

Wolverdene Special School

Sex Education Policy – May 2012

Produced By:	P Graham, Governor
Approved for School:	
Headteacher: P v Walwyk(Signature)
Date: 19/6/12	
Approved by Governing Body:	
Chair/Deputy: B Cooper(Signature)
Date: 19/6/12	

Background

Wolverdene Special School is a primary school for children with behavioural, emotional and social difficulties. Although the School is co-educational the vast majority of the children are boys. The range of abilities throughout the School is very broad. Some children have specific learning difficulties, others autism or language disorder. The range of social background is also broad but often there are a large number of children receiving free school meals.

Aims and Objectives

Although sex education is not a legal requirement in primary schools, the Governing Body and the School believe that a basic course will help prepare pupils for their transfer to secondary schools.

The aim of this Sex Education Policy is to clarify the content of our sex education programme and how it is delivered in this School. The nature of our sex education programme is developmental and it is the foundation for further work to be carried out when the children transfer to secondary school.

Sex education in the School will contribute to the requirements of the Education Reform Act 1988 in that the School curriculum should be one that:

- promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of the children at the School and in society; and
- prepares the children for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

The School will work towards these aims in partnership with parents.

Moral and Values Framework

Our sex education programme will reflect the School ethos and demonstrate and encourage the following values:

- respect for self;
- respect for others;
- responsibility for own actions;
- responsibility for family, friends, School and wider community.

Course Content

The School's sex education syllabus will be delivered to Year 6 children in five one hour sessions to be given by the School Nurse. The sessions will cover the following areas:

1. an introduction to establish ground rules and prior knowledge;
2. puberty for boys and girls, looking after our bodies;
3. menstrual cycle, boys' physical manifestations and emotional wellbeing;
4. intercourse, birth, age of consent and basic contraception;
5. evaluation, hygiene, looking after yourself and a leaflet to take home.

Monitoring the Policy and its Implementation

This policy will be reviewed regularly using a consultative process which allows teachers, pupils and parents to give feedback on our sex education programme.

The review will assess how effective are the aims, content and methods in promoting children's learning. The Headteacher will present this review annually to the Governors.

Equal Opportunities

The School is committed to working towards equality of opportunity in all aspects of School life. All sex education resources and methods have been or will be checked against the following equal opportunities criteria:

- is the policy likely to appeal to our Year 6 pupils?
- is the policy consistent with the agreed aims and objectives?
- does the policy fit in with the existing whole School teaching and learning policy?
- does the policy put forward programmes of study and content that is appropriate for the needs of the children in terms of language and images, attitude, maturity and knowledge required?
- do these programmes of study and areas of content take into account the emotional stability and the behavioural difficulties that the children may have?
- does the policy avoid racism, sexism and other forms of stereotyping?
- does the policy conform with the legal requirements for sex education?

- do staff understand the policy and are staff comfortable in its usage?
- are the facts contained within the programmes of study and content areas correct?

A Partnership With Parents

The School places the utmost importance on sharing equal and joint responsibility with parents for their children's education in sexual matters. It will do its best to find out from parents if there are any religious or cultural views that they have that might affect the sex education they wish their child to receive, although we would have to consider very carefully any request that compromised our policy in any way.

The School is aware that some parents find it hard to cope with their children's sexual development, and are happy for the School to take the initiative.

We will take every opportunity to inform and involve parents and carers by:

- making our commitment clear to parents;
- inviting parents to discuss personal development when their child enters the School;
- raising personal development issues at the Annual Review meeting;
- inviting parents to view all the resources relating to sex education at their convenience.

Staff are willing to discuss with parents any matters which they are concerned about. It is important that there is no conflict of information given to the children.

Parents/Carer's Right to withdraw their child from Sex Education

Parents/carers do have the right to withdraw their child from sex education, although not from those elements that are within the Science programmes of study. This will be made clear in a letter to be sent to parents/carers towards the end of Year 5. If a parent wishes to withdraw their child they are asked to discuss it with the Headteacher and to be clear about what the child will do when withdrawn.

Parents/carers are not obliged to allow their child to attend sex education lessons, but the School wishes to make it clear that if children who are withdrawn from sex education lessons ask questions at other times, these questions will be answered honestly by staff within the information contained in the sex education programme. However, by working with parents/carers in the way set out within this policy the School hopes that parents/carers will be confident that it will deliver this work as sensitively and as suitably as is required.

Guidelines for Teachers and other Members of Staff regarding Confidentiality

It is important that all teachers and other members of staff, not only those directly involved in the provision of sex education, are aware of the following points:

- **Confidentiality**

Teachers and other members of staff should not promise confidentiality.

A child does not have a right to expect that incidents in the class room will not be reported to his/her parents/carers, and may not, in the absence of an express promise, assume that information conveyed outside that context is private. No teacher or other member of staff could or should give such a promise. Teachers should make it clear to the pupil whether and on what basis confidentiality is possible. Where relevant and appropriate they should also encourage young people to discuss their concerns with their parents or carers. The negotiation of ground rules in sex education lessons may be helpful and teachers and other members of staff should make it clear to pupils the level of confidentiality they can offer.

However, teachers and other members of staff are not obliged to break confidentiality.

It is a matter of professional judgement for a teacher or other member of staff whether he or she should indicate to a child that information could be offered confidentially and whether such confidence could then be maintained having heard the information.

The advice in the Department for Education does not seek to impose an absolute duty to break confidences, nor indeed are their circulars binding in law. A teacher or other member of staff is not bound to follow the advice, if, in the teacher's or other member of staff's professional judgement, the child's best interests are better served by not doing so.

- **Must parents be informed?**

There is no basis in principle or authority for suggesting that there is any legal duty on teacher or other member of staff, or the Headteacher, to inform parents of matters which a child has confided to them.

- **Must teachers and other members of staff inform the Headteacher?**

A teacher or other member of staff does not have a general duty to inform the Headteacher of disclosures by a pupil. However, the Headteacher has instructed staff that he/she should be so informed and the teacher or other member of staff is contractually obliged to comply with this instruction.

- **Answering difficult questions**

Sometimes an individual child will ask an explicit or difficult question in the classroom. Questions do not have to be answered directly, and can be addressed individually later. This School believes that individual teachers and other members of staff must use their skill and discretion in these situations and refer to the Headteacher if they are concerned.

- **Outside Visitors/Speakers**

There are various people who can resource and support school based sex education including health and LA professionals. Whenever this occurs parents will be informed.

Organisation

Sex education will be co-ordinated by the Year 6 teachers but will be taught by the School Nurse with certain aspects reinforced within the Science curriculum.

Review

This Sex Education Policy will be reviewed annually.

Record of Reviews

Due Date	Actual Date	Headteacher Signature	Chair/Deputy Chair Signature
19/06/13	01/07/14	P van Walwyk	P P Graham
19/06/15	30/06/15	P van Walwyk	P P Graham
19/06/16			