

SEX EDUCATION & RELATIONSHIPS POLICY

1. Aims

In the provision of sex education, the School aims:

- To provide knowledge about the nature of human sexuality and the processes of human reproduction in the context of loving relationships;
- To encourage pupils to appreciate the values of a stable family life, marriage and the responsibilities of parenthood;
- To promote in pupils self-esteem, respect for themselves and others, and appreciation of the need for both sexes to act responsibly;
- To encourage pupils to develop considered values based on a moral code which will enable them to lead healthy, happy and emotionally stable lives now and in the future;
- To enable pupils to recognise the physical, emotional and moral implications of certain types of behaviour;
- To understand what is legal and what is not in sexual relationships.

2. Delivery of Sex Education to Pupils

At present the formal teaching includes work in Junior Science, Biology, PSHE and Religious Studies and through the courses provided by the School Nurse. Such teaching will be presented in an objective, balanced and sensitive manner. Inevitably aspects of sex education will arise in various other subject areas (such as English or History); when this happens, they will be addressed in a thoughtful, sensitive manner by members of staff using their professional judgement and common sense.

The following topics will be included, as appropriate to the pupils' age, development and needs:

Puberty & other life stages	Human reproduction	Respect for self & others
Marriage	Contraception	Peer + cultural pressures
Divorce	Abortion, IVF	Genetics
Homosexuality	Legal issues	
Sexually transmitted infections including HIV & AIDS		

Pupils will generally, but not exclusively, be taught in mixed groups.

3. Parents

Parents have a primary responsibility in this area; the School's role is to complement and enhance the parents' role, not to usurp parental responsibility in these matters. Parents have a legal right to withdraw their sons and daughters from all or part of any Sex and Relationships education provided (but not from the biological aspects of human growth and reproduction necessary under the science curriculum) but we hope that they will not do so. This policy is available to parents on the School's website.

4. Staff

In-service training will be provided for members of staff.

Where the provision of sex education occurs outside the departments accustomed to teaching it, members of staff will be entitled to ask not to be involved in delivering particular sections of the syllabus.

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Where outside speakers are to be used in delivering a particular topic, a copy of the policy will be sent beforehand and the content and presentation of the proposed talk agreed; a member of staff will usually be present with the pupils throughout the talk.

The provision of sex education will be kept under regular review.

5. School and Sexual Relationships

- i. **There must be no physical contact of a sexual nature between a member of staff and a pupil.**
- ii. There should be no physical contact of a sexual nature between pupils at school; private relationships between pupils should be kept private. If you are told of a romantic or sexual relationship between pupils conducted off School premises and out of School time, it is the concern and responsibility of their parents.
- iii. If, however, you discover pupils engaged in sexual activity in School time, on School premises or elsewhere during an organised School trip or activity, you are 'in loco parentis'. You should act in the best interests of the pupils concerned.
- iv. When deciding on what course of action to take, which will obviously depend on the individual circumstances, you should bear in mind the following:
 - The age and gender of the pupils involved;
 - The legality of their behaviour;
 - The relationship between the pupils themselves and between them and their parents;
 - Your relationship with them and perhaps with their parents;
 - Whether or not they have taken any precautions;
 - Any possible consequences, including the risk of pregnancy and/or sexually transmitted disease.
- v. You should advise the Head Master (or group leader if you are away on a School trip) and any appropriate member of the Pastoral Staff. You should not discuss the incident with anyone else.