

Willowbrook School Sex and Relationships Policy

Introduction

Willowbrook School promotes health in its widest sense; attending to the physical, social and psychological development of its pupils and the maintenance of good health for all pupils and staff. As part of this, it is considered that the development of the emotions and self-esteem are central to its aims and a key element of this is a carefully considered and constructed Sex and Relationship Policy for all the children in the schools care.

Sex and Relationship Education should happen in partnership with parent. It has become increasingly recognised that Sex and Relationship Education should not be something that is simply 'bolted on' as children go through puberty, but should be gradually developed as an integral part of the curriculum in a way that is appropriate to the age of the child. It is an entitlement for all children, as part of the curriculum requirements of science (life process and living things) and health education. The potentially sensitive nature of the subject means that schools must add moral and social questions alongside. Sex and relationship education is not just about reproduction and sexual behaviour but must also strive to enable children to act responsibly in making and maintaining relationships with others, to feel good about themselves and the choices they make, to develop assertiveness skills and the ability to respect themselves and others.

In the context of Willowbrook School the Sex and Relationship Policy aims to:

- Give clear and appropriate information and knowledge by answering children's questions openly, honestly and appropriately
- Promote positive attitudes and values promoting self-esteem and fostering of individual well-being.
- Promote the necessary skills for effective communication, long and happy relationships and positive behaviour and development.
- Challenge beliefs – often complicated by misinformation.

These aims can only be achieved as a developmental process beginning at the early years at an appropriate level and progressing through childhood and adolescence into adulthood.

Strategy for implementation

Sex and Relationship education is taught as part of the PSHE and science curriculum and will therefore be part of the teaching programme in all key stages.

By the end of Primary School, pupils will have been taught about Families and people who care for them, Caring friendships, Respectful relationships, online relationships and being safe.

All Year groups will follow a half-termly programme for PSHE that incorporates all the requirements of the new statutory guidance (Sept 2020).

Autumn 1: Friendship

Autumn 2: Respect

Spring 1: Safety (including online)

Spring 2: Excellence

Summer 1: Teamwork

Summer 2: Health and Relationships

Whenever possible health professionals, especially the school nurse will work in partnership with the school and may come into school to discuss issues with children.

We also treat questions that the children ask with sensitivity. A question box is available in Key Stage 2 where the children can 'post' questions that will be responded to. Children's questions will be answered appropriately and honestly. However, some issues raised may be inappropriate for teachers to answer and it will be suggested that they are discussed within the family unit.

The material used is available for viewing in school by any parents wishing to do so. If there are any parental concerns we will be happy to discuss them.

Inclusion

This policy is written with the inclusion of all pupils in mind. Its content will be differentiated to accommodate all levels of ability.

We will respect the beliefs of parents who wish to withdraw their child from a sex education programme. Parents cannot, however, withdraw their child from aspects of sex education which are part of the National Curriculum. We will engage in a positive dialogue with a view to illustrating to parents the relevance and importance of such a programme to their child.

Parents who wish to exclude their child from a sex and relationship education programme will be asked to do so in writing to the Headteacher.

Finally

Sexually development is a natural process, just one aspect of growing up emotionally, socially and physically. Each is an integral part of growing to adulthood and independence.

Our policy enables children to understand their own development and to reflect upon their own relationship in positive ways.

Ultimately the teaching and learning is about the promotion of self-esteem and the fostering of individual well-being. Children will be given credit for their ideas and opportunities to reflect upon their own experiences and review their learning.

- We believe that sex education should happen in partnership with parents. As with all other areas of our school, a positive effort will be made to inform and involve parents at all stages of the sex and relationship education delivered in our school. Where appropriate we also hope to provide advice to parents on how to talk to children.
- It is recognised that sex and relationship education is part of the more general area of Personal, Social and Health Education and that this area is considered important and valuable throughout the school.
- It is recognised that there are appropriate bodies of knowledge for an appropriate age or stage of readiness.
- A meeting will be held with parents to explain the school's Sex and Relationship curriculum.
- Sex and Relationship Education in Willowbrook School will deal with sexuality in the broader context for procreation, growth and maturing.
- We will respect the beliefs of parents who wish to withdraw their child from a sex education programme. Parents cannot, however, withdraw their children from aspects of sex education which are part of the National Curriculum.
- We will attempt to convince parents of the relevance and importance of such a programme for their child.