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## Sex and Relationships Education Policy

### Introduction

The purpose of sex and relationship education is to help and support young people through their physical, emotional and moral development. Effective sex and relationship education is essential if young people are to make responsible and well-informed decisions about their lives. Decisions pupils make about how they relate to others can only be made if they have adequate knowledge and understanding of their own physical and emotional development. This is not a task for the school in isolation and we seek to work with parents to ensure that the teaching of sex and relationship education reflects their expectations and complements teaching at home.

### Scope and publication

This Sex and Relationships Education Policy applies to all pupils and staff at Abbey Woods Academy. This policy is available on the school website and is provided to all parents and pupils in the pupil homework diary and to all staff in the staff handbook. This policy can be made available in large print or other accessible formats if required.

### Relationship to other policies

Sex education forms an integral part of our curriculum and the schemes of work for science, citizenship, and personal, social, and health education (PSHE), and relates to child protection.

### Aims of this policy

The sex and relationship education programme at Abbey Woods Academy aims to enable students to:

- Understand the nature of feelings and emotions experienced by themselves and others and the importance of healthy personal relationships.
- Understand the biological facts related to human growth and development including reproduction and contraception.
- Accept that change is part of the life cycle and be able to adjust to these changes.
- Recognise the value of loving and caring relationships.
- Understand the value of family life, the implications of parenthood and the needs of the very young.
- Understand and respect the varied cultural and religious influences on individual sexuality.
- Develop a range of personal skills and qualities, e.g. self-esteem, communication, negotiation, listening skills, empathy, assertiveness which will help students to have fulfilling personal and sexual relationships.
- Challenge sexism and prejudice in society and promote equality of opportunity.
- Be aware of sources of help and advice available within the family, school and community, and acquire the skills and confidence to use them.
- Accept their sexuality in a positive way and enjoy relationships based on mutual respect and responsibility, free from any abuse.

- Value their own body and behave within a moral framework.

## Definition and programme

With the above aims in mind we have developed a programme which is designed to provide information and guidance sufficient to allow our students to develop in confidence.

The school's sex and relationship programme is designed to help young people learn to respect themselves and others and move with confidence from childhood through adolescence into adulthood.

Pupils will be given accurate information and helped to develop skills to enable them to understand differences and respect themselves and others, and also for the purpose of preventing and removing prejudice.

The programme (and staff linked to that programme) is outlined in Appendix 1

## Roles and responsibilities

### The Education Director and Trust will:

- Ensure this policy is monitored, reviewed and updated accordingly.
- Ensure that sex education is provided in a way that encourages pupils to consider morals and the value of family life.

### The Headteacher will:

- Decide how sex education should be included in the school curriculum and what it should consist of.
- Ensure that the Education Director is advised about the nature and organisation of sex and relationships education and how it reflects the aims and values of the school.
- Ensure that sex education is provided in a way that encourages pupils to consider morals, the value of family life.
- Ensure that pupils are protected from inappropriate teaching materials.
- Ensure that a scheme of work is agreed and implemented.
- Ensure that parents are informed about the programme for sex education each term.
- Monitor compliance with this policy.
- Ensure staff are provided with adequate training to comply with this policy.
- Ensure that this policy is available to all staff, parents and pupils.

## **Staff who teach sex and relationships education are expected to:**

- Provide sex education in accordance with this Policy and in a way which encourages pupils to consider morals and the value of family life.
- Participate in training to provide sex education in line with the school's curriculum.
- Implement the agreed scheme of work.
- Draw to the attention of the Headteacher any materials which they consider to be inappropriate.
- Respond appropriately to those pupils whose parents wish them to be withdrawn from sex education.

## **Parent/carer involvement**

Research shows that children and young people want to receive their initial sex and relationship education from their parents and families, with school and other adults building on this later. Parents need to know that the school's sex and relationship education programme will complement and support their role as parents and that they can be actively involved in the determination of the school's policy. We recognise that many parents find it difficult to talk to their children about sex and relationships. As a school, we will always work in partnership with parents, consulting them regularly on the content of sex and relationship education programmes.

We recognise that the teaching of some aspects of sex and relationship education might be of particular concern to some parents. Teachers have a responsibility to ensure the safety and welfare of pupils; we reassure parents that the personal beliefs and attitudes of teachers will not influence the teaching of sex and relationship education. Teachers and all those contributing to sex and relationship education are expected to work within an agreed values framework which must be in line with current legislation.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the sex and relationship education provided. Parents wishing to withdraw their child from sex and relationship education should speak to their child's form tutor. As a school, we will make alternative arrangements in such cases.

## **Review**

The Headteacher will review and update this policy as necessary. The template policy will be reviewed by the Trust annually or to reflect changes in legislation.

## Appendix 1: SRE teaching programme

Year 6 National Curriculum

Pupils should draw a timeline to indicate stages in the growth and development of humans. They should learn about the changes experienced in puberty.

Pupils could work scientifically by researching the gestation periods of other animals and comparing them with humans; by finding out and recording the length and mass of a baby as it grows.