

Sex and Relationships Education Policy

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Last review date:		September 2024		
Next Review date:		September 2025		
Review Cycle:		Annually		
Statutory Policy:		No		
Owner:		SRE Lead		
Publication:		Website. G/Policies		
Date	Version	Reason for change	Overview of changes made	Source
29.09.20	0.1	Scheduled Review	Logo and name updated. J Bowman	Original based on SCC policy
02.10.20	0.2	Scheduled Review	Internal Lead review. Altered 'right to withdraw' to only allow year 5/6 parents to withdraw their children from the sex modules as per advice from training. Also identified the opportunity for parents to view planning and materials prior to it being taught. M Lambert	Original based on SCC policy
03.11.20	0.3	Scheduled Review	Board Lead review - no changes made. H Bowman.	Original based on SCC policy
20.11.20	1.0	Scheduled Review	Ratified by Board	
31.08.21	1.1	Scheduled Review - Internal Lead	No changes. J Wynn	
03.09.21	1.2	Scheduled Review - Board Lead	No changes. H Bowman	
17.09.21	2.0	Scheduled Review - Board	Ratified	
14.09.22	2.1	Scheduled Review	No changes. M Lambert	
15.09.22	2.2	Scheduled Review	No changes. H Bowman	
30.09.22	3.0	Scheduled Review	Ratified by Board	

12.09.23	3.1	Scheduled Review - Internal Lead	No changes. M Lambert	
19.09.23	3.2	Scheduled Review - Board Lead	No changes. CEO	
29.09.23	4.0	Scheduled Review - Board	Ratified	
1.10.24	4.1	Scheduled Review - Internal Lead	Changes made in line with DfE. EB	
9.10.24	4.2	Scheduled Review - Board Lead		
13.12.24	5.0	Scheduled Review - Board	Amends to leading statements in introduction. AB	

Introduction

In developing this policy, Directors and Staff have -

- Agreed that a positive approach should be taken in providing sex and relationship education at The Staffordshire Schools Multi Academy Trust.
- Stressed the importance of stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care, as part of the Personal, Social and Health Education (P.S.H.E) Citizenship and the Science Curriculum.
- Given due consideration to the statutory position on sex and relationship education in schools following changes introduced in the 1993 Education Act and the DFE Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education (Updated version Sept 2021).
- Viewed material considered suitable by the School Health Services.

This policy will be subject to annual review and evaluation.

Aims

The key aims of this policy are –

1. To meet current legislation.
2. To support pupils through their physical, emotional and moral development and to develop their confidence in talking, listening and thinking about feelings and relationships.
3. To help pupils learn to respect themselves and others and move with confidence from childhood through adolescence into adulthood.
4. To teach pupils to name parts of the body and describe how their bodies work.
5. To try to ensure that pupils are prepared for puberty.
6. To try to ensure that pupils can protect themselves and ask for support.
7. To encourage parental involvement.
8. To liaise with the School Health Service in the selection of materials appropriate to the needs and ages of the pupils.

Teaching and Learning

Whilst sex and relationship education is specifically taught from reception to Year 6 at an age appropriate level, pupils' questions will be answered sensitively with appropriate consideration.

Sex and relationship education is also part of the Science Curriculum and is taught throughout the Trust where appropriate.

Planning of the sex and relationship education modules for all year groups is adapted from Staffordshire Council guidance.

Annually, parents are asked to provide consent for the teaching of sex and relationship education and have the opportunity to preview the materials used and lesson plans upon request, prior to the lessons being taught in school. They are able to discuss any concerns with class teachers and the Head Teacher. Parents of year 5 and 6 children may also exercise their right to withdraw their child if they so wish from specific sections of the modules. These modules are menstruation, puberty and conception.

If deemed necessary, the School Nurse may work with the class teacher in delivering the module to the pupils in Year 6.

All children are made aware that there is a member of staff available if they want someone to talk to on an informal basis.

Equal Opportunities

The same teaching programme is followed for boys and girls and the children are taught together. However, for the subject of menstruation, Year 5/6 girls will have a separate more in depth session.

Pupils' questions are answered sensitively, with due consideration being given to any particular religious, cultural or linguistic bearing on the discussion of sexual and relationship issues.

In previewing the materials special consideration will be given to parents for whom English is a second language.

Social Inclusion

We recognise that some pupils may need more help than others in coping with the physical and emotional aspects of growing up. Children with identified Special Educational Needs will be supported so that they have the same opportunity as others to benefit from sex and relationship education.

Additional support may also be needed for pupils for whom English is a second language.

Child Protection

There are guidelines for staff on confidentiality, handling sensitive and controversial issues and supporting young people. Teachers and other adults involved in sex and relationship education may sometimes hear disclosures that suggest a child may be at risk of abuse. A copy of the Trust's Child Protection policy is available from the Head Teacher who must be consulted before any further action is taken.

Resources

Resources provided are in compliance with Staffordshire Good Practice guidance. The Class Teacher will also use their professional judgement when using materials with their specific class.

Monitoring and Review

The Staff and Directors across the academy, review sex and relationship education during the curriculum review cycle. Local schools, guided by the School Health Service, try to work together in selecting the most appropriate materials ideally to be delivered cross-phase. All lessons are delivered in line with national guidance. Any major module changes made will be passed through Directors and parents before being delivered to children.