

Easthampstead Park Community School

Sex, Sexual Health and Relationships Policy



It is the policy of the school that all students should be given sex education in which the facts are presented in an objective, balanced and sensitive manner, set within a clear framework of values, and an awareness of the law on sexual behaviour.

Aims and Objectives

In providing a programme of sex, sexual health and relationships education at Easthampstead Park Community School we are aiming to:

- Enable students to extend their range of knowledge and their capacity to learn self-awareness, in order that they can take their place in society as informed, independent, resourceful and responsible people throughout their lives
- Encourage students to consider the needs, opinions and rights of others, opposing all forms of racism/sexism/sexual discrimination or other harmful prejudices
- Provide a basic knowledge about human development and sexual health which is relevant to the needs of young people
- Encourage the exploration of values and moral issues
- Develop communication and decision making skills
- Promote understanding of the importance of loving relationships and mutual respect
- Foster self-esteem, self-awareness and a sense of moral responsibility
- Encourage understanding of responsibility and the consequences of one's actions in relation to sexual activity
- Develop understanding about relationships, love and care and the responsibilities of parenthood
- Give a clear understanding of the arguments for delaying sexual activity and resisting pressure
- Link sex and relationship education with issues of peer pressure and other risk-taking behaviour, such as drugs, smoking and alcohol
- Provide students with information about different forms of contraception, safer sex and how they can access local sources of further advice and treatment
- Provide knowledge of how the law applies to sexual relationships
- Provide students with the guidance and advice necessary to enable them to make informed, realistic and responsible decisions.

Students will be encouraged to appreciate the value of a stable family life, marriage and the responsibilities of parenthood; they will be helped to consider the importance of self-restraint, dignity, respect for themselves and others, acceptance of responsibility, sensitivity towards the needs and views of others, loyalty and fidelity; they will be enabled to recognise the physical, emotional and moral implications, and risks, of certain types of sexual behaviour, and to accept that both sexes must behave sensibly on sexual matters.

Scope of Sex Education

A broad and balanced programme of sex education will be provided which will fulfil the following requirements:

(a) *Provide a basic knowledge around sexual health and human development.* This will be relevant to the needs of the students, for them to acknowledge that they come to school with knowledge and some understanding of sexual health even if they have no sexual experience. The knowledge basis will clarify myths and misunderstandings and give a sound basis for development.

(b) *Ensure opportunities for students to develop social skills.* The development of positive self-esteem, empowerment, communication, assertiveness and decision making skills are essential as these skills enable students to use the information provided to make informed choices.

(c) *Give proper consideration to the exploration of values and attitudes around sexual health and development.* Students will develop an ability to look critically at any sexuality issues that are presented to them. They will be able to reflect on their own and others values and attitudes to sexuality and to fit these reflections into the context of their own lives and development.

The Sex Education programme will focus on:

- Relationships, developing friendships, family relations, getting along together
- Feelings and emotions, love, hate, concepts of respect, loyalty and tolerance
- Physical aspects of sexuality, our bodies, sex, sexually transmitted infections, reproduction and birth
- Consideration for the issue of “difference” in all aspects of sex education. It will respect and reflect differences between people. These differences will include gender, feelings, cultural background, religion, traditions, morals and sexual orientation.

Organisation and Delivery

The content of sex education relating to Science will be taught by members of the Science Department, as part of the schemes of work for their classes as prescribed by the National Curriculum. The Head of Science is responsible for ensuring that all members of the department are properly supported in establishing methodology and the handling of controversial topics.

The content relating to PSHE will be taught as part of the PSHE programme to the appropriate year. The Head of Department (HoD) is responsible for the proper in-service training of staff and the provision of support in dealing with controversial topics.

The programmes in both Science and PSHE are regularly reviewed as part of the school’s routine curriculum monitoring processes.

External agencies who offer professional expertise will be used in the delivery of sex education and advice whenever possible:

- the school works in partnership with the Primary Care Trust; a drop-in clinic is available to support students in Key Stages 4 and 5 so they can access medical support and advice. This is a fully prescribing clinic where students can go for general advice or to see a doctor. This facility is fully managed by the local authority, local GP and the school nurse; it is covered by NHS clinical governance.
- visitors may be invited in to the school to work with teachers in the classroom. Such visits will be organised by the teacher in charge of PSHE, who will ensure that the visitor is from an authorised agency, has strong recommendations in this field of work and will use materials that are known to us. All visitors are made aware of the expectations of the school regarding the delivery of Sex and Relationship Education.

The school offers students a Welfare Service as part of student support services in school.

Contraceptive information

The topic of contraception is taught to groups as part of the PSHE Curriculum. Teachers should work with caution when asked for advice on contraception, particularly with students under 16, for whom sexual intercourse is unlawful. Teachers must remember that they are not health professionals and therefore giving individual advice would be inappropriate. When advice is sought by an individual student, teachers should encourage them to speak to parents and relevant health professionals (e.g. GPs, Family Planning Association or Sexual Health Promotion Specialist).

Confidentiality

Students will be made aware of the boundaries within which teachers are allowed to operate. The teacher's role is to present facts, to encourage students to consider important issues related to the subject and to appreciate the attitudes and values that surround it. The teacher has a general responsibility to ensure that students are aware of the implications of embarking upon a course of conduct that is likely to place him, her or others at moral or physical risk or in breach of the law.

It is inevitable that the teaching of apparently unrelated topics will sometimes lead to a discussion of aspects of sexual behaviour. It is expected that such discussions will be relatively limited and set within the context of the other subject. Staff need to choose their words with care, whilst aiming to be honest and open as possible. If asked a direct personal question, students will be reminded that conversations are of a general nature. If the teacher concerned feels that it would be inappropriately dealt with within the lesson, it should be passed on to and followed up by the teacher in charge of PSHE.

If a teacher is concerned about an individual student, the Designated Person should be informed; where the student is under age, there may be the need for the parents to be informed preferably by the student involved. Students should always be urged to discuss matters with their parents and to seek advice from health professionals.

Child sexual abuse

Teachers will be aware of Safeguarding procedures and must adhere to them. Any teacher concerned that s/he is teaching a student who is being abused must inform the Designated Teacher for Child Protection. All school staff receive training in all matters relating to Child Protection and governors are also kept fully informed.

Procedures for supporting any members of the school community infected or affected by HIV and similar diseases

When the school is aware of a student or member of staff infected or affected by HIV s/he shall be dealt with confidentially and sensitively. The school will seek advice from health professionals and decide on any action to be taken. The school will follow the guidelines issued by Bracknell Forest Borough Council on health and safety.

Working with parents

A statement to inform parents about the Sex and Relationship Education programme will appear in the school prospectus and information evenings may be held for parents to inform them about the content and method of delivery of the PSHE across the school. Written information for parents (including schemes of work) will be available at their request. Views of parents will be welcomed.

Child withdrawal procedure

Under section 241 of the Education Act 1993, all parents or carers have the right to withdraw children from Sex and Relationship Education lessons, with the exception of that which occurs as part of the National Curriculum Order for Science. The school will provide parents with full information about how Sex and Relationship Education is taught, what is taught and the resources that are used. The Headteacher will accept a parent's decision to withdraw a student without pressing for a reason. Parents are then obliged to provide alternative work to occupy the student whilst the others in the class are studying Sex and Relationship Education.

Monitoring and reviewing the Sex and Relationship Education Policy

The Education Act 1986 requires that the governing bodies keep their Sex and Relationship Education policies up to date and that they review them immediately following any significant organisational changes which materially affect the school.

Reviewed and Updated:	June 2017
Responsibility for Implementation and Review:	Learning and Progress Committee & AHT Aspirations
Next Review Date:	June 2019