

- Attitudes and values
 - learning the importance of values and individual conscience and moral considerations:
 - learning the value of family life, marriage, stable and loving relationships for the nurture of children:
 - learning the value of respect, love and care:
 - exploring, considering and understanding moral dilemmas:
 - developing critical thinking as part of decision making:
- Personal and social skills
 - learning to manage emotions and relationships confidently and sensitively:
 - developing self-respect and empathy for others:
 - learning to make choices based on an understanding of difference and with an absence of prejudice:

- developing an appreciation of the consequences of choices made:
- managing conflict: and
- learning how to recognise and avoid exploitation and abuse:
- Knowledge and understanding
 - learning and understanding physical development at appropriate stages:
 - understanding human sexuality, reproduction, sexual health, emotions and relationships:
 - learning about contraception and the range of local and national sexual health advice, contraception, sexually transmitted infections and support services:
 - learning the reasons for delaying sexual activity, and the benefits to be gained from such delay: and
 - the avoidance of unplanned pregnancy

Policy development and consultation

It is important that this policy is developed in consultation with parents and the wider community. Parents would be able to communicate their wishes in person, or in writing to class teachers, or if they prefer, parent governors. Parents will be sent a letter at the start of each academic year, outlining the programme of study for each secondary year group. Included in the said letter will be information with regard to their right to withdraw their child from the sex and relationship programme, if wished.

Curriculum content and delivery

Care and sensitivity is required in giving the optimum amount of information as per each pupils stage of maturity, which may not always match chronological age.

In the Secondary Department sex education will be delivered as part of a discrete PSD programme, with input from Science and RE and appropriate outside agencies.

Resources and materials used will be varied and will include approved books, videos, internet and discussion, positive encouragement of the development of personal and interpersonal skills.

Where possible and when appropriate there will be additional input and materials from independent advisors i.e., Community Psychiatric Nurse, Family Planning Association, Social Services, Learning Disabilities team for people with disabilities, Theatre groups, etc.

Sex and relationship education will be monitored.

Sex and relationship education will be monitored by the governing body. They will check on resource material and classroom practice and will submit a statement/report to the full body of governors accordingly.

Parents will be informed of their rights

This policy recognises that parents are key people in:

- Teaching their children about sex and relationships;
- Maintaining the culture and ethos of the family;
- Helping their children cope with the emotional and physical aspects of growing up;
- Preparing them for the challenges and responsibilities that sexual maturity brings.

As such the school will always seek to support parents, and work in partnership with them, to consult them regularly, on the content of sex and relationship education programmes, and to inform them of the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the sex and relationship education provided except for those parts included in the Statutory National Curriculum.

We will not exclude access to PSD for any pupil and invite parents to consult with the Head teacher should they wish to withdraw their child from PSD education. Once discussions have taken place, we will respect the parents' request to withdraw the child, up to and until three terms before the child turns 16. After that point if the child wishes to receive sex education, we will make arrangements to provide the child with sex education during one of those terms.