**Sex Education Policy**

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| **Date Reviewed:** | June 2019 | **Review Date:** | June 2021 |

Sex education at Wandle Valley Academy does not feature as a discrete subject on the timetable but is dealt with within a broader programme of Person Social and Health Education [PSHE] and as part of the Science Curriculum. PSHE is taught as a separate subject but is also delivered during tutor time.

Sex Education is seen as an integral part of the learning process, beginning in childhood and continuing into adult life. It is important to acknowledge that young people have sexual knowledge of their own, even if they have little or no sexual experience. Research has shown that young people's own peer groups are steeped in sexual awareness. However, such cultures are also a source of myth and misunderstanding and ignorance can be difficult to admit. It is therefore important that pupils have the opportunity within all areas of the curriculum to:

* Learn facts about sex and keeping safe.
* Learn about relationships.
* Clarify their own values in relation to sex.
* Acknowledge that people hold differing but equally legitimate points of view.

The academy is committed to the development of social skills as part of the sex education policy. In order to support this, teachers need to be aware of the need to involve pupils in discussions in which they are able to relate.

Teachers need to be able to acknowledge pupil’s sexual culture as well as the need to deal with issues relating to inequalities of power gender and stereotyping.

Teachers need to be aware that self-esteem in the context of sex is related to self-esteem in other areas of young peoples lives.

**CENTRAL TO OUR AIMS IS:**

To promote a positive self image free from prejudice and stereo-typing

It is therefore, important that sex education provides young people with opportunities within which they feel able to discuss their fears and misunderstandings with all members of the academy team.

Reflecting advice from the DFEE circular 5/94 our aims are:

**Key Stages 1 and 2**

* To prepare pupils to cope with the physical and emotional challenges of growing up, and to give them an elementary understanding of human reproduction and relationships.

**Key Stages 3 and 4**

* To encompass in addition to facts about human reproductive processes and behaviour, consideration of the broader emotional and ethical dimensions of sexual attitudes.

**OBJECTIVES FOR SEX EDUCATION AT WANDLE VALLEY ACADEMY**

* To provide access to information about their bodies and those of the opposite sex.
* To develop an acceptable vocabulary for communication about their bodies at home and academy.
* Build on attitudes and understanding and include moral considerations.
* To provide awareness of different situations and relationships.
* To develop ideas of non-stereotyped gender roles in order to maximise individual talents.
* To provide the opportunity for pupils to understand and cope with personal safety.
* To prepare and deal with change - physical, social and emotional, and promote sensible attitudes towards development.
* To increase consideration for others and responsibility through caring relationships.

**RIGHTS TO WITHDRAWAL**

Contraception is taught in whole group situations. If individual pupils need further details, they are encouraged to discuss it with their parents/carers.

Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their child from the lessons and other suitable arrangements are available on request. However, they cannot withdraw from the National Curriculum.

**AREAS COVERED BY SEX EDUCATION IN THE CURRICULUM:**

* + Relationships
  + Adolescence/Puberty
  + Contraception
  + Sexually Transmitted Diseases
  + HIV/Aids
  + Menstruation
  + National Curriculum areas as defined by legislation

*Ratified by Governors July 2017*