

The Kingston Academy



Sex and Relationships Education Policy

June 2017

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Approved by: Curriculum, Performance and Standards committee, Kingston Educational Trust

Frequency of review: Annual

Last review: June 2016

Next review due: June 2018

Sex and Relationships Education Policy

1. Introduction

At The Kingston Academy we recognise that sex and relationship education is lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about the importance of stable and loving relationships including marriage for family life, and about respect, love and care. Sex and relationship education provides pupils with factual knowledge and an understanding of the influences on young people, encouraging them to be aware of the options open to them and to take charge of decisions about their own behaviour. It encourages the development of personal and interpersonal skills, the awareness and respect of self and others and encourages reflection and responsibility.

Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their children from the sex education part of the PSHCE programme and alternative arrangements will be made for their children's supervision. The request to withdraw must be made in writing to the Head teacher. However, parents/carers do not have the right to withdraw their children from those aspects of sex education required by the National Curriculum Science Order (essentially the biological aspects of human growth and reproduction).

2. Objectives and targets

The aim of having a sex and relationship education policy is to clarify the provision of sex and relationship education to all pupils (including education about HIV and AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases) and the teaching of human growth and reproduction. Our target is that pupils will achieve a clear understanding of the arguments for delaying sexual activity and resisting pressure. We aim to link sex and relationship education with issues of peer pressure and other risk-taking behaviour, such as drugs, smoking and alcohol, and to ensure that our pupils understand how the law applies to sexual relationships. We aim to be sensitive to and meet the needs of all of our pupils.

3. Action plan

Sex education is carried out principally within the personal, social health and citizenship education (PSHCE) programme (see our separate Statement of Provision for PSHCE, Sex Education and Philosophy and Ethics) and according to current DfE guidance and legislation (due to be updated with effect from September 2019). Materials and speakers are carefully chosen, appropriate to the needs and ages of our pupils. Sex education is taught within the context of relationships and family life. Parents are informed of the programme and are welcome to view materials used in sex education or to discuss further with the form tutor.

Our PSHCE programme provides knowledge about the processes of reproduction and human growth as part of our science curriculum. All pupils must follow this programme, so far as such education is comprised in the National Curriculum. The PSHCE programme deals with the nature of sexuality and relationships. It encourages the acquisition of skills and attitudes that allow pupils to manage their relationships in a responsible and healthy manner and provides them with parenting skills for later in life. The programme is carefully structured and will show continuity between the years. The programme is delivered within a moral framework. As well as knowledge and information, pupils are encouraged to consider the importance of values derived from the school's' value system.

We aim to develop attitudes and values through:

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- Promoting respect, value, love and care of themselves and others including respect for individual and cultural differences.
- Developing understanding and promoting sensitivity towards the needs and views of others and modelling appropriate behaviours.
- Discussing moral issues including concepts associated with right and wrong; encouraging responsibility for their own actions and promoting positive self-images.
- Exploring responsibility to the school, their family and the wider community.

We aim to develop personal and social skills through:

- Learning how to share and co-operate with others.
- Experiencing being part of a community within the class, the school and the wider community, enjoying the benefits, and learning to accept the responsibilities this brings.
- Enabling pupils to express preferences, communicate needs, make decisions, choose options that other people act upon and respect.
- Supporting pupils in learning to understand appropriate and inappropriate behaviours and manage their own behaviour and emotions.
- Enabling pupils to make choices and deal with the consequences that these may bring.
- Enabling pupils to make choices based on an understanding/acceptance of differences and absence of prejudice.
- Developing self-respect and empathy for others.
- Developing self-awareness and self-esteem.
- Developing skills to manage potential conflict and upset.
- Learning how to assert oneself appropriately and so avoid abusive exploitation.

We aim to develop knowledge and understanding through:

- Developing body awareness and physical control.
- Developing an understanding of their ability to influence the environment.
- Developing a knowledge of gender, growth and development.
- Learning when privacy is appropriate and how to protect one's own privacy.

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- Promoting a positive attitude to body changes around puberty and developing the skills needed to cope with them.
- Developing an understanding of physical feelings, including physiological responses to touch.
- Developing an understanding of own and others' sexuality, sex health, emotions and relationships.
- Learning about healthy lifestyles.

As part of our sex education programme, issues of contraception, safer sex, HIV/AIDS and STIs, sexuality, unwanted pregnancies and abortion will be addressed. Facts are presented in an age appropriate, objective and balanced way, with pupils being encouraged to consider their attitudes and values. They will be made aware of the differences between fact, opinion, and cultural and religious beliefs. Our methods of teaching include presentations and small group discussion, visiting speakers, the use of worksheets, videos and textbooks.

Our teachers are aware that effective sex and relationship education may lead to disclosure of a child protection issue and will respond to this in accordance with the school's safeguarding and child protection policy (a copy of this policy is available on our website).

4. Monitoring and evaluation

It is the responsibility of the Head teacher to ensure that staff have had sufficient training to undertake this programme and that each tutor/year group is completing the programme as appropriate. Pupil and parent/carer surveys and feedback will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the programme from the pupils' and parents'/carers' points of view.

5. Reviewing

A member of the senior leadership team and the Kingston Educational Trust's Curriculum, Performance and Standards Committee will review this policy annually in the light of any changes to legislation, DfE Guidance and feedback from pupils, parents and carers and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.

Next review due: June 2018