

# ***Sex & Relationship Education Policy***

## **Introduction**

Sex Education forms part of the Personal, Social and Health Education course and the Science National Curriculum course (Key Stage 3 & 4). It is the entitlement of all pupils to receive sex education.

Aims of sex Education at The Meden School and Technology College.

- To provide pupils with knowledge and understanding of sexual matters and terminology as appropriate to their age group.
- To present the facts in an objective and balanced way.
- To make pupils aware of the range of sexual attitudes and behaviour in modern society.
- To relate physical sexual behaviour to the moral considerations of relationships, dignity and self-respect.
- To encourage pupils to have respect for themselves and others and to see the value of family life.
- To encourage pupils to act in a responsible way, to make reasoned decisions and to be aware of the consequences of their decisions.
- To provide support and information for pupils and their parents.
- To communicate to staff, parents and pupils the contents of the Sex Education programme.

## **Content**

Sex Education provides knowledge, and encourages the acquisition of skills and attitudes, which will allow pupils to manage their lives in a reasonable way.

Values and Beliefs

As well as knowledge, and information pupils will be encouraged to consider the importance of the following values, which reflects the ethos of the school.

- Respect and valuing of themselves and others;
- Understanding and sensitivity towards the needs and views of others;
- Responsibility for their own actions;
- Responsibility to the school, their family and the wider community.

## Skills and Abilities

Pupils will be helped to develop the following skills:

- Communication including the making and keeping of relationships;
- Assertiveness;
- Decision-making;
- Recognising and using opportunities to develop a healthy lifestyle.

## **Organisation**

Sex Education is co-ordinated by the PSHCE co-ordinator who is responsible for the overall planning, implementation and review of the programme.

Delivery is through:

- Planned aspects within the science, PSHCE and Religious Education curricula;
- Addressing moral and ethical issues which may arise from apparently unrelated topics in all National Curriculum subjects. Within this category, as long as any discussion takes place within the context of the subject it will not be deemed to be part of the sex education programme and therefore not subject to the parental right of withdrawal.

Pupil groupings

- Pupils are taught in mixed ability and gender groups. When there is a specific need, arrangements will be made to teach pupils in other appropriate groupings. E.g. single gender.
- (Science is taught in mixed ability in Year 7 and then in ability sets from Year 8 upwards.

Resources

- A range of teaching materials is available.
- Teachers of sex education are provided with appropriate Inset from within school or externally if this is considered advantageous.

## **Specific Issues**

The following issues may occur as part of the Sex Education Programme. Staff, parents and pupils must be aware of the procedures in place.

Confidentiality and advice

- Pupils must be made aware that not all disclosures can be held confidential and that certain procedures may follow. However, the pupil will be offered support.
  - i. Disclosures/suspicion of abuse:  
The child protection procedures will be followed (see separate policy)
  - ii. Disclosures of pregnancy/advice on contraception.  
Pupils should be encouraged to talk with parents first. Support should be given in helping them to do so. If pupils refuse to talk to their parent/guardian, the school will refer them to a health professional. The school will liaise with the health professional about informing parent/guardian.

### Family Life

- The value of family life is an important aspect, which will be approached largely through a consideration of the qualities and relationships between the group of people, with an emphasis on stability, respect, caring and support.

### Parents' right to withdraw child from sex education

- Under the Education Act 1993, parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the Sex Education Programme (excluding National Curriculum Science elements). Parents wishing to exercise this right are asked to make an appointment with their child's Achievement Manager to discuss their concerns. Once a child has been withdrawn, they must have parental approval to take part in later sex education classes.

### HIV/AIDS

- The Sex Education Programme will address issues of HIV and AIDS and sexuality. As with other sensitive issues, this will be addressed in an objective and balanced way encouraging the pupils to consider their attitudes and values.

### Outside Speakers

- Outside speakers are used to deliver some elements of the Sex Education Programme. All such speakers will be familiar with DCFS guidelines.

### Complaints Procedure

- Any complaints about the sex education curriculum should be made to the head teacher who will report to the governors via the link governor.

### **Monitoring and Review**

- The whole of the PSHCE programme is reviewed regularly in light of DCFS guidelines and the needs of pupils. Sex education will continue to be monitored as part of the whole programme with contributions from all relevant teachers.
- The Sex Education Policy will be available to parents on request.
- A nominated governor will have a link role between the school and the governing body.

### **Other Policies which have relevance to sex education are:**

- Equal Opportunities
- Anti-bullying
- Child protection
- Drugs Awareness
- PSHCE