



# **BEMBRIDGE CE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

## *SEX & RELATIONSHIP POLICY*

### **Introduction**

Our school's policy on sex and relationship education is based on the DfES document 'Sex and Relationship Education Guidance' (DfES 0116/2000). We recognise 'Sex and Relationship Education' as the policy's full title, but, for brevity's sake, we will refer in the rest of this policy simply to 'sex education'.

In the DfES document, sex education is defined as 'learning about physical, moral and emotional development'. The guidance states, 'It is about understanding the importance of marriage for family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality, and sexual health'.

Sex education is part of the personal, social and health education (PSHE) curriculum in our school. When we inform our pupils through sex education about sexual issues, we do this with regard to morality and individual responsibility, and in a way that allows children to ask and explore moral questions. We do not use sex education as a means of promoting any form of sexual orientation.

### **Aims and objectives**

We teach children about:

- the physical development of their bodies as they grow into adults;
- the way humans reproduce;
- respect for their own bodies and the importance of sexual activity as part of a committed, long-term, and loving relationship;
- the importance of family life;
- moral questions;
- relationship issues;
- respect for the views of other people;
- sexual abuse, and what they should do if they are worried about any sexual matters.

### **Context**

We teach about sex in the context of the school's aims and values (see the values statement in the Curriculum Policy). While sex education in our school means that we give children information about sexual behaviour, we do this with an awareness of the moral code, and of the values which underpin all our work. We teach sex education on the understanding that:

- it is taught in the context of marriage and family life;

- it is part of a wider process of social, personal, spiritual and moral education;
- children should be taught to have respect for their own bodies;
- children should learn about their responsibilities to others, and be aware of the consequences of sexual activity;
- it is important to build positive relationships with others, involving trust and respect;
- children need to learn the importance of self-control.

## **Organisation**

We teach about sex and relationships through different aspects of the curriculum in a cross curricular manner. While we carry out the main sex education in our personal, social and health education (PSHE) curriculum, we also do some sex education through other subject areas. For example in science lessons, in both Key Stages, teachers inform children about how a baby is born. For this aspect of our teaching, we follow the guidance material in the national scheme of work for science. In Key Stage 1, we teach children about how animals, including humans, move, feed, grow and reproduce, and we also teach them about the main parts of the body. Children learn to appreciate the fact that people are not all the same, and that we need to respect each other. In Key Stage 2, we teach about life processes, and the main stages of the human life cycle, in greater depth.

Like most schools on the IOW, our school follows the Christopher Winter Programme on teaching Sex and Relationship Education across the whole school.

## **The role of parents**

The school is well aware that the primary role in children's sex education lies with parents and carers. We therefore wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents of children at our school, through mutual understanding, trust and cooperation. To promote this objective, we:

- inform parents about the school's sex education policy and practice.
- answer any questions that parents may have about the sex education of their child;
- take seriously any issue that parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy, or about the arrangements for sex education in the school;
- encourage parents to be involved in reviewing the school policy,
- inform parents about the best practice known with regard to sex education, so that the teaching in school supports the key messages that parents and carers give to children at home.

To support the above we make this SRE Policy available on our website to all parents. We teach SRE across the school during a week in the summer term and inform parents of what will be taught in each year group and when, to give them an opportunity to meet with the class teacher if they wish.

We believe that through this mutual exchange of knowledge and information, children will benefit from being given consistent messages about their changing bodies and their increasing responsibilities.

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from all or part of the PSHE sex education programme that we teach, though they do not have the right to withdraw their child from the Science Curriculum that supports Sex Education. If a parent wishes their child to be withdrawn from sex education lessons, they should discuss this with the head teacher.

## **The role of other members of the community**

We encourage other valued members of the community to work with us to provide advice and support to the children with regard to health education. In particular, members of the Local Health

Authority, such as the school nurse and other health professionals, give us valuable support with our sex education programme.

### **Confidentiality**

Teachers conduct sex education lessons in a sensitive manner, and in confidence. However, if a child makes a reference to being involved (or being likely to be involved) in sexual activity, then the teacher will take the reference seriously, and deal with it as a matter of child protection. Teachers will respond in a similar way if a child indicates that they may have been a victim of abuse. They will not investigate, but will immediately inform the named person for child protection issues about their concerns. The head teacher will then deal with the matter in consultation with health care professionals (see also our policy on Child Protection).

### **The role of the head teacher**

It is the responsibility of the head teacher to ensure that both staff and parents are informed about our sex education policy, and that the policy is implemented effectively. It is also the head teacher's responsibility to ensure that members of staff are given sufficient training, so that they can teach about sex and relationship education effectively, and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity.

The head teacher liaises with external agencies regarding the school sex education programme, and ensures that all adults who work with our children on these issues are aware of the school policy, and work within its framework.

The head teacher monitors this policy on a regular basis, and reports to governors, when requested, on the effectiveness of the policy.

### **Monitoring and review**

The Science Link Governor monitors the impact of our sex education policy on an annual basis and reports findings and recommendations to the full governing body. The Full Governing Body gives serious consideration to any comments from parents about the sex education programme, and makes a record of all such comments.

This policy will be reviewed every two years or earlier if necessary.

**Date of Policy: MARCH 2014**

**Date of Review: MARCH 2016**