

# Abbey Primary School



*Play Together, Work Together, Grow Together*

## Sex Education Policy September 2021



Rights Respecting Children



Approved/Review Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Policy for Sex Education**

### **Background Information**

We have based our school's sex education policy on the DfEE guidance document Sex and Relationship Education Guidance (ref DfEE 0116/2000). In this document, sex education is defined as 'learning about physical, moral and emotional development. 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 curriculum in our school. We use sex education to inform children about sexual issues. We do this with regard to matters of morality and individual responsibility, and in a way that allows children to ask and explore moral questions.

### **Aims and objectives**

- For children to be aware of the physical development of their bodies as they grow into adults;
- To know how humans reproduce;
- To develop a respect for their own bodies and the importance of sexual activity as part of a committed, long-term, and loving relationship;
- To understand the importance of family life;
- To be able to discuss moral questions;
- To have an awareness of relationship issues;
- To develop a respect for the views of other people;
- To be aware of sex abuse and what they should do if they are worried about any sexual matters.

### **Teaching Approaches**

We teach sex education in the context of the school's aims and values framework. 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 values that underpin all our work in school.

In particular, we teach sex education in the belief that:

- Sex education should be taught in the context of loving relationships and family life;
- Sex education is part of a wider social, personal, spiritual and moral education process;
- 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.

We teach sex education through different aspects of the curriculum. While we carry out the main sex education teaching in our personal, social and health education (PSHE) curriculum, we also teach some sex education through other subject areas (for example, science and PE), where we feel that they contribute significantly to a child's knowledge and understanding of his or her own body, and how it is changing and developing.

In PSHE we teach children about relationships, and we encourage children to discuss issues. We teach about the parts of the body and how these work, and we explain to them what

will happen to their bodies during puberty. For example, we tell the boys that their voices will change during puberty and we explain to the girls about menstruation.

We encourage the children to ask for help if they need it.

In science lessons, teachers inform children about life cycles, puberty and how a baby is born.

In Key Stage 2 we teach about life processes and the main stages of the human life cycle in greater depth.

In Year 6 we place a particular emphasis on health education, as many children experience puberty at this age. The children are usually visited by someone from the Local Health Authority. In addition, teachers do their best to answer all questions with sensitivity and care as they arise. By the end of Key Stage 2, we ensure that both boys and girls know how babies are born, how their bodies change during puberty, what menstruation is, and how it affects women. We always teach this with due regard for the emotional development of the children.

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

### **The role of parents**

The school is well aware that the primary role in children's sex education lies with parents and carers. We wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents of children at our school through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation.

In promoting 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 the arrangements for sex education in the school;
- 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.

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

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from all or part of the sex education programme that we teach in our school. If a parent wishes their child to be withdrawn from sex education lessons, they should discuss this with the headteacher, and make it clear which aspects of the programme they do not wish their child to participate.

### **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.

### **The role of the headteacher**

It is the responsibility of the headteacher 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 headteacher's responsibility to ensure that members of staff are given sufficient training, so that they can teach effectively and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity. The

headteacher liaises with external agencies regarding the school sex education programme, and ensures that all adults who work with children on these issues are aware of the school policy, and that they work within this framework.

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

### **Confidentiality**

Teachers conduct sex education lessons in a sensitive manner and in confidence. However, if a child makes a reference to being involved, or likely to be involved in sexual activity, then the teacher will take the matter 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. In these circumstances the teacher will talk to the child as a matter of urgency. If the teacher has concerns, they will draw their concerns to the attention of the headteacher. The headteacher will then deal with the matter in consultation with health care professionals (see also Child Protection Policy.)

### **Equal Opportunities**

We seek to ensure that Sex Education is accessible to all our pupils regardless of gender, ethnic origin, religion or ability.

### **Monitoring and Review**

The Curriculum Committee of the governing body monitors our sex education policy. This committee reports its findings and recommendations to the full governing body, as necessary, if the policy needs modification. The Curriculum Committee will give serious consideration to any comments from parents about the sex education programme, and will make a record of all such comments.

This policy will be reviewed during 2022.