



SEXUAL RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION POLICY

Introduction

At Wentworth we believe that Sex and Relationship Education should be firmly rooted in Christian and moral values. It is an integral part of the schools programme for Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development and delivered through our RE, PSHCE and Science curriculum. It is a central part of our commitment to the promotion of a healthy and safe lifestyle.

Our Aims

- To encourage children to appreciate that sexual feelings and activity are an integral part of human experience and an expression of God's creative love.
- To present children with views of sexual relationships and with the Christian understanding of their place within a faithful and committed relationship.
- To prepare children for the changes to their bodies, instincts and feelings as they enter puberty.
- To provide information that is clear and appropriate to pupil's age and maturity, for example, by offering an acceptable and accurate vocabulary for discussing their bodies.
- To learn the value of respect, love and care and how to manage emotions and relationships confidently and sensitively.
- To provide an opportunity for children to become confident in talking about and discussing honestly, openly, appropriately and responsibly sexual matters.
- To teach all children in such a way as to promote a sense of personal value and self-respect in irrespective of their family, religious or cultural background.

Delivery of the Programme

We follow the Rotherham PSHE and Healthy School Scheme of Work. The scheme of work sets out the learning objectives and detailed teaching content. The scheme contains factual information that needs to be accurately and sensitively transmitted but the general approach involves pupils in discussion wherever possible. Resources are chosen carefully so that they are appropriate to the age and cultural background of the pupils concerned.

The scheme for Sex and Relationship Education is delivered at KS1 and KS2 as follows:

- Through discrete classroom lessons, group discussion and circle time.
- By inviting suitable visitors
- Within the Science curriculum
- Through collective worship and aspects of the Diocesan RE syllabus.

Equal Opportunities

At Wentworth we recognise that children grow up in a variety of home environments where there are a variety of relationships, parents and carers. The academy seeks to emphasise that a Christian view of each pupil as a unique child of God precludes any form of prejudice, discrimination or stereotyping which denies that unique individual worth.

The SRE curriculum will be adapted for pupils with SEN to ensure it is accessible.

Pupils are taught in their own class, or in smaller groups.

Boys and girls are taught together except where there are particular reasons for separation (two sessions in Year 5 and Year 6).

Matters Excluded from the Programme

It is important that all staff and parents are clear about the procedures for dealing with questions that may be challenging or age inappropriate.

Generally, questions fall into two categories:

- 1) Questions deemed appropriate to answer as a whole class, these generally relate to factual functions of different parts of the body.
- 2) Questions that the teacher states at the beginning may not be appropriate to answer. If a child asks an inappropriate question the teacher will sensitively explain that this is a matter not to be dealt within the school and that the child should consult his/her parent for an answer or that the subject is one that should be dealt with at high school level.

Pupils are given an opportunity to write down questions and put them in the 'ask-it' box. The teacher can then decide whether they are appropriate to be answered.

Child Protection Issues

In some cases a question may indicate that a child is at risk, sexually active or in danger. In this case appropriate action will be taken in accordance with the academy's child protection policy. This also means that if a child puts a private question to a teacher and requests secrecy, no promise of confidentiality will be given.

When sensitive issues are discussed (e.g. when teaching the human life cycle and puberty) two adults will be present in the class.

Ground Rules for Discussions

To support those delivering the course the following Class ground rules are established before the lessons begin:

- Only correct terminology will be used (Pupils can use the slang word once but once the correct terminology is established that term is used from then onwards).
- No one should ask a personal question of another pupil or adult.
- No one will be forced to participate in a discussion.
- It is OK to laugh if we are embarrassed but not at each other.
- Issues discussed in the classroom are not discussed in the playground.
- There is no such thing as a silly question.

Working with Parents

Our school recognises that a child's parents are the key people in teaching about sex and relationships. They maintain the culture and ethos of the family and can help their child cope with the pressures of becoming a sexually mature teenager.

Our school also realises that many parents may often need support from us when introducing correct terminology, talking about feelings, puberty and the human life cycle. For this reason it is important that home and school should work closely together.

Parents are invited to peruse any materials being used and talk to those delivering the course before it starts. A short guide to issues that might be discussed and correct terminology that will be used is given to parents.

Right of Withdrawal

Parents have the legal right to withdraw their child from all or any part of schools programme for sex education, except those elements which are required by the National Curriculum Science orders.

We request that any parents who may be considering the exercise of this right to first make an appointment with the Head Teacher to discuss what such a decision may involve.

Policy Agreed by: Governing Body

Effective Date 2014

This policy was reviewed January 2017. Next review, January 2019.