

St. Michael's Academy Policy for Sex Education	Date signed off: May 2015
	Review Date: Spring term 2017

The format of this policy follows that described in Annex C of the DFEE circular 116/2000 'Sex and Relationship Education Guidance'.

Aims

The school policy is that all pupils are entitled to a comprehensive and well-planned programme of sex education in fulfilment of Section 1 of the 1988 Education Reform Act. This states that the school curriculum should:

- a) promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical developments of pupils at the school and of society in general and
- b) prepare such pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

Sex education is not simply concerned with biological facts and hygiene. It is concerned with genuinely responsible and caring attitudes to others, with respect for their feelings and their desire for privacy in personal matters, with support in the confusions of growing up and the raising of self-esteem, and with the place of love, faith, honesty, fairness, commitment, prudence and self-control as the foundation of a happy and fulfilling life.

Objectives

- to provide a supportive context in which pupils can freely express their personal thoughts and concerns, either in a group or confidentially, to listen to them, and to offer help and support.
- to provide information about physical and emotional changes in growing-up, about the physical and emotional nature of sexual activity and its consequences, and about the needs of and responsibilities towards offspring. Also as appropriate, to provide understanding of related matters reported in the media
- to dispel myths, misinformation and the depersonalised attitude to sexual matters prevalent in the media and elsewhere.
- to help children develop attitudes and values that are conducive to fruitful relationships with others and a happy and fulfilling life, and to raise their self-esteem.
- to remain sensitive to the variety of family situations, parental attitudes and personal differences among the children.
- to provide a healthy school environment in accordance with the National Healthy School Standard (NHSS)
- to enable pupils to acquire knowledge and make informed decisions.
- to work with parents and governors in the dissemination of information on SRE and develop a partnership approach thus ensuring every child receives the best SRE.

Signed by Chair of Governors.....Date.....

Equal Opportunities

Sex education will be available for all pupils regardless of gender, culture or disability, in an atmosphere of mutual respect. The resources used will be free of cultural bias wherever possible and avoid gender stereotyping.

Organisation

Each Team will be responsible for planning and delivering particular aspects of the school's sex education programme to all pupils of an appropriate age in the team, with the full support of other members of staff wherever it is called for.

Teaching Methods

Delivery of this policy is within the framework of Personal, Health, Social Education (PHSE) and citizen guidelines, as well as being addressed within the Science Curriculum. A range of approaches will be used by class teachers, including exploring pupil's ideas through small group or whole-class discussion, the provision of information, and use of written and video material. The use of appropriate language and the need for mutual respect in expressing ideas will be discussed with the pupils. Issues around puberty are addressed from year 5.

The main resources used will be:

- Channel 4 – Living and Growing
- 'Health for Life', Nelson, ISBN 0-17-423111-3
- 'Knowing Me, Knowing You', LDA Publications, ISBN 1-8550071-3
- Lesson plans

These have been viewed by teachers and governors and agreed to be suitable. Parents may view them by request.

Specific Issues

The school's approach to sex education is to be sensitive to the age and maturity of the pupils, but to be matter-of-fact where appropriate. It should reflect the reality of young people's lives today, especially the influences of television, dvd and young people's literature.

Where controversial topics are involved, teachers are expected to use professional judgement and should have regard for this policy, it being accepted that teachers are not usually health professionals or trained counsellors.

Confidentiality and Child Protection Issues

- Any disclosures of being the victim of abuse made to members of staff will be directed to the designated Child Protection Officer, our Principal, Miss Judith Barrett who will make the decision to inform further agencies as deemed necessary.
- The school has a child protection policy that is available from the school office.

Working with Parents

The school will consult closely with parents regarding the provision of a sex education programme which is appropriate to the age and maturity of their children and reflects current realities and concerns.

Signed by Chair of Governors.....Date.....

We aim to ensure that sex and relationships education is rooted in partnership between school, homes and the community.

Parents cannot withdraw their children from those parts of the sex education programme that are required under the National Curriculum. However, they may withdraw their children from other parts dealing explicitly with aspects of human sexuality, and they will be given the opportunity to do so in advance. The school requests that they do not do so without discussing the basis of their concerns with the Principal beforehand. Parents should feel free to discuss any such issues with the Principal, in confidence, at any time by appointment.

Morals & Values

The school believes that sex and relationships education is a prime concern of parents and carers, supported by schools and community members. It should be based on a broad values system which encourages:

- Respect for self
- Respect for others
- Responsibility for one's own actions
- Responsibility for our families, friends, school and wider community.

This sex education policy reflects the ethos of the school's behavioural policy.

Monitoring and Evaluation of the Policy

The effectiveness of the programme will be reviewed every two years and reported on to the governors. Year 5 and 6 teachers to report to governors at the end of the school year.

Signed by Chair of Governors.....Date.....