

SEX EDUCATION POLICY

Date of Policy	September 2021
Date of Next Review	September 2023
Staff Responsible	Deputy Headteacher – Teaching and Learning
Responsibility	Governors
Reference	Staff shared area/school policies

Rationale

The Sex Education Policy has been written in accordance with guidance from the DCSF. Sex Education forms part of a wider programme of Health Education, which is taught within Futures lessons, Science lessons and within aspects of whole school work.

It is a statutory requirement that secondary schools are required to provide Sex Education (including information about HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases) to all students. Only the biological aspects of sex education are taught as part of Science. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from any teaching of Sex Education with the exception of National Curriculum Science. We believe that Sex Education is important for all students and we would expect parents to discuss any concerns with the school before seeking to exercise their right to withdraw a child. Teaching resources are available for parents to view on request.

Occasionally during a lesson which is not part of the Futures curriculum, issues relating to sexual conduct may arise from the subject matter being taught. Discussion arising on such an occasion will reflect the values endorsed in the school's policy statement but would not constitute 'Sex Education' as defined in law.

Aims and Objectives

Sex Education is part of the process of lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of 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. It is not about the promotion of sexual orientation or sexual activity – this would be inappropriate teaching.

The long term aims and objectives of the Sex Education Policy are:

- To combat ignorance and to increase knowledge and understanding
- To reduce guilt and anxiety
- To promote responsible behaviour
- To combat exploitation
- To promote the ability to make informed decisions about personal values
- To facilitate communication on sexual matters
- To develop educational skills for future parents and carers

Relationship with other policies

This policy links with the Health Education Policy and the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

Procedures

Content of the Sex Education programme

Sex Education will be taught as a part of the Futures programme in Years 7-9, in Year 10 and 11 Futures lessons as well as in Science.

To comply with government requirements, Sex Education in Science will be restricted to the biological aspects of sexual behaviour. In other subject areas opportunities for considering broader emotional and ethical dimensions to sexual attitudes may well arise and be dealt with.

During specific Sex Education lessons in Futures teachers may endeavour to cover or include one or more of the following objectives:

- Learning about relationships, love and care and the responsibilities of parenthood as well as sex
- Building self-esteem
- Teaching the taking on of responsibility and the consequences of one's actions in relation to sexual activity and parenthood with a focus on boys as much as girls
- Providing young people with information about different types of contraception, safe sex and how they can access local sources of further advice and treatment
- Giving young people a clear understanding of the arguments for delaying sexual activity and resisting pressure
- Linking sex and relationship education with issues of peer pressure and other risk taking behaviour, such as drugs, smoking and alcohol
- Ensuring young people understand how the law applies to sexual relationships

In Futures the following aspects of Sex Education are delivered to the following Year Groups:

Year 7

- The biological differences between men and women
- Puberty
- Personal Hygiene
- Growing Up

Year 8

- Friendships and Relationships
- Friendships with the opposite sex
- Becoming more than friends
- Respecting the sexual orientation of others
- Sex and the media
- HIV/AIDS

Year 9

- The differences between love and sex
- The emotional consequences of sexual relationships
- Sexual behaviour
- Safe sex and contraception (including a visit from the school nurse team)
- Sexuality (including a workshop led by representatives from Gayglos)

Key Stage 4

- The balance of power in relationships
- Peer pressure and sex
- The pressure of young parenthood and post-natal depression
- How alcohol and drug use can affect sexual behaviour
- The risks of promiscuity
- Communication in relationships
- Choosing relationships

The programme of Sex Education will present factors in an objective and balanced manner so that students can:

- Comprehend the range of sexual attitudes and behaviour in present day society
- Know what is and what is not legal
- Make informed, reasoned and responsible decisions about the personal values they will adopt both while they are at school and in adulthood
- Emphasise the skills, attitudes and insights that young people need in order to form loving and caring relationships
- Foster self-esteem, self-awareness and the skills of assertiveness that will enable them to resist and avoid unwelcome peer or social pressures.

Dealing with sensitive issues

Sex Education will include questions of values and beliefs. It is therefore bound to be controversial. Young people will be presented with a balanced range of viewpoints on an issue so that they can assess the evidence and explore ideas without distortion.

Teaching about the physical aspects of sexual behaviour should be set within a clear moral framework in which students are encouraged to consider the importance of self-restraint, dignity and respect for themselves and others, and helped to recognise the physical, emotional and moral risks of casual and promiscuous behaviour. Students should appreciate the benefits of a stable relationship and the responsibilities of parenthood.

Who will teach Sex Education?

The Futures programme of Sex Education will normally be delivered by permanent members of the teaching staff. Students are taught in tutor groups initially then in sets at Key Stage Three and in A and B band groups at Key Stage 4. Student teachers and supply staff will not be involved in delivering the sex education programme unless accompanied by a permanent member of staff. Where outside speakers are used, they will normally be accompanied by the teacher(s) with whose classes they are going to work. Outside speakers may be Health Professionals or representatives of the Family Planning Association. Occasionally, interactive theatre groups may be used. The decision to use such agencies or groups will take into account students' age and levels of maturity. Copies of the Sex Education Policy should be made available whenever outside agencies are used. There should be a clear understanding between the school and the agency, about the content to be covered.

Advice and confidentiality

Staff teaching the Sex Education programme may not offer students one-to-one advice on contraception or sexual behaviour. Neither may staff promise confidentiality to students since there are some issues e.g., child protection or unplanned pregnancy, which may have to be referred to other people. Any concerns arising from the teaching of Sex Education should be passed directly onto a Child Protection Officer.

In cases of special needs, students may require alternative and more appropriate provision. In such circumstances help from outside agencies may be sought but always in consultation with parents and the students.

Parental rights

Parents may withdraw their child from any or all parts of the Sex Education programme other than those parts which form part of the Science Curriculum. Parents who wish to exercise this right should contact the Headteacher.

Students who are withdrawn from the Sex Education programme shall be provided with alternative work by their Futures teachers: such work will be relevant to the programme's overall aims.

Staff training

We shall seek to provide training for those teachers who are involved in the Sex Education programme in order to provide them with the requisite skills and knowledge. We shall also ensure that colleagues who are engaged in the programme are kept up-to-date with DfE and Gloucestershire County Council regulations and guidelines.

Monitoring and Evaluating the Policy

The Subject Leader for Futures will be responsible for the day-to-day implementation of the policy in relation to the preparation and delivery of sex education within the curriculum and for evaluating the impact on students.

The Deputy Headteacher is responsible for the line management of the Futures department and, thus, the Sex Education Programme within it. The Deputy Headteacher will also monitor and update the policy as appropriate.

This policy will be updated biennially and monitored by the Governors' Curriculum and Achievement Committee.