



SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION POLICY

St Edmund's School is a girls-only secondary school for students between the ages of 11 and 16 of mixed ability. The number on roll averages 780, with students coming from a wide catchment area, including many rural parts of Wiltshire. The Salisbury area is relatively affluent, although there are significant pockets of deprivation. The majority of the students are white and their religion is Christian, but there are a few students of other races and/or religions.

St Edmund's is a Church of England Academy Trust and places great value on its caring ethos. Our mission statement states that 'we aim to provide a secure but challenging Christian environment in which students develop academically, physically, socially, emotionally and spiritually, enabling them to enjoy this special time in their lives whilst equipping them for life's opportunities, challenges and demands.

1. Definition of sex and relationship education

St Edmund's School is committed to quality sex and relationships education in line with national guidelines. Its purpose is to support students emotionally; to give students necessary information; to promote confidence and self-esteem and to instil self-respect and respect for others.

Sex and Relationships Education is presented in a context that values stable relationships and healthy living. It is set within the wider context of PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education).

"It is lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality, and sexual health." *Sex and Relationship Education Guidance DfE 0116/2000*

We do not use sex education as a means for promoting any form of sexual orientation.

2. Provision of sex and relationship education and who is responsible for providing it

The sex education elements contained in the National Curriculum Science orders are mandatory for all students of primary and secondary age. Sex education in the National Science Curriculum covers anatomy, puberty and biological aspects of sexual reproduction. SRE provided in the PSHE and Citizenship curriculum is complementary to and distinct from the Science curriculum.

Students with special educational needs and learning difficulties are included in SRE.

3. Confidentiality:

- Teachers who conduct sex and relationship education do so in a sensitive manner and in confidence.
- All staff are aware of the rules of confidentiality and reporting.
- The teachers do not offer students unconditional confidentiality. If a child makes a reference to being involved, or likely to be involved in sexual activity, then the teacher will take the matter seriously and deal with it as a matter of child protection (see Child Protection Policy).
- Teachers should explain and reinforce the need for ground rules in lessons to protect students from making inappropriate personal disclosures.

4. Parents' right to withdraw their child from SRE

Section 405 of the Education Act 1996 provides the right of parental withdrawal from all or part of SRE provided at school except for those parts included in the National Curriculum. If a parent wishes their child to be withdrawn from SRE lessons, they should:

- ask to see a copy of the schools Sex and Relationships policy and schemes of work;
- ask the school for an appointment to see a member of staff concerning withdrawing the child from SRE;
- following the meeting if the parents still wish to withdraw the child they will be asked to put the request in writing stating which aspects of the programme they do not wish their child to participate in.

5. How this policy reflects the views of students, listening to and responding to the views of young people

- We listen to the views of the children in our school regarding sex education,
- Students are asked to evaluate modules of work in order that feedback is received enabling the Co-ordinator to regularly review the curriculum content so that it fits the needs of the young people receiving it.
- Students are encouraged to talk openly and their questions answered honestly in a way that respects diversity of cultures and family forms.

6. Parental involvement in the development and review of the policy

The school is well aware that the primary role in children's sex education lies with parents and carers. We wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents of children at our school through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation. In promoting this objective we:

- Inform parents about the school's sex education policy and practice
- Answer any questions that parents may have about the sex education of their child
- Take seriously any issue that parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy or the arrangements for sex education in the school

7. Working with outside agencies/partnerships

We encourage other valued members of the community to work with us to provide advice and support to the children with regard to health education. In particular, members of the Local Health Authority, such as the school nurse and other health professionals, give us valuable support with our sex education programme.

We look positively at any local initiatives that support us in providing the best sex and relationship education teaching programme that we can devise.

8. Aims

To prepare young people for an adult life in which they can:

- Develop positive values and a moral framework
- Be aware of their sexuality and understand human sexuality
- Understand the arguments for delaying sexual activity and for having protected sex
- Understand the consequences of their actions and behave responsibly
- Have the confidence and self esteem to value themselves and others
- Communicate effectively
- Have information and skills to protect themselves and their partner from unwanted conceptions and sexually transmitted infections
- Avoid being exploited or exploiting others or being pressured into unwanted or unprotected sex
- Access confidential sexual health advice/support/treatment
- Know how the law applies to sexual relationships

This policy was approved by the Governors' Ethos Committee at their meeting in January 2013.

Date for Review of Policy: Spring 2015.