

ALDWORTH SCHOOL

POLICY ON SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION

Distribution: All Staff
All Governors

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Date the Policy was initiated: September 1994

Policy Reviewed: October 2019

Date Review next Review: October 2021

Policy on Sex and Relationships Education

1. Summary

The Sex and Relationships Education Policy for Aldworth School will comply with current Department for Education guidelines. This policy aims to support young people through their physical, emotional and moral development and help them to learn to respect themselves and others and move with confidence from childhood through adolescence into adulthood. As a school we aim to provide:-

- a) sex education (including education about HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases) must be for all students on roll
- b) a written policy on sex education available to all parents
- c) guidance in such a manner as to encourage young people to have regard to moral considerations and the value of family life
- d) the opportunity for parents of a student at this school, if they wish, to withdraw their son or daughter from all or part of the sex education provided.

The policy detailed below has been drawn up in accordance with these principles.

From September 2020 DfE guidance states that all state schools must deliver relationship education and sex education.

2. Philosophy and Rationale

Sex and Relationships Education is part of a planned programme of personal, social and health development which promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of students. It helps to prepare young people for the opportunities and experiences of adult life. Sex and Relationships Education is taught with regard to other school policies on health and child protection, the influence of society, families and the media and moral, religious, ethical and cultural dimensions.

Sex education should not be taught in isolation but should be part of an integrated approach to teaching children about health, their bodies and their relationships with others.

The school considers that the aims of sex education should be to present facts in an objective, sensitive and balanced manner, so as to enable students to comprehend the range of sexual attitudes and behaviour in society, with due regard to moral considerations, personal health and safety and the value of family life.

Controversial issues such as abortion, contraception and homosexuality are integral to the teaching of sex education. Such controversial issues may

arise spontaneously from the study of a topic or they may be planned in response to the need to explore social and moral issues. In all cases these issues are dealt with sensitively and students will be encouraged to have due regard to moral considerations, value of family life and the rights of the individual to a personal and private life.

Effective sex education includes consideration of a range of values. Objectives of the programme, as detailed below relate, therefore, to knowledge, concepts, skills and attitudes.

3.1 Objectives

To enable students to develop:

Knowledge and understanding of

- Puberty and adolescence
- Physical and emotional changes
- Terminology
- Contraception
- Conception and reproduction
- HIV, AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases
- Lifestyle and concerns of young parents
- Safe relationships and the concept of 'consent'

Concepts

- Awareness of self and others
- Relationships and the value of stable, committed and mutually supportive equal relationships
- Morality and the consequences of decisions
- Value of life

Skills

- Communication
- Interpersonal
- Thinking skills

Attitudes

- Respect for self and others
- Responsibility for self and others
- Honesty
- Commitment

3.2 Topics to be covered

- Puberty and adolescence
- Relationships
- Sexual intercourse and reproduction
- Sexual responsibility
- Contraception/family planning

Pregnancy
Abortion
Sexually transmitted diseases
Peer pressure and the influences of the media on an individual's self image and behaviour
Legal issues/the age of consent

4. Equal Opportunities

- 4.1 All students have equal access to the school's sex and relationships education programme.

5. Organisation

- 5.1 The subject leader for Personal, Social and Health Education is responsible for planning the school's sex and relationships programme and for co-ordinating the delivery of the KS3 and KS4 school programme. Aspects of personal relationships aimed at preparing pupils to cope with the physical, emotional and social challenges of growing up and giving an elementary understanding of human reproduction feature in the Year 7 and 8 PSHE programme. This is taught by tutors compliments work in Science related to human reproduction and changes to the body during puberty.

The School Nurse and other related outside agencies may contribute to the school's sex education programme and assist staff with relevant topics. It is important that all staff involved in the teaching of sex education are committed and sensitive to the demands of the subject area.

Students are taught in mixed sex, mixed ability groups. All students cover the same syllabus during their time at school. A wide variety of teaching methods and materials are used which should enable students not only to acquire the necessary knowledge and understanding to make informed decisions but also to reflect upon and develop appropriate skills and attitudes.

It is the school's policy to work closely as appropriate with primary colleagues in order that a coherent framework for sex education can be implemented from five to sixteen.

6. Advice to individual students

- 6.1 It is noted that giving contraceptive advice to an individual student without parental knowledge or consent is an inappropriate exercise of a teacher's professional responsibility. When an individual student under sixteen, for whom sexual intercourse is unlawful, approaches a teacher they will be encouraged to seek advice from their parents and, if appropriate their GP or the School Nurse.

7. The right of withdrawal

- 7.1 Parents or carers will be informed that they are entitled to withdraw their son/daughter from all or part of the Sex and Relationships Education programme except for those elements that are part of the National Curriculum, for example in Science. Parents wishing to exercise this right are asked to make a written request to the Headteacher.

8. Health Professionals and Visitors

- 8.1 In addition to input from the school nurse, agencies such as health visitors, social services and other recognised services may be invited to contribute to the sex education programme, where appropriate.

9. The role of parents

- 9.1 The school accepts that the teaching it offers should be complementary and supportive to the role of parents. Parents are welcome to contact the Head of Personal, Social and Health Education to talk at greater length about the topics and materials covered.

10. Sexual Abuse

- 10.1 If a member of staff has grounds to suspect that a child is a victim of sexual abuse or he/she has reason to believe that the child is at risk of abuse he/she will immediately follow the school child protection procedures.

11. Dissemination of the Policy

- 11.1 All teaching staff and the school nurse have been made aware of the school's sex and relationships policy. Parents are periodically informed in the school news sheet that a copy is available to them upon request.

12. Monitoring and Evaluation

- 12.1 The effectiveness of this policy will be monitored by the Senior Leadership Team in liaison with the Head of Personal, Social and Health Education on an annual basis, taking account of student feedback, staff feedback and any other relevant information.

Review of Policy

This policy will be reviewed in the Autumn Term 2021 or earlier in line with new legislation.

