

Date Valley School

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Sex and Relationships Education Policy

Introduction:

Date Valley School has based its school's Sex and Relationships Education Policy on the DfEE document Sex and Relationship Education Guidance (ref DfEE 0116/2000 – appendix 1).

In this document, sex and relationships education is defined as 'learning about physical, moral and emotional development'. It is about understanding the importance of marriage for family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. Sex and relationships education / human development are part of the personal, social and health education (PSHE) and Islamic Studies curriculum in our school. While we use sex and relationships education to inform children about human development, we do this with regard to matters of morality and individual responsibility, and in a way that allows children to ask and explore moral questions.

Aims and objectives:

We teach children about:

- the physical development of their bodies as they grow into adults
- respect for their own bodies and the importance of hygiene
- the importance of family life
- relationship issues
- what they should do if they are worried about any sexual matters

Context:

We teach sex and relationships education in the context of the school's aims and ethos. While sex and relationships education in our school means we give children information about human development, we do this with an awareness of the moral code and values which underpin all our work in school.

In particular, we teach sex and relationships education in the belief that:

- children should be taught to have respect for their own bodies
- children should learn about their responsibilities to others
- it is important to build positive relationships with others, involving trust and respect

Organisation:

We teach sex and relationships education through different aspects of the curriculum. While we carry out the main sex and relationships education teaching in our personal, social and health education (PSHE) curriculum, this also forms a part of the Islamic Studies curriculum as this development affects their role as a responsible human.

In PSHE we teach children about relationships, and we encourage children to discuss issues. We explain to them what will happen to their bodies during puberty. For example, we tell the boys that their voices will change during puberty and we explain and discuss menstruation with the girls.

In Key Stage 1 we teach children about how animals, including humans, move, feed and grow, and we also teach them about the main parts of the body. Children learn to appreciate the differences between people and how to show respect for each other. In Key Stage 2 we teach about life processes and the main stages of the human life cycle in greater depth.

In Year 6 we place a particular emphasis on health education, as many children experience puberty at this time. Teachers do their best to answer all questions with sensitivity and care. By the end of Upper Key Stage 2, we ensure that both boys and girls know how their bodies change during puberty. We always teach this with due regard for the emotional development of the children.

Parents of Year 5 and 6 receive communication about the programme of lessons, detailing topics / issues and how teaching occurs.

The role of parents:

The school is well aware that the primary role in sex and relationships education lies with parents and carers. We work to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation.

In promoting this objective we:

- inform parents about the school's Sex and Relationships Education Policy
- answer any questions that parents may have about the sex and relationships education of their child
- take seriously any issue that parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy or the arrangements for sex and relationship education at the school
- encourage parents to be involved in reviewing school policy and voicing suggestions
- inform parents about the best practice known with regard to Islamic sex and relationships education, so that the teaching in school supports key messages parents and carers pass on to children at home. We believe that, through this mutual exchange of knowledge and information, children will benefit from being given consistent messages about their changing body and their increasing responsibilities

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from all or part of the Sex and Relationships Education Programme that is taught at school. If a parent wishes their child to be withdrawn from sex and relationships education lessons, they should email the Principal, making it clear which aspects of the programme they do not wish their child to participate in.

Monitoring and review:

It is the responsibility of the Principal to ensure that both staff and parents are informed about the Sex and Relationships Education Policy, and that the policy is implemented effectively.

It is also the Principal's responsibility to ensure that members of staff are given sufficient training, to allow for sensitive and effective teaching / discussions.

This policy will be reviewed every 3 years and updated to reflect changes in practice.

This policy has been written for Date Valley School by the School Principal. It is read and approved by the Date Valley Trust Policy Committee.

Date: February 2015