

Chadwell Heath Academy

A Specialist Mathematics, Computing, Science and Media Arts College



SEX EDUCATION POLICY

Introduction

The Governing Body believes that all pupils should have equal access to sex education which: “promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils and prepares them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.” (DFE circular 5/94)

Sex education should provide pupils with factual knowledge and an understanding of the influences on young people, encouraging them to be aware of the options open to them and to take charge of decisions about their own behaviour. It should encourage the development of personal and interpersonal skills, the awareness and respect of self and others, reflection and responsibility. Staff will endeavour to give clear and factual delivery of sex education and group advice, within the context of the family.

1. Aims

To nurture emotional and social development in order that pupils may:

- develop and maintain self esteem,
- understand the nature of sexuality,
- develop and maintain relationships,
- protect their health and that of others,
- express their feelings,
- make informed and assertive decisions,
- take responsibility for their sexual behaviour.

2. The Programme

The programme will provide knowledge about the processes of reproduction and human growth as part of the National Curriculum in science. All pupils must follow this programme.

The PSE programme will deal with the nature of sexuality and relationships. It will encourage the acquisition of skills and attitudes that allow pupils to manage their relationships in a responsible and healthy manner and to provide them with parenting skills for later in life. The programme will be carefully structured and will show continuity between the years. The programme will be delivered within a moral framework. As well as knowledge and information, pupils will be encouraged to consider the importance of the following values, which are derived from the school's value system:

- respect and value of themselves and others;
- understanding and sensitivity towards the needs and views of others;
- responsibility for their own actions; and
- responsibility to the school, their family and the wider community.

The value of family life is an important aspect with emphasis on stability, respect, caring and support.

As part of the sex education programme issues of contraception, HIV/AIDS, sexuality, unwanted pregnancies and abortion will be addressed. Facts are presented in an objective and balanced way, with pupils being encouraged to consider their attitudes and values. Pupils will be made aware of the differences between fact, opinion, and cultural and religious beliefs.

The process of sex education is a combination of sharing of information, exploration of issues and attitudes and development of interpersonal skills. It will include:

- gaining knowledge,
- thinking about relationships,
- developing personal attitudes, values and self-esteem,
- learning skills which will help form and maintain relationships,
- building confidence in making the best decisions.

3. Content

Over a five-year period, the following areas will be covered:

- physical and emotional changes that take place at adolescence,
- the science of human reproduction,
- relationships with adults and peers in dealing with emotions, moods, social behaviour and responsibilities,
- contraception and moral responsibilities,
- awareness of sexually transmitted diseases.

4. Methods of Teaching and Learning

The methods of teaching will include presentations and small group discussion, visiting speakers, the use of worksheets, videos and textbooks.

5. Advice to Pupils

Advice on sexual matters, e.g. contraception or other aspects of sexual behaviour, cannot be given to the under sixteen's on a one-to-one basis. Staff should encourage pupils to speak to their parents/guardians.

6. Monitoring and Evaluation

This policy will be evaluated regularly. When appropriate, parents have the right to raise issues with Heads of Year to discuss particular problems that may arise relating to the teaching of sex education.

It will be the responsibility of each Head of Year to ensure that staff have had sufficient training to undertake this programme and that each tutor group is completing the programme.

7. Withdrawal from Lessons

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from this part of the PSE programme and alternative arrangements will be made for their children's supervision.