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Sex and Relationship Education Policy

Review frequency: Annually

Approval: Governing body free to delegate to a committee of the governing body, an individual governor or the head teacher.

Legislation: Academies and free schools – Funding Agreements require these schools to have regard to DfE guidance on Sex and Relationship Education.

https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationDetail/Page1/DfES_0116_2000

Rationale

At Europa School we value the importance of sex and relationship education to help and support young people through their physical, emotional and moral development. This programme is linked closely to the Policy for Personal, Social and Health Education, Sex and Relationship Education Guidance and the National Healthy School Standard Guidance.

We recognise the partnership of home and school, of parent and teacher, in this important area of personal development.

Sex education is a continuing, developmental process, which includes the exploration of attitudes and values and the development of skills, as well as the presentation of factual knowledge. As with all other learning, it should be gradual and matched to the child's maturity and stage of development.

Sex education teaches children to develop an awareness of, and respect for, themselves and others. It aids the development of positive self-esteem, which will help children to cope with the challenges of personal growth. It enables children to be aware of the personal choices they can make and prepares them to make responsible decisions. It is about exploring feelings and emotions and enjoying confidence in one's own ability.

As part of sex and relationship education framework, pupils are taught about the nature and importance of family life and bringing up children. Pupils will learn about the significance of

marriage and stable relationships. Care is taken that no child is stigmatised because of his or her home circumstances.

What is Sex and Relationship Education?

Sex and relationship education is about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of 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 and relationship education has three main elements.

Attitudes and values:

- Learning the importance of values and moral considerations
- Learning the value of family life, marriage and stable relationships
- Learning the value of love, respect and care.

Personal and social skills:

- Learning to manage emotions and relationships confidently and sensitively
- Developing empathy and self-respect
- Learning to make choices without prejudice
- Appreciating the consequences of choices made
- Managing conflict
- Recognising and avoiding exploitation and abuse.

Knowledge and understanding:

- Learning about and understanding physical development
- Understanding human sexuality, reproduction, sexual health, emotions and relationships.

The Philosophy of the School

It is the philosophy of Europa School that all children experience a planned programme of sex and relationship education that offers them the opportunity to explore attitudes and values, and develop personal and social skills, as well as learning the facts necessary for life.

Aims and Objectives of the Policy

- To reassure children of the value and self-worth, including aspects of dignity, self-respect and self-restraint.
- To nurture a responsible attitude towards personal relationships, such as aspects of mutual respect and care, and to develop sensitivity towards the needs of others encompassing fidelity and loyalty.
- To foster the ability to manage relationships in a responsible and healthy manner.

- To promote the value of loving relationships and of family life.
- To recognise that marriage is an important, but not exclusive, context for family life.
- To provide knowledge of human reproductive processes
- To inform children on matters of personal hygiene and related health issues.
- To encourage exploration of values and moral issues, taking into account the physical and moral risks associated with certain behaviour.
- To educate against discrimination and prejudice.
- To empower children to make informed choices about their developing sexuality.

This policy supports the following School Policies

- Equal Opportunities
- Education for Ethnic Diversity
- School Discipline
- Statement of School Philosophy, Aims and Objectives
- Health and Safety
- Personal, Social and Health Education and Citizenship
- Child Protection

Areas of Responsibility

Governors

- *To ensure the legal framework is followed.*
- *To consult with parents on the determination of the school's sex and relationship education policy*
- *To implement the sex and relationship education policy through the head teacher.*
- *To implement the 'annual' reviews.*
- *To make, and keep up to date, a separate written statement of the school's policy with regard to Sex Education.*
- *To make copies of this statement available for inspection by parents of pupils registered at the school and provide a copy free of charge to any parent who requests one.*
- *To include a summary of the content and organisation of sex education in the School Prospectus.*

Methodology and Approach

There will be a whole-school approach – from Reception to Year 6. The subject will be taught in a cross-curricular way, encompassing all the elements within Personal, Social and Health Education topics, as well as expanding on human relationships, human and physical development and reproduction, sexuality and the risks of sexual activity.

Dealing with Sensitive Issues

Governors and teachers are in agreement that teachers should answer all children's questions relating to sex and relationship education in an open and factual way, taking into consideration the family background, culture, religious beliefs, and pupils' differing experiences. The governors expect teachers to use their professional judgement and discretion when faced with, or answering, questions, which they deem to be of a sensitive nature, for example homosexuality, contraception or sexually transmitted diseases. The following ground rules have been established.

Teachers should not enter into discussions about personal issues and lifestyles.

No one (child or adult) has to answer a personal question.

Nobody is forced to take part in discussion.

In discussion, teachers will promote the knowledge and use of 'accepted' names of body parts.

Meanings of words are explained in a sensible and factual way.

Europa School Sex and Relationship Education Programme

Sex and relationship education is delivered within the Science Curriculum and the four broad themes within PSHE.

- Increasing confidence and responsibility and making the most of pupil's abilities.
- Preparing to play an active role as citizens.
- Embracing a healthier lifestyle.
- Developing good relationships and respecting differences between people.

Through sex and relationship education, the children should:

- Develop confidence in talking, listening and thinking about feelings and relationships
- Be able to name parts of the body and describe how their bodies work.
- Be able to protect themselves and ask for help and support
- Be prepared for puberty
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Within the Science Curriculum, the children should:

Key Stage 1:

- Know that all creatures, including humans, move, feed, grow, use their senses and reproduce.
- Recognise the main external parts of their bodies
- Know that humans and animals can produce offspring, which grow into adults
- Recognise the similarities and differences between themselves and others, and treat others with sensitivity.

Key Stage 2:

Know that the life processes common to humans and other animals include nutrition, growth and reproduction

Know about the main stages of the human life cycle.

*parents should be aware that children cannot be withdrawn from these Science lessons.

Specific Classroom Arrangements

When planning lessons, teachers should consider appropriate grouping in respect of pupil experience and need. Mixed-gender classes will be the norm for the younger pupils.

Curriculum Entitlement

Sex and relationship education will be taught at Europa School UK within PSHE and Science. It is therefore not envisaged that there will be 'one-off' or isolated lessons, except when a Health professional is invited to address the children. Children with Special Educational Needs relating to sex education, will have their needs addressed both within the class, and where appropriate, on a one-to-one basis.

Procedures for Reviewing the Effectiveness of the Programme

Topics are reviewed weekly through short-term plans and each term through medium-term plans. Staff and Governors review the Sex and Relationship Education Policy annually. Parents are invited to comment on the policy.

Resources and Criteria used for their Selection

The Sex Education Co-ordinator in consultation with teachers and Governors chooses all resources. Advice is taken from appropriate sources. Parents' comments are taken into consideration.

Specific Issues

Child Sex Abuse Procedure

The Child Protection Procedures as laid down by the LEA are followed. All referrals, whatever their origin, are taken seriously and considered with an open mind, which does not pre-judge the situation. The procedures adopted within the LEA area for handling cases of neglect,

physical, emotional or sexual abuse, and failure to thrive, involving children and young persons, are based on the principle that the interests and welfare of the child or young person are of paramount importance.

Confidentiality should not prevent action being taken if the child is 'at risk'. Teachers listen sympathetically to anything a child tells them in confidence; however, if a teacher believes that a child is at risk, the appropriate people will be contacted – in accordance with the above Child Protection Procedures. A copy of this is available in school for parents.

Child Withdrawal Procedure

Sex education at Europa School is taught across the Curriculum and it is not possible to separate all the sex education lessons. There will be, sometimes, specific lessons at which Health Professionals are invited to address the children in the presence of the class teacher.

Notification is always sent to parents in advance. If parents wish to withdraw a child they should discuss their concerns with the headteacher.

In the event of a child being withdrawn from a lesson, that child is provided with appropriate, challenging work until the sex education lesson is over.

Complaints Procedure

If a parent or guardian has any cause for concern about the Sex Education Policy, they should approach the headteacher and staff. If the concern cannot be resolved, the Governors can be contacted.

Disability Equality Impact Assessment

This policy has been written with reference to and in consideration of the school's Disability Equality Scheme. Assessment will include consideration of issues identified by the involvement of disabled children, staff and parents and any information the school holds on disabled children, staff and parents.