



School Policy

Sex Education Policy

School ethos and values statement

At The Downley School we believe that the curriculum is the totality of the lived experience as they move through the school. We strive to achieve this through the Irresistible Curriculum Immersive approach.

Our belief is in the development of the whole child and school community through ***'Learning, Growing and Succeeding together'***. Our vision is ***'to equip every child with the knowledge and self-belief to be happy'***.

We are a Values-based school and we are committed to providing a holistic approach to education which aims to support the academic, cultural, personal and social development of all our pupils. From September 2020 statutory Relationships Education and Health Education will be part of the taught curriculum within PSHE. This is an essential part of a child's education and contributes to their personal development. Sex education is not statutory at primary but recommended by the DfE. We teach Sex Education as part of our Relationships Education within the planned PSHE curriculum.

Aims of the Sex Education policy

All primary schools offering Sex Education are required to define any sex education they choose to teach other than that covered in the science curriculum, outline the subject content, how it will be taught and who is responsible for teaching it, and state the parental/carers right to withdraw from non-statutory sex education lessons and the protocols established by the school to facilitate this. Schools are also required to consult with parents with regard to this policy and to work with parents, offering support in talking to their children about sex education and how to link this to what is being taught in school. It is the statutory responsibility of the Governing body to ensure that the school has a compliant and up-to-date Sex Education Policy.

The aim of this policy is to

- Provide information to staff, parents and carers, governors, pupils and other agencies regarding the organisation, content and approach to teaching Sex Education

- Help parents and carers to understand what is covered in Sex Education and support them to work with their child to secure the very best outcomes for all pupils
- Demonstrate how the school meets legal requirements with regards to teaching Sex Education

Legal requirements

To comply with The Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education (England) Regulations 2019, made under sections 34 and 35 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017, make Relationships Education compulsory for all pupils receiving primary education. They also make Health Education compulsory in all schools except independent schools.

To comply with the Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education statutory guidance from the DfE (June 2019)

To comply with the requirements to have an up-to-date Sex Education policy/RSE policy developed in consultation with pupils, parents and carers (Education Act 1996) and in line with the DfE statutory guidance on Relationships Education, RSE and Health Education (June 2019)

To have due regard to the Equality Act (2010) which requires schools to prevent discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different groups. The protected characteristics that apply to school age children are disability, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity.

To fulfil statutory safeguarding duties and ensure any safeguarding issues arising from Relationships/Sex Education teaching are identified and followed in accordance with the school safeguarding policy.

At The Downley School, we teach Sex Education as part of our Relationships and PSHE curriculum. As Sex Education is not statutory at primary we wish to state the right of parents and carers the right to withdraw their child from designated Sex Education lessons. We encourage parents/carers to make an appointment to come in and speak to the Year 6 class teacher/PSHE Lead /Head about any concerns you may have. Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing using the form in Appendix 3.

Parents and carers do not have the right to withdraw their child from PSHE which includes statutory Relationships Education and Health Education (including the changing adolescent body/puberty). The science curriculum also includes content on human development, including reproduction, from which there is not right to withdraw. We highly recommend all students receive the full PSHE curriculum.

Development of the policy

This policy is to be developed by the PSHE Lead in consultation with staff, governors, parents and carers.

PSHE Lead met and consulted with a 'working party' of staff, parents and governors

Staff Consulted and given the opportunity to look at the policy and make recommendations
Parents Consulted and given the opportunity to look at the policy on school website and make recommendations as well as opportunity to view webpage resources

This policy links to the PSHE policy, Relationships Education policy, Citizenship Policy, RE Policy, Child Protection Policy, Anti-Bullying Policy, Equalities Policy and the School Behaviour Policy.

We aim to work collaboratively with parents and carers to ensure pupils receive Sex Education lessons that are relevant and age appropriate and sensitive to the needs of the community we serve. We welcome parents and carers to make an appointment to come in and discuss any aspect of this policy and the provision in our school. Parents are invited to the Sex and Relationship Information meeting in Year 6 prior to lessons commencing.

Definition of Sex Education

Sex Education at The Downley School is taught through the PSHE curriculum as part of Relationships Education. Sex Education is taught in addition to the statutory science curriculum and provides factual and age appropriate knowledge about conception and birth. In preparation for secondary RSE curriculum, sex education teaches pupils to recognise the difference between intimate and non-intimate relationships, promotes healthy committed relationships including marriage, consent and the values and responsibilities required to build healthy adult relationships. It also teaches pupils for marriage and consensual sexual relationships, to recognise their right to their own physical and emotional personal space, how to keep themselves safe, and how to report concerns or issues. Puberty education is part of statutory Health Education and parents/carers do not have the right to withdraw their child from this aspect of the curriculum.

The curriculum

Intent

Why teach Sex Education?

The DfE states in the statutory Relationships, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education guidance (page 23)

‘It is important that the transition phase before moving to secondary school supports pupils’ ongoing emotional and physical development effectively. The department continues to recommend that all primary schools have a sex education programme tailored to the age and the physical and emotional maturity of the pupils. It should ensure that both boys and girls are prepared for the changes that adolescence brings and – drawing on knowledge from the national curriculum for science – how a baby is conceived and born’.

- To build on pupils’ existing knowledge and experience of their bodies and their understanding of relationships and the world around them, in a responsible and developmentally appropriate way.

- To help children to be more able to manage puberty which is revisited as part of the Sex Education programme, and to develop the necessary life skills and self-esteem to become confident adults.
- To enable children to understand about the way humans reproduce.
- To teach children to respect and value their own bodies.
- To teach children about the importance of loving relationships and family life.
- To explore attitudes, values and relationship issues.
- To teach children to respect the views of other people.
- To address concerns and misunderstandings children may have gained from the media and their peers.
- To prepare children for entering adolescence.
- To lay the foundation for PSHE education at KS3 and KS4.
- To develop the skills to help to help pupils protect themselves against unwanted sexual experience.
- To ensure children understand what they should do if they are worried about sexual matters.
- To ensure that all pupils, including those with special educational needs (SEN), have this entitlement

High quality Sex Education will support pupils to:

- Be taught factual and correct information about how a baby is conceived and born
- Explore in a safe and managed environment questions they have about puberty and give them an age appropriate understanding of sexual development
- Understand that all intimate relationships should be consensual and based on love and respect
- Understand the law and be taught that intimate relationships are for consenting adults
- Understand the importance of marriage and committed relationships and learn about different cultural and religious aspects to this
- Recognising and establish their own personal boundaries, and privacy relating to their own bodies (and are taught the scientific vocabulary for all body parts)
- Dispel myths and incorrect information about sex and how a baby is conceived and born
- Recognise unhealthy relationships, inappropriate behaviour and to report concerns or abuse, including signposting to trusted online support services such as Childline
- Ask a trusted adult rather than go online with regards to any concerns or questions they may have and avoid viewing any inappropriate material or entering into social media conversations

Implementation

Sex Education is delivered through the Relationships curriculum as part of PSHE education. To ensure the content and delivery of sex education is appropriate and relevant to our pupils we use simple baselines to ascertain what pupils already know and find out about what they would like to learn. See Appendix 1

Distancing techniques are used to teach relationships education, which provides depersonalised examples which support children to explore what is being taught without sharing their own personal experiences in the lesson.

What we use

We use the PSHE Association programme of study as a basis for teaching PSHE. We use The Medway resources (PSHE Association approved) to deliver Sex education. These and any other materials are to view in school.

Who teaches this?

Year Six Class teachers teach Sex Education. We ensure that there are two adults in the classroom when these lessons are taught. This is a series of 4 x one-hour sessions, boys and girls taught together in the term of Spring 2 of Year Six.

When?

As part of The Medway programme, lesson 4 'How babies are made', boys and girls are taught together in the term of Summer 2 of Year Six. Parents will be invited to a parents' meeting prior to the session.

How delivery and content will be made accessible to all pupils including SEND

Teachers will differentiate their lessons accordingly so that the content is accessible to all pupils, including SEND and PP.

Managing Difficult Questions

All aspects of PSHE are underpinned by shared and with understood ground rules (see appendix 2) with lessons being delivered in a safe and well managed environment. Pupils are encouraged to ask questions and raise issues in a respectful and appropriate manner. Some questions or issues raised may not be appropriately answered in whole class lessons and these are followed up separately on an individual or group basis. A question box is available for pupils who do not feel confident to ask questions or wish to have a separate conversation with a member of staff. Given ease of access to the internet, children whose questions go unanswered may turn to inappropriate sources of information.

Whilst it is vital to have trust and openness we cannot offer total confidentiality to pupils. Any disclosure or areas of concern will be followed up in accordance with our safeguarding

procedures. We also respect that some questions are better addressed at home with parents/carers and the school will share information with parents/carers on an individual basis should the need arise.

Impact

High quality Sex Education will enable our pupils to:

- Have a factual and age appropriate understanding of how babies are made and born
- Understand that intimate and sexual relationships are a natural part of adult life
- Know who to talk to if they have further questions about sex and intimate relationships
- Be aware of and respect different types of relationships in accordance with the Equalities Act
- Know they will continue to learn about sex education in their secondary school
- Keep themselves safe online, recognising risks, harmful content, and online contact and be able to report any concerns at the earliest stage
- Know how to keep safe by recognising any inappropriate behaviour from others
- Report concerns or abuse and have the confidence, knowledge and vocabulary to do so

Confidentiality and safeguarding

Any personal disclosures made by pupils will be followed up in accordance with the school's child protection policy. Teachers will report any safeguarding concern to the DLS and share concerns with parents/carers according to the school's safeguarding procedures.

Roles and responsibilities

The Governing Body will approve the policy and hold the Headteacher to account for its implementation.

The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring PSHE including Sex Education is taught consistently across the school and for managing requests with regards to the parental right to withdraw for non-statutory Sex Education.

The PSHE Lead is responsible for leading and managing PSHE which includes statutory Relationships Education. Teachers are responsible for delivering PSHE.

Pupils are expected to fully engage with PSHE provision including sex education and treat others with respect.

Working with outside agencies and visiting speakers

All outside agencies and visiting speakers will be vetted and school protocol shared with them.

Monitoring, evaluation and training

Sex Education will be monitored and evaluated by the PSHE Lead, SLT and Governors in line with the monitoring cycle agreed by the school. The Sex Education policy will be reviewed annually. To ensure that staff are confident to deliver all aspects of the PSHE curriculum including Sex Education, access to online, in school, local and national training will be made available and in accordance with the school's CPD programme for staff development.

Working with parents and carers (consulting, informing and supporting)

We wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with parents through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation. We keep parents and carers informed about when sex education will take place. In promoting these objectives there will be an opportunity for:

- Parent's Information meeting prior to lessons starting
- Leaflets and guidance for parents and carers from the PSHE Association on the school website
- Parents and carers are welcome to make an appointment to view materials used to teach sex education.
- Respect for the right of parents to withdraw their child from the non-statutory designated sex education lessons.

Parents and carers are only entitled to withdraw their child from designated sex education lessons. Parents and carers do not have the right to withdraw their child from PSHE which includes statutory Relationships Education and Health Education (including the changing adolescent body/puberty). The science curriculum also includes content on human development, including reproduction, from which there is no right to withdraw from. We highly recommend all students receive the full PSHE curriculum. Parents and carers who wish to withdraw their child from designated sex education will be asked to come in, meet with class teacher and complete a simple form to confirm this. See Appendix 5

PSHE Lead, including Sex and Relationships Education

Susie Bojarski

March 2020

Policy review date

March 2021

Appendix 1
PSHE curriculum overview

Appendix 2
Ground rules PSHE Association

Appendix 3
DfE guide for parents

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education/relationships-education-primary>

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/812593/RSE_primary_schools_guide_for_parents.pdf

Statutory guidance

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-res-and-health-education/relationships-education-primary>

Appendix 4

Sex Education Curriculum – Medway Primary PSHE Education
Relationships and Sex Education Year 6 - an overview

Appendix 5

Letter template for right to withdraw from Sex education