

THEALE GREEN SCHOOL

SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION POLICY 2018

Purpose and background

S.404, Education Act 1996 requires the Governing Body to make, and keep up to date, a separate written statement of its policy with regard to the provision of sex education, and to make copies 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.

This policy supports the school's Statement of Values. It complements practice and procedures for promoting the personal, moral, social and cultural development of all students, whereby all students are entitled to responsible and relevant sex and relationships education as a key element of the school's pastoral curriculum.

The policy has regard to the Sex and Relationship Education Guidance document (0116/2000) ("the Guidance") published by the Department for Education and should be considered in reference to the National Healthy School Standard, which seeks to promote better health and emotional wellbeing for all young people. It is underpinned by the following statement of intent (adapted from the Guidance): *"Sex and relationship education at Theale Green involves lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. 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. It is not about the promotion of sexual orientation or sexual activity."*

Policy objectives

- To fulfil the legal and statutory requirements for delivery of sex education
- To provide an inclusive sex and relationship education programme (as part of the broader personal, social, health and citizenship provision) which takes account of the needs of all pupils
- To improve students' knowledge and understanding about sex and relationships, and to offer guidance about varied attitudes and values, so as to foster strong personal and social skills
- To provide guidance for staff, pupils and parents on dealing with sensitive issues within the sex and relationship education framework
- To establish school procedures regarding a parent's right to withdraw a child from the school's programme of sex education (save for elements required by the national curriculum for science)

Management of policy

School: This policy is implemented and managed by the Deputy Headteacher and Coordinator of PSHE.

Governing Body: The Governors' SPW Committee reviews and approves this policy on a regular basis.

Approval: Approved by the Governors' SPW Committee on 20th February 2018

Next review due: Spring 2021

Associated policies and documents

Anti-Bullying

Curriculum

Equality

Statement of Values

Prospectus

Safeguarding

Practice and procedures

Introduction

This policy adopts the approach outlined in the Guidance, which recommends that sex education is delivered through the personal, social & health education and citizenship framework. Learning about sexual health (including sexually transmitted infections and teenage pregnancy), biological development and reproduction will be delivered through the national curriculum for science. The national curriculum for religious studies will teach students about the value of marriage, marriage in different cultures, and the importance of tolerance and respect in relationships with others. Please refer to Appendix A for more details of these programmes.

PSHE

The school recognises that sex and relationships education must be taught across all Key Stages as part of the PSHE programme (please refer to Appendix B for more details of this programme). Delivery of sex and relationship education will be set within a broader base of self-esteem, with an emphasis on students taking responsibility for the consequences of their actions. Parents wishing to see the full sex and relationship education programme may do so by contacting the school's PSHE Coordinator. Parents will be informed by letter when sex and relationship education is being delivered, with an invitation to support the work by discussing issues at home.

Specific issues

Right to withdraw

S.405, Education Act 1996 gives parents the right to withdraw their children from all or any of a school's programme of sex education, other than those elements that are required by the national curriculum for science.

If they wish to do so, parents should write to the Headteacher, stating their objections. Ideally, a meeting will be arranged to discuss these concerns. The right to withdraw will be made clear in communication

Dealing with sensitive issues

Teachers need to be sure that they are aware of potentially sensitive issues that may arise from the teaching and learning of sex and relationships education. The following protocols should be applied when delivering the curriculum to young people:

- no individual (staff or student) will have to answer a personal question;
- no individual will have to take part in a discussion about sex or relationships;
- only the correct scientific names for body parts will be used;
- meanings of words will be explained in a sensible and factual way;
- teachers will use their professional discretion in responding to questions, and may refer the individual to another member of staff or outside agency.

Personal disclosures

If a teacher begins a discussion with a student about personal matters concerning sex and relationships, they may seek advice from a colleague without giving the student's name, prior to continuing that discussion.

If a member of staff is concerned about any disclosure or other sensitive issue, then they should follow the school's Safeguarding Policy, if necessary seeking advice from the school's Child Protection Officer.

More detailed guidance about dealing with confidentiality is provided in Section 7 of the Guidance. It is only in the most exceptional cases that schools should be in the position of having to handle confidential information without parental knowledge.

In all such situations, members of staff should follow the West Berkshire Child Protection Procedures.

Use of outside agencies and visiting speakers

The school will occasionally invite local experts into school to deliver part of the sex and relationship education programme. This may involve health workers and other professionals. All visiting speakers will be asked to conform to the following procedures:

- visitors will contribute to the programme at the invitation of the school and must be qualified to make a relevant contribution;
- visitors must be fully briefed on the school's programme for sex and relationship education, and the context of their delivery;
- visitors must agree with the aims of the school in delivering its policy on sex and relationship education;
- visitors will be supervised by a teacher at all times;
- visitors will follow the school's safeguarding procedures in the event of a disclosure.

Related documents (for further guidance if required)

Located at *J:\Policies – Current\SRE related documents*

- Sex and Relationship Education Guidance (DfEE Circular 0116/2000)
- Sex and Relationship Education Framework (core document of the National Children's Bureau's Sex Education Forum)
- Sex Education Forum fact sheet 23 ("*Positive guidance on sex and relationships education for secondary schools*")
- Section on sexual health and well-being in National Healthy School Standard (Oct 1999)
- West Berkshire Child Protection Procedures

Appendices

Located at *J:\Policies – Current\SRE related documents*

- A Sex and Relationship Education Programme for Theale Green School
- B PSHE Programme for Theale Green School