



RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION POLICY

September 2019

SEX EDUCATION POLICY

1. Introduction

The Directors recommend that The Academy should provide sex education over and above the statutory requirements of the National Curriculum for Science. The following statement sets out its policy.

2. Legislative Framework

- Where sex education is provided in a primary school, Section 4b of the 1986 Education Act requires the Local Education Authority and Headteacher to provide this in a way which will encourage pupils to respect ‘moral considerations and values of family life’.
- The 1988 Educational Reform Act requires a curriculum which will promote spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at school and of society, and will also prepare children for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.
- Section 241 of the Education Act 1993 gives parents the right to withdraw their children from any or all parts of a school’s programme of sex education, other than those elements required by the National Curriculum Science orders.

3. Why Sex Education?

This Academy sees sex education as an integral part of the learning process which begins in childhood and continues into adult life. Children should learn about human relationships and sexuality in a positive environment which fosters self-esteem and a sense of moral responsibility.

4. Aims of Sex Education Programme

- Feelings and relationships are as important as biological facts. The Academy aims to teach sex education in a clear framework of moral values.
- When answering children’s questions, all staff will consider:
 - (i) Parent views
 - (ii) Factual material
 - (iii) Ethnic/Religious views
 - (iv) Confidentiality of the questioner
- The aims of the sex education programme are grouped under three headings: Attitudes, Skills, Knowledge.

Attitudes

We aim to:

- Develop children's notions of self-esteem and self-worth;
- Increase their respect for and understanding of their own and each others' bodies;
- Help children see that sex is not dirty, but a wonderful thing, without which none of us would be alive;
- Develop in them a caring and considerate attitude to each other and to society;
- Develop a sensitivity and respect for others, regardless of gender, race or culture;
- Increase children's confidence in forming and maintaining relationships;
- Develop responsibility in relationships.

Skills

We aim to help children to:

- Become aware of their own emotions and how to manage them;
- Make healthy, positive and responsible choices;
- Understand and resist peer and social pressures;
- Protect themselves from abuse.

Knowledge

We aim to help children to:

- Develop and understanding of their bodies, including the changes which have taken place since birth, and will take place in the years ahead;
- Understand the reproductive process in humans and animals, using the correct vocabulary for body parts alongside their own terminology;
- Acquire a basic knowledge of human development;
- Understand the importance of keeping our bodies clean.

5. Curriculum Content, Materials and Teaching Methods

Key Stage 1

In the Infant department, children's questions will be answered honestly and sensitively as they occur. Teachers will follow the National Curriculum guidelines for Science and teach that humans and animals produce babies, and that these babies grow into adults.

Key Stage 2

In the juniors, teachers will continue to answer questions honestly and sensitively, taking into account that some children will have been exposed to more explicit references to sex than others. In the Science Curriculum, children will learn the main stages of the human life cycle. The skills and attitudes outlined above should be integrated into this area of Science.

Year 6

In Year 6 the children will be shown a DVD 'What's happening to me?' by the Year 6 Teachers.

The showing of the DVD is followed by discussion with the children, where any general points can be brought up. The children will then have an opportunity to write down any question they have anonymously. The questions are separated into boys and girls. There will then be a follow up session after the showing of the DVD, where the children will be split into boys and girls. The female members of staff will take the girls and male members of staff will take the boys.

The teaching staff will have previously looked at the questions, so they can prepare answers and remove any questions they consider should not be discussed. The Academy is not trying to dodge difficult questions, but we recognise that some questions cannot be answered in detail in a primary school.

The biological facts are presented in the context of a loving, stable relationship and the responsibility of both mothers and fathers towards their children is stressed.

Contraception is not discussed as a moral issue, but children are made aware that a couple can control the number of children they have in a number of ways.

During discussions with pupils, staff reserve the right to say that the question is inappropriate and do not have to answer it.

6. Parents

The Academy recognises that Sex Education must complement and support parent's role. The Academy aims to present Sex Education in a sensitive and caring way so the parents feel comfortable with it.

The DVD shown to Year 6 is always shown to the parents of Year 6 children before they are used in class. The above policy is also explained to the parents and discussion is encouraged.

Parents are made aware that they have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the Sex Education curriculum. However, it is pointed out that we have no control over what other pupils will tell their children in the playground, whereas we can be sure that they are given a balanced lesson in class. The Academy is aware that children withdrawn from sex education run the risk of being teased and will provide sensitive support to them if necessary.

It should be noted that at the time of writing this policy, no parent has ever withdrawn a child from sex education.

Policy reviewed: September 2019

The policy will be re-reviewed in July 2020 to ensure it is-line with the new statutory guidance.

Head Teacher: _____

The Academy of Woodlands Director: _____