



Hartington C of E Primary School

A Christian Community - Teaching, Learning, Caring

Sex And Relationships Policy

Date Written May 2016

To be Reviewed May 2018

Date Reviewed

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Reviewed by

Signed by

Chair of Governors

Head Teacher

Introduction

Our school's policy on sex and relationship education is based on the DfES document 'Sex and Relationship Education Guidance' (DfES 0116/2000). We recognise Sex and Relationship Education as the policy's full title, but within the policy it will only be referred to as 'Sex Education'.

Within the DfES document sex education is defined as 'learning about physical, moral and emotional development'. The guidance states, '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'.

Sex education is part of the personal, social and health education (PSHE) curriculum in the school. When we inform our pupils through sex education about sexual issues, we do this with regard to morality and individual responsibility and in a way that allows children to ask and explore moral questions. We do not use sex education as a means of promoting any form of sexual orientation.

Aims and Objectives

We have a commitment to the children so they can learn about:

- The physical development of their bodies as they grow into adults which is relevant and age appropriate
- The way humans re-produce
- 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
- To ask and answer moral questions
- Relationship issues and the development of their own and others self-esteem and skills which help to manage and forge positive relationships
- Respecting other people's views and opinions
- Sexual abuse and what to do if they are worried about any sexual matters

Content

Here at Hartington we teach about sex in the context of the school's aims and values. While sex education in our school means that we give children information about sexual behaviour, we do this with an awareness of the moral code and of the

values which underpin the work in school. We teach sex education on the understanding that:

- It is taught in the context of marriage, a long term loving relationship and family life
- It is important to understand how to develop and build positive relationships with others supporting the importance of trust and respect
- It is part of a wider process of social, personal, spiritual and moral education
- Children should be taught respect for their own bodies
- Children should learn about the responsibilities they have to others and be aware of the consequences of sexual activity

Organisation

Sex education is not taught in isolation, but is firmly embedded in all curriculum areas is but primarily in our personal, social and health education (PSHE) aspect of the curriculum. It is also delivered through other subject areas (e.g. science and PE) which we believe contribute significantly to children's knowledge and understanding of their own bodies and how they are changing and developing.

In PSHE, we teach children, in mixed gender groups, about relationships and we encourage them to discuss issues, feelings and emotions. We teach children about the different parts of the body and how they work and what will happen during puberty. For example, we teach boys that their voices will deepen, and we explain the process of menstruation.

In science lessons within each key stage teachers follow the guidance material in the National Scheme of work for science. In key stage one we teach pupils about animals including humans, move, feed, grow and reproduce they also learn how to name and identify the main parts of the body. Children learn how to appreciate the fact that not all people are the same and that they need to respect each other. In key stage two, we teach about life processes and the main stages of the human life cycle in greater depth. When appropriate a suitably qualified visitor from outside school may be invited to contribute to the delivery of sex education, eg: A member of the Health Promoting School's team. All visitors are supervised and supported by the class teacher and their input monitored and evaluated by both staff and pupils.

In year six we place a particular emphasis on Health Education as many pupils experience puberty at this age. We liaise with the local authority regarding access to suitable teaching materials for use with our children in these lessons. All questions

asked by the children are answered with sensitivity and care. Sometimes an individual child might wish to ask an explicit question which is unsuitable for the whole class. This will be addressed individually. Teachers will be expected to use their experience, skill and discretion in these situations, but where ever possible answer honestly and openly. By the end of key stage two we ensure that all children know: how babies are born; how their bodies work; how their bodies change during puberty, what menstruation is and the effects it can have on women's bodies and emotions.

We write to all parents and carers to discuss this programme and seek their permission. Our programme aims to acknowledge the diversity of children's cultures, faiths and family backgrounds.

The role of Parents and carers

Hartington School acknowledges that the primary role in Sex education lies with parents and carers so it is important that a positive and supporting relationship is developed through mutual understanding and cooperation. To promote this objective we:

- Answer questions that parents and carers may have regarding sex education.
- Take seriously any issues that parents or carers raise about the arrangements for sex education in the school.
- Inform parents and carers of the schools Sex Education Policy and practice if asked.
- Informing parents and carers that they have the right to withdraw their child/children from all or part of the Sex Education programme taught in school. The reason should be discussed with the head teacher and the aspects of the programme they do not wish their child to participate in. The school will always comply with the parents/carers wishes in this matter.

Confidentiality

Teachers are to undertake appropriate training to support the delivery of sex education lessons. These will be delivered in a sensitive but confidential manner. However if a child makes a reference to being involved (or being likely to be involved) in a sexual activity, then the teacher will take the reference seriously. This matter will not be investigated by them, but be reported to the designated named person for child protection and dealt with following the procedures and guidelines

in place within school. Teachers will respond in a similar way if a child indicates that they may have been a victim of abuse. (Refer to the policy on Child Protection).

The role of the Head teacher

It is the responsibility of the Head Teacher to ensure that both staff and parents / carers are informed about the school's Sex Education Policy and that the policy is implemented effectively. It is also the Head Teacher's responsibility to ensure that members of staff are given sufficient and relevant training so they can teach the content of the sex education programme effectively and deal with any difficult questions sensitively.

The Head Teacher liaises with external agencies regarding the school sex education programme and ensures all adults who work with the children are aware of the school policy and work within its framework.

The Head Teacher monitors this policy on a regular basis and reports to the governing body when requested regarding the policy's effectiveness.

Monitoring and Review

The Head Teacher and governors will give serious consideration to any comments from parents and carers regarding the content of the sex education programme delivered at Hartington C of E Primary School. A record of all such comments will be reported in the Governor Minutes.