



**pathfield**  
SCHOOL

Inspiring interaction

## **SEX EDUCATION AND RELATIONSHIPS**

Adopted by Governors	<b>Gemma Armishaw</b>
Date	<b>28.01.2016</b>
Review Date (Every other year)	<b>Spring 2018</b>
Policy/Procedure checked by/date	<b>Abi Staff Alison Jackson Avril Burrows Pauline Bithell January 2016</b>

Pathfield School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment

## **SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION**

The Governors and staff of the School have considered the matter of Sex and Relationships Education and feel that the subject should not be dealt with in isolation – only if requested and deemed fit. We believe that sex education and related issues are best considered as part of the ongoing PHSE work within the school and are to be dealt with sensitively in a context that takes careful account of the pupil's age and level of maturity.

All pupils with severe learning difficulties have both a need and a right to learn about their sexuality and about relationships as part of their education for adult life in the community and as part of their right of access to a 'normal' pattern of living. This is in line with current DfE guidance, stating that Sex and Relationships Education is:

“Lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of marriage for family life, stable and unstable; and loving relationships, respect, love and care. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality and sexual health.”

### **RATIONALE**

The policy of our school is to provide Sex and Relationships Education for all our pupils at a level appropriate to their understanding and with the consent and co-operation of their parents. We aim to cover areas which are relevant to our pupils, according to pupils' individual needs, structured to develop pupil knowledge, attitudes and skills in relation to body awareness and keeping safe.

We believe that this information is essential to our pupils if they are going to be able to make choices for themselves and avoid potentially dangerous situations.

Sex and Relationships Education is one strand of our PSHE curriculum, in which the emphasis is on teaching our pupils to develop positive relationships, a sense of responsibility and an awareness of their bodies. It is based on national and local guidance and has clear links with the School's Citizenship Statement (part of the PSHE Subject Statement) and with the Child Protection/Safeguarding Policy.

The content of teaching includes work on social behaviours and skills, self care, friendships and family relationships, emotions and feelings, puberty, if appropriate, sexual relationships and sexual choices, safe sex, contraception and sexually transmitted infections.

We endeavour to work in partnership with pupils' parents/carers and offer support and advice where necessary.

### **AIMS**

The aims are to:

- establish clear boundaries within which our pupils may develop confidence and an awareness of appropriate behaviour.
- create a culture of "openness".
- encourage pupils to discuss their personal feelings and anxieties.
- help pupils develop an awareness of others and empathy for the feelings of others.
- encourage pupils to form their own opinions and make judgements.
- promote cultural, spiritual and moral development of our pupils.
- ensure all pupils are given the right to dignity, privacy and respect as individuals.

## **SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION FOR PRIMARY AGED PUPILS**

Sex and Relationships Education is within a cross curricular topic approach in the Foundation and Key Stages 1 and 2 alongside other subject areas of the curriculum. If parents have any concerns about issues relating to Sex and Relationships Education, staff at school will work closely with parents to resolve difficulties, whilst maintaining the responsibility provide appropriate sex and relationship education for the pupil.

### **Modules:**

1. a. My body – recognising and naming body parts, privacy, private body parts  
b. Body changes – growth
2. Family life
3. Friendships and relationships
4. Appropriate/inappropriate behaviour
5. Feelings and emotions
6. Health and safety

Pupils in Key Stages 1 and 2 will also have daily “circle time sessions” to support these areas of development.

## **SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION FOR SECONDARY AGED PUPILS**

For some of our senior pupils it will be necessary for them to continue to work on objectives set in the programme for primary pupils. These will be addressed in a more age appropriate manner. We will continue to work in partnership with parents/carers in what is inevitably a sensitive and, for our pupils, sometimes a controversial issue. Parents/carers will be informed before Sex and Relationships Education is undertaken at the school and will be given the opportunity to discuss the content of the sessions.

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from all or part of the programme.

### **Post 16 Students:**

These students have a more specific type of Sex Relationship Education that suits students of this age.

### **Modules:**

1. My body: privacy, private body parts
2. Emotions
3. Relationships
4. Keeping myself safe
5. Family Life

In Key Stages 3, 4 and 5 the pupils are given regular opportunities to discuss issues and concerns over relationships.

## **WORKING WITH PARENTS AND CARERS**

Parents/carers are key people in shaping their children's attitudes, aspirations and knowledge about sex, and particularly for students with severe learning difficulties. Parents have much

to offer in partnership with schools and colleges, including teaching at home and support for work at school. Some parents/carers will benefit from opportunities to discuss their possible anxieties about Sex and Relationships Education with other parents/carers and staff, individually or through support groups.

Parents/carers can discuss concerns over sexual difficulties/behaviour which their child may be experiencing or exhibiting with an appropriate member of staff. Any issues relating to Child Protection will be handled in accordance with the schools' Child Protection Policy.

## **MONITORING**

The Head teacher will ensure that:

1. Sex and relationship education delivered in the school meets all statutory requirements
2. Parents are given appropriate notice so that they may have the opportunity to withdraw their children from sex and relationship education
3. A record is kept of those children who are withdrawn from all or part of sex and relationship education by their parents
4. Staff taking part in the delivery of sex and relationship education are fully aware of their responsibilities with respect to disclosure and the Child Protection Policy
5. Suitable support is given to pupils and their families in cases of precocious puberty, and inappropriate sexual behaviour from within school, and by involvement with external agencies as appropriate to individual need.

The Governors will ensure that:

1. They shall make, and keep up to date, a separate written statement of their policy with regard to the provision of sex education,
2. They shall make copies of the statement available for inspection (at all reasonable times) by parents of registered pupils at the school and provide a copy of the statement free of charge to any such parent who asks for one,
3. Regular reports are received by the Curriculum Committee on the effectiveness of sex and relationship education across the school,
4. support parents by addressing issues if raised on this sensitive subject, but not individual situations,
5. This policy will be agreed and reviewed by the whole Governing Body not the Curriculum Committee, biannually.