



## **SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION POLICY**

The ethos of the school, the involvement of parents in the life of the school, the attitudes of all staff to each other, staff/pupil relationships and the learning environment, as well as what is taught in the classroom all contribute towards a healthy school. Of paramount importance within this is the teaching of positive attitudes; such as taking care of oneself and respect for others, which would also be the aim of the sex and relationships education programme. This programme is designed to encourage the acquisition of skills and attitudes to allow the pupils to manage their relationships in a responsible, healthy manner.

The legal basis of Sex and Relationships Education provision is the 1993 Education Act and the 2004 Children's Act.

The Governors are in favour of sex education being taught in the school as part of a wider programme of health education. Parents have the right to withdraw from these sessions. Any parent wishing to exercise this right should contact the Headteacher directly. Parents of Year 6 pupils will receive a letter at the beginning of the Summer Term explaining the sex education programme, re-stating their right to withdraw their child/children and inviting them to view the resources and discuss this area of work with the relevant member of staff.

It is considered important that sex education should be part of a wider health education policy which supports children in understanding their own physical and emotional growth. Most of the content of health education can be best taught in a cross-curricular manner. Some of the children will have reached or will be approaching puberty during their later years in the school and it is felt that they should have the opportunity to discuss the changes that take place before the transition to the secondary school. It is proposed that specific sessions will take place for Years 5 and 6 during the second half of the Spring Term on pubertal development. Most of this work should take place in mixed groups.

Whilst children's questions should be answered honestly and fully as appropriate it is recognised that staff have an obligation to refer to parents where questions arise outside of the scheme of work. Staff are aware of their professional responsibility to refer any matters arising in their daily work which go beyond the scheme of work to the Headteacher. Our school has a child protection safeguarding policy and procedures for dealing with child sexual abuse based on the Local Authority guidelines and recommendations. Pupils will be made aware that some information cannot be held confidential and that their best interests will be maintained. It is possible the school would look to utilise the services of the Health Authority Advisor for Health Education to support the teachers in this work. The School Nurse, who has received training in delivering sex education, will be instructed where he/she can obtain a copy of our current school policy on Sex and Relationships Education.

**Reviewed by the Teaching & Learning Committee on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017**

**Next review due by March 2020**