

Knowsley Central School

Sex and Relationships Policy

Date	Review Date	Coordinator	Nominated Governor
Sept 17	Sept 18	Debbie Sergeant	Personal Development, Behaviour & Welfare Committee

Introduction

This document is a statement of the aims, principles and strategies for the teaching and learning of sex and relationship education at Knowsley Central School.

It was initially written during the Summer Term of 2003 as part of the Centre Improvement Plan and the National Healthy Schools Standard.

The implementation of this policy is the responsibility of all teaching staff.

This policy supports the school's aims as set out below

School Motto

Everyone is a star and can shine in our learning environment.

In our learning community we aim to provide a learning experience which:

- provides entitlement of access to the National Curriculum for all children with whom the Centre works with and is reflected in a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum which is structured and progressive to meet the individual needs of each child within the group as a whole
- provides an emotionally safe, motivating and attractive environment, where children can develop and be educated at a suitable pace.
- recognises and celebrates all levels of achievement
- provides a personalised curriculum to meet the needs of the children and young people in the Central Area
- embraces the uniqueness of each person through an holistic approach
- provides quality support in the form of human and material resources to the staff and pupils of mainstream schools and early years settings within the Central Area of the Borough

Provide Care and Guidance in:

- which adults and children show care, consideration and mutual respect
- which adults and children respect and care for our school, local community, the environment and the world in which we live
- in which all adults attempt to raise the self esteem of each individual by building in success and a recognition of achievement
- which we provide an emotionally competent environment which supports the social and emotional well being of the whole school community
- providing stability through the implementation of a positive and consistent approach to all aspects of behaviour

- which play and work are complimentary

Provide an ethos which:

- emphasises equality of opportunity for all pupils and adults irrespective of gender, ability, ethnicity and social circumstances
- lays the foundation for children to develop into balanced and mature citizens, able to contribute successfully to the community of which they will become part
- provide a positive commitment to work in partnership with parents and professional services, to provide appropriate support for the best interests of the children and young people in the Central Area
- support the mainstream schools within the Central Area Partnership to promote inclusion through the work of the Central Area Support Team, i.e. the integrated services of the various professional agencies based at the Centre
- we promote social inclusion for all the children and young people we service by ensuring presence, participation and achievement.

Every Child Matters

The Government's vision for Children's Services was published in September 2003. Our school fully supports its aims to help children and young people to achieve well being throughout their lives. The key to this is to promote:

- Being healthy
- Staying safe
- Enjoying and achieving
- Making a positive contribution
- Achieving economic well-being

Philosophy

Effective Sex and Relationship Education is essential if young people are to make responsible and well informed decisions about their lives. Sex and Relationship Education should help and support young people through their physical, emotional and moral development. A successful programme, firmly embedded in PSHCE, will help young people to respect themselves and others and move with confidence through adolescence into adulthood.

All children will be offered the opportunity of receiving a comprehensive, well planned programme of sex education appropriate to their age, ability and understanding. We recognise that maturity may not correspond to chronological age.

What is Sex and Relationship Education?

It is lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of stable and loving relationships, including marriage, respect, love and care and family life.

It has three main elements:

Attitudes and Values

- Learning the importance of values and individual conscience and moral considerations.
- Learning the value of family life, marriage and stable and loving relationships for the nurture of children
- Learning the value of respect, love and care
- Exploring, considering and understanding moral dilemmas
- Developing critical thinking as part of decision making

Personal and Social Skills

- Learning to manage emotions and relationships confidently and sensitively
- Developing self respect and empathy for others
- Learning to make choices based on an understanding of difference and with an absence of prejudice
- Developing an appreciation of the consequences of the choices made
- Managing conflict
- Learning how to recognise and avoid exploitation and abuse

Knowledge and Understanding

- Learning and understanding physical development at appropriate stages
- Understanding human sexuality

Moral Framework

The Sex Education programme will reflect the schools aims and demonstrate and encourage the following aims:

- Respect for self
- Respect for others
- Responsibility for their own actions
- Responsibility towards their family, friends, school and wider community.

Aims and Objectives

The policy will ensure that each child will develop understanding through accurate, non-biased information. This will enable them to make decisions about their own sexual health and to be sensitive and tolerant to the decisions and choices that people make. The programme is developed according to the age, ability and maturity of the pupils and will provide a foundation for their future learning.

- To prepare pupils for the responsibility and experiences of adult life
- To teach sex education within the context of family life and moral values and in such a way that it will be complementary and supportive to the role of parental duty
- To ensure that parents/carers have the right to withdraw children from some aspects of sex education except those topics, which are specified in the National Curriculum Science and are required by law to be taught to all children.
- To answer questions as they arise honestly, using the correct body names and terminology and encourage children to do the same.
- To liaise with other staff and outside agencies
- To keep up to date with professional development in this area

Content

The Sex and Relationship programme will:

- Provide information that is relevant and appropriate to the age and developmental stages of the pupils
- Develop skills of assertiveness, communication and effective dialogue in relationships
- Encourage the exploration of values and attitudes
- Foster self-esteem, positive self-image and confidence

Organisation

Sex and Relationships Education will be delivered as part of the Science and PSHCE Curriculum. It will be delivered as part of a topic and will take place in the classroom. Children will be encouraged to use a variety of learning strategies as outlined in the teaching and learning policy. Single sex sessions will be available as appropriate.

Year 6 children and Key Stage Three Pupils will take part in sessions focused upon the changes encountered during puberty and sex education (where appropriate). The children will be encouraged to ask questions and these will be answered as fully as possible. The children will have a workshop dedicated to keeping clean and personal hygiene. This will usually be supported by the school nurse. The pupils will be encouraged to ask questions to further their own understanding.

Working with parents/carers and pupil withdrawal procedures

The school recognises the role of parents/carers as the primary educators of their children and is committed to working with parents/carers. Parents/carers will be informed in writing before the topic has commenced. Under the Education Act pupils can be withdrawn by their parents/carers from part of the Sex Education programme that are outside of the compulsory elements of Sex Education in the National Curriculum for Science. Parents/carers wishing to exercise this right are invited to contact the Head Teacher and discuss the possible impact for withdrawal. Once a pupil has been withdrawn they cannot participate in Sex Education until the request of withdrawal has been removed.

Morals and Values Framework

The teaching of sex and relationships recognises that there are a range of values and morals held within the school community. The aim of sex and relationships education in this school is to promote the ability of pupils to make informed decisions and to enable them to determine their own values within a moral framework.

Therefore the programme will reflect the school ethos and demonstrate and encourage the following values:

- Respect for self and others
- Understanding and care for others
- The right to hold own views
- Tolerance of difference and diversity

- To be prepared for puberty and understand the physical and emotional changes that occur.
- Understand the importance of stable supportive relationships within families.

The Sex and Relationship programme will:

- Provide learning opportunities that are relevant and appropriate to the age, maturity, and ability of the pupil
- Include the development of social skills
- Encourage pupils to explore different values and attitudes

The curriculum is developmental and is mostly taught as part of the PSHCE programme. Some elements may be included in other subjects, for example, some of the sex and relationships programme form part of the National Curriculum for Science.

Equal Opportunities

The Sex and Relationships programme is an entitlement of all pupils. Nobody will be excluded by the school because of race, religion or gender. The programme will reflect and include values held by the variety of religious and racial communities with an emphasis on those held within the school.

Most of the class will be held in mixed groups, although there will be opportunities for single gender work.

Organisation of the Sex and Relationships Programme

Sex and Relationships Education will be taught

- As topics as part of the PSHCE programme
- Through Science (as part of the National Curriculum)
- Through the pastoral system
- Through story time
- Through planned visits by the school nurse

Answering children's questions

Children's questions will be answered as in every lesson, in an honest and sensitive manner appropriate to the age and maturity of the child and in keeping with religious and cultural background. Question boxes may be used in lessons to enable teachers to answer children's questions appropriately.

Head Teacher	Daryl McConnell	Date	September 17
Chair of Governing Body	Karen Little	Date	September 17