



Basildon CE Primary
Sex and Relationship Education Policy
Spring 2018

Created: Spring 2018
Last reviewed: Spring 2018
Next review: Spring 2020

NOTE: The following is to be adopted pending the issue of an LEA model policy.

What we mean by Sex and Relationship Education:

Sex and relationship education is “the lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of 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. It is not about the promotion of sexual orientation or sexual activity – this would be inappropriate teaching.” *

The National Curriculum requires that some elements of physical and sexual development such as puberty and how a baby is born, are covered within the normal timetable. These will be delivered in accordance to guidelines set out by the DfES.

In addition to this statutory requirement, Basildon CE Primary School offers a limited amount of additional sex and relationship education directed specifically towards setting the development of sexuality within the wider context of social and personal education.

It is our intention to help prepare pupils to cope with the physical and emotional challenges of growing up and to give them an elementary understanding of human reproduction. In doing this at the primary stage, we hope to establish a foundation to be built upon during their secondary education and help prepare children for puberty and adolescence.

Much of the information that children of primary school age acquire about sex and sexually related matters is confusing, incorrect and sometimes unsettling or even frightening. The school aims to counteract this “misinformation” by integrating sex education into the wider learning process. By doing so, we hope to avoid sex being perceived as something “extraordinary” but rather as part of the normal process of growing and learning and to see this in the wider context of feelings, relationships and values.

In line with the broadly Christian ethos of the School, we recognise the significance of both marriage and other stable relationships as key building blocks of community and society.

Basildon Primary will ensure that Sex and Relationship is open to all children at an age appropriate level. Consideration will be given to and in some cases, parental support sought for those children whose emotional development requires additional support. We will endeavour to meet all children’s individual needs.

* **Sex and Relationship Education Guide July 2000 (P5.DfES 0116/2000)**

- **Who Gives Sex and Relationship Education:**

- National curriculum topics and relationship education will be delivered by the teaching staff as part of the normal school day.
- Physiological/medical aspects of sex education including changes in the body relating to puberty and how a baby is conceived and born shall be covered, by school staff. These may, where appropriate, be restricted to single sex sessions.
- When staff are confronted by a question from a child about sexually related matters or sexual terminology, they will respond factually. Where questions relate to sexual practices rather than fact, then staff will be sensitive to the needs of reassuring the child and avoiding them becoming confused or threatened rather than providing explanations inappropriate to primary age children.
- Teaching staff will use their judgement when a subject is particularly sensitive, personal or inappropriate for class discussion to either defer a response until a more appropriate time, refer the child to their parents or consult the Headteacher.
- Sexually related issues will not be discussed on a one-to-one basis with just child and teacher present.
- Materials used in school will be in accordance with PSHE framework and legal requirements.
- Inappropriate images will not be used nor will explicit material not directly related to explanation.
- Due regard will be given to the age and cultural background of the pupils concerned.
- The school follows guidance given by the LEA, DfES and Department of Health both in terms of materials used, presentation and also restricting access to unsuitable material via the Internet which is screened by the LEA.

Parental Involvement

At Basildon School we believe that all education works best in partnership with parents and sex education is no exception. By working together teachers and parents can support and re-enforce each other. Where possible, the school will endeavour to keep parents informed of the programme of sex education to help promote this joint approach.

A Letter will be issued early in a term, notifying affected parents or guardians of planned sessions. This will be confirmed approximately one week before the visit.

Child Safety

Child safety is paramount to the school and the Headteacher has a specific responsibility covering all aspects of child safety.

If a teacher is approached by a child who is sexually active, or is contemplating sexual activity in any way, or if any member of staff believes that a child/children have engaged in or are contemplating sexual activity, then it will be referred to the designated child protection member of staff who would then decide whether to contact the child protection office.

If parents want more detailed information about how sex education is covered in the school then they should contact the Headteacher who will be pleased to give further explanation. It is possible for parents to exclude their child from this additional aspect of the curriculum although we would hope that this would only be considered in extreme cases.

Monitoring

The programme for delivering Sex and Relationship Education is available in the school and Governors will be kept informed through the Headteacher's newsletters.

Addendum for information but not part of policy

The Law (ref guide to the law for Governors Issue 2 January 2001)

SEX EDUCATION

21. Governing bodies of maintained schools providing primary education must decide whether sex education should be included in their school's curriculum and, if so, what it should consist of and how it should be organised. They must keep a written record of their decisions.
22. All maintained schools providing secondary education must provide sex education (including education about HIV and AIDs and other sexually transmitted diseases). All maintained schools should teach human growth and reproduction as set out in the National Curriculum.
23. All governing bodies must have a written statement of whatever policy they adopt on sex education, and make it available free to parents. The LEA, governing body and head must also make sure that any sex education is provided in a way that encourages pupils to consider morals and the value of family life.
24. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of any sex education provided (but not from the biological aspects of human growth and reproduction necessary under National Curriculum science).
25. Following the report by the Social Exclusion Unit on Teenage Pregnancy, the Department issued new sex and relationship education guidance to schools in July 2002, following a consultation process. The sex education provisions of the Learning and Skills Act will come into force on 1st November 2000. From that date, schools will have a legal duty to ensure that pupils are protected from teaching and materials which are inappropriate, having regard to the age, religion and cultural background of the pupils concerned. They should also ensure that, within the context of talking about relationships, children should be taught about the nature of marriage and its importance for family life and the bringing up of children. Their sex education policy should contain a statement that a parent may request that a pupil is withdrawn from sex education.