

The Orchard School



Relationship & Sex Education Policy

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Chair of Governors:

Headteacher :

The Orchard School Relationship & Sex Education Policy

Introduction

The school's sex education policy is based on the DfEE guidance document Sex and Relationship Education Guidance (ref DfEE 0116/2000) and further advice and guidance is contained in 'Guidance for Schools, Sex and relationship Education' (ESCC 2003). At The Orchard School relationship and sex education is about lifelong learning about sex, sexuality, emotions, relationships and sexual health. It involves acquiring information, developing skills and forming positive beliefs, values and attitudes. Relationship and Sex education should empower our pupils, build self-esteem, offer a positive and open view of sex and support sexual self-acceptance and mutual respect.

The specific aims of relationship and sex education within the Personal Development curriculum should match the age maturity, background and experience of the children and young people involved, but underpinning all of them will be an understanding of the physical, psychological, social, emotional, legal and moral aspects of sex and sexuality.

In this document, sex education is defined as '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'. Relationship and Sex Education is part of the Personal Development curriculum in The Orchard School. While Relationship and Sex education is used to inform pupils about sexual reproduction, it is also taught with regard to making moral and informed individual choices, and in a way that allows pupils to ask and explore moral questions

Aims and objectives

We teach pupils about:

- the physical development of their bodies as they grow into adults including health and hygiene
- the way humans reproduce
- respect for their own bodies and the importance of sexual activity as part of a committed, long-term, and loving relationship
- the importance of family life
- moral questions
- relationship issues
- respect for the views of other people
- sex abuse and what they should do if they are worried about any sexual matters
- the secondary pupils will look at the issues surrounding sexual orientation

Context

Relationship and Sex Education is taught in the context of the school's aims and values framework. Relationship and Sex education should not only be about giving pupil's information about sexual behaviour, but also an awareness of the self-respect, respect for others and values of the society within which the pupils live. Relationship and Sex education should be taught in the context of marriage and family life.

Relationship and Sex education is part of a wider social, personal, spiritual and moral education process:-

- pupils should be taught to have respect for their own bodies and that of others
- pupils should learn about their responsibilities to others and be aware of the consequences of sexual activity
- that it is important to build positive relationships with others, involving trust and respect

Sexual Identity and Sexual Orientation

The Orchard School believes that RSE should meet the needs of all pupils regardless of their developing sexuality and be able to deal honestly and sensitively with sexual orientation, answer appropriate questions and offer support. Homophobic bullying is dealt with strongly yet sensitively. The school liaises with parents on this issue to reassure them of the content and context.

Organisation

Relationship and Sex education is taught through Science and Personal Development. It is taught by the designated teachers although all staff are involved supporting the delivery of this area, often in an informal setting.

The way Relationship and Sex education is planned can be seen through Schemes of Work.

The role of parents

The primary role in pupils' Relationship and Sex education will always lie with parents and carers. We continue to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents of pupils at our school through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation. In promoting this objective we:

- inform parents about the school's Relationship and Sex education policy and practice through school literature
- answer any questions that parents may have about the Relationship and Sex education of their child
- take seriously any issue that parents raise with teachers or Governors about this policy or the arrangements for Relationship and Sex education in the school
- encourage parents to be involved in reviewing the school policy and making modifications to it as necessary

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from all or part of the Relationship and Sex education programme that is taught in the school. If a parent wishes their child to be withdrawn from Relationship and Sex education lessons, they should discuss this with the Headteacher and make 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 professionals

The school encourages professionals who work with us to provide advice and support to the pupils with regard to health education where appropriate. In particular, members of the Local Health Authority, such as the school nurse and other health professionals, can give valuable support with the Relationship and Sex education programme. Other people that we call on include social workers, youth workers and substance misuse workers.

Confidentiality

Staff conduct Relationship and Sex 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. With young pupils, particularly those in KS1 and KS2, it needs to be dealt with as a matter of child protection. Staff at secondary level need to be aware of the issue of child protection with all the pupils, all staff 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 staff has concerns, they will draw their concerns to the attention of the Designated Safeguarding Lead through the normal procedures. The DSL will then deal with the matter in consultation with Social Services.

The role of the Headteacher

It is the responsibility of the Headteacher to ensure that both staff and parents are informed about the Relationship and Sex education policy and that the policy is implemented effectively. It is also the Headteacher's responsibility to ensure that members of staff are given sufficient training, so that they can teach effectively and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity.

The Senior Leadership Team should ensure that all adults who work with pupils on these issues are aware of the school policy and that they work within this framework. The members of staff who have responsibility for planning and delivery will liaise with external agencies regarding the school Relationship and Sex education programme and ensure they work within the framework.,

Monitoring and review

The Personal Development curriculum staff and SLT at The Orchard School will meet annually to review the policy and programmes. The Learning & Development Committee of the Governing Body will monitor the

Relationship and Sex 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 Learning & Development Committee gives serious consideration to any comments from parents about the Relationship and Sex education programme, and makes a record of all such comments.