



Sex Education Policy

Date adopted

24th November 2022

Headteacher's signature

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Chair of Governor's signature

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Our aim

Our aim is to create, through the school ethos, an environment where young people are able to acquire knowledge, and develop essential social skills and gain emotional confidence in a safe and caring environment, to enable them to engage in meaningful and rewarding relationships with others.

Rationale

Sex education provides an understanding that positive, caring environments are essential for the development of a good self-image and that individuals are in charge of and responsible for their own bodies. It ought to provide knowledge about the processes of reproduction and the nature of sexuality and relationships. It should encourage the acquisition of skills and attitudes which allow pupils to manage their relationships in a responsible and healthy manner.

School recognises that our young people are growing up in a society where sexual exploitation is increasingly prevalent, and where they are under increasing pressure to experiment in sexual relationships. School further recognises that some young people are able to discuss issues of relationships, puberty, growing up and sex openly with their parents.

Equally we are aware that for a significant proportion of the young people within its community this will not be the case. In particular boys are much less likely than girls to fall within the former group. Additionally, issues of culture, parental understanding, and a child's special education needs may also mean that the school curriculum is the main source of information on these matters for some young people.

School Culture

Relationships and sex education is a lifelong process, and encompasses the physical, moral and emotional development of the individual. It is concerned primarily with understanding the importance of family life (in all its forms) in stable and loving relationships where respect, care and love are a reality. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality and sexual health. It is not about promotion of sexual orientation or sexual activity — this would be inappropriate teaching.

Aims

Provide a worthwhile educational experience for all its pupils which will present opportunities:

- to help pupils to consider the importance of self-restraint, dignity, respect for themselves and for others, acceptance of responsibility, sensitivity towards the needs and views of others, loyalty and fidelity;
- to enable pupils to recognise the physical, emotional and moral implications, and risks, of certain types of behaviour and to accept that everyone should

behave responsibly in sexual matters, regardless of sex, gender identity or sexual orientation;

- to support the personal development and social skills of the pupils;
- to ensure that pupils have an understanding of their own and others' sexuality;
- to enjoy relationships based upon mutual respect and responsibility which are free from abuse and exploitation;
- to provide information and knowledge which will counteract prejudice and ignorance; to develop an understanding of risk and to promote strategies for personal safety;
- to enable pupils to be aware of the sources of help and to acquire the skills and confidence to use them.

In teaching sex and relationship education, it is essential that pupils develop confidence in listening, talking and thinking about sex and relationships. There are several ways in which teachers can help with this:-

- Make sure a set of ground rules is established so that a safe environment is created.
- It should always be made clear to pupils that discussions must always be depersonalised and that privacy will be protected (see note below on Child Protection issues).
- Establish clear guide lines as to what are and are not appropriate questions in the classroom.

Child Protection Issues

If a teacher is told information which they believe is of a child protection nature it should be referred to the designated teacher who is in charge of Child Protection Issues. It must be made clear to pupils that confidentiality cannot always be guaranteed and that, if confidentiality has been broken, they will be told before it is done.

Organisation of Sex Education and Relationship Policy

Organisation of School Sex Education.

A coordinated approach to sex education is necessary, building gradually on knowledge from year to year. To this end pupils will receive a programme of education throughout their time at school. The programme aims to cover all topics related to sex education such as contraception, the law, appropriate relationships, families in all its different forms, consent, LGBTQ+, pregnancy, parenthood, abortion, sexually transmitted diseases, exploitation, Rights of the Child/ UNESCO, UNCRPD.. etc.

It will be delivered in a number of ways:

1. Via AoLE'S curriculum offer
2. Through curriculum provision i.e.- Science/ REP
3. Through Life Skills lessons
4. Via the Personal, Social and Health Education programme
5. Through external companies and speakers, particularly the school's nurse.
6. Assembly provision
7. Thought for The Week provision

More detailed information on topic delivery for each year group is available through curriculum mapping and Schemes of Work across the school.

RSE (Relationships and Sex Education)

RSE will be a mandatory requirement in the Curriculum for Wales for all learners from age 3 to 16 ("the Act"). This means that all learners must receive this education. **There is no right to withdraw from RSE in the new curriculum.**

There will be no parental right to withdraw children from RSE when the new curriculum commences in September 2022. (This means that all children in Wales will have access to consistent, rights-based education in the area of relationships and sexuality.)

Acronym	Definition
LGBTQ+;	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, other sexual identities

UNESCO	The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNCRPD	United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
AoLE	Area of Learning and Experience
RSE	Relationships and Sex Education

Advice to Individual Pupils:

It is understood that it is important to distinguish between the School's function of providing education generally about sexual matters and the giving of advice to individual pupils on these issues. Good teachers have always taken a pastoral interest in the welfare and wellbeing of their pupils. It is also understood that this function should never trespass on the proper exercise of parental rights and responsibilities. It is understood that particular care must be exercised in relation to giving contraceptive advice to pupils under the age of sixteen, for whom sexual intercourse is unlawful. It is the general rule that giving an individual pupil advice on such matters without parental knowledge or consent would be inappropriate.

Where the circumstances are such as to lead the teacher to believe that the pupil has embarked upon, or is contemplating, a course of conduct which is likely to place him or her at moral or physical risk or in breach of the law, the teacher has the general responsibility to ensure that the pupil is aware of the implications and is urged to seek advice and raise concern with the Designated Safeguard Team.

