

St Christopher's, Hove
A Brighton College School



SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION POLICY

(This policy also applies to EYFS)

Personnel

The Head of Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHEE) is responsible to the Headmaster for the effective implementation of the PSHEE scheme of work, which includes the formulation of the Sex and Relationships Education Policy. This Policy was formulated following staff consultation and was agreed at a meeting of the Board of Governors on 19th May 2008.

Aims and Objectives

We believe that Sex and Relationships Education is a crucial aspect of our pupils' learning. For younger pupils it is developmental and lays the foundations for further work; for our older pupils, it is an integral part of their development through adolescence and beyond.

Sex and Relationships Education at St Christopher's contributes to the requirements of the Education Reform Act 1988, which stipulates that the curriculum should be one which promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of the pupils at the school and of society, whilst preparing them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life. This Policy was formulated in accordance with the DfEE Sex and Relationship Guidance 2000 and takes account of recent guidance from the Department for Children, School and Families.

The aim of this Policy is to clarify the content and manner in which Sex and Relationships Education is delivered within the curriculum at St Christopher's. It is made available to parents upon request.

Moral and Values Framework

The Sex and Relationships Education programme will reflect the School's aims as illustrated by its Code of Conduct. The PSHEE scheme of work reinforces the ethos and values of St Christopher's:

- To grow as individuals;
- To respect for others;

- To have responsibility for one's own actions in all forms of behaviour;
- To give consideration for others (friends, family, school and the wider community).

Sex and Relationship Education in the Pre-Prep

Sex Education is not taught formally to this age group; however, it is discussed at an appropriate level during circle time and PSHEE lessons whenever issues arise (i.e. a discussion based upon a new baby in the family).

In Science lessons, the sequences of human life are taught, i.e. the development of babies into adults and the life cycles of animals, plants and insects.

Middle and Upper School Sex and Relationship Education Programme

The Sex and Relationships Education programme is co-ordinated by the Head of PSHEE, in conjunction with the Deputy Head Pastoral and the Head of Science. The Head of PSHEE is responsible for the overall planning, implementation and review of the programme.

Delivery is through:

- Planned aspects within the science and PSHEE curriculum;
- Addressing moral and ethical issues that may arise from apparently unrelated topics in both subjects. Within this category, and as long as any discussion takes place within the context of the subject, it will not be deemed to be part of the Sex and Relationships Education Programme and is not therefore subject to parental right of withdrawal;
- Addressing the children occasionally in Assembly.

Teaching Approaches

A variety of approaches are used to give pupils relevant information to enable moral issues to be explored through discussion. Respect for other people is encouraged with particular regard to protected characteristics identified under the Equality Act of 2010 – age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief, sex and sexual orientation.

Pupil Groupings

Pupils are taught in mixed gender and ability classes for PSHEE lessons involving self-esteem, health education, respect for themselves and others and citizenship. When addressing aspects of Sex and Relationships Education, there are occasions when single-sex groupings are used when deemed appropriate. The biological details of sexual reproduction are taught in mixed-gender groups as part of the Science curriculum.

Resources

A variety of teacher resources are used for the delivery of Sex & Relationships Education. These are regularly updated.

Timings

All pupils receive one 20-minute PSHEE lesson each week. Schemes of work are available for this subject. Sex and Relationships Education within the PSHEE scheme of work is taught in Years 5, 6, 7 and 8. In Year 6, human sexual reproduction is covered within the Science curriculum.

- Year 5 pupils are taught about puberty, menstruation and personal hygiene;
- The Year 6 and 7 pupils are taught about sexual intercourse, childbirth and different types of relationships;
- Year 8 pupils discuss the pressures and expectations of relationships, develop their understanding of risk associated with sexual intercourse and learn about contraception.

Parental Involvement

The School wishes parents to feel confident about the delivery of the Sex and Relationships Education programme. The Education Act 1993 permits parents to withdraw their child from those parts of the Sex and Relationships Education programme that are outside the compulsory elements contained within the National Curriculum.

A letter from the Head of PSHEE will be sent in Year 5 and to new pupils joining later to inform parents before a child embarks upon the Sex Education components of the PSHEE scheme of work. This will help to prepare parents for any questions and anxieties that might arise at home. Parents are always welcome to make an appointment with the Head of PSHEE to discuss the content and delivery of Sex & Relationships Education.

Parents who wish to withdraw their child from any part of the Sex and Relationships Education programme should write to the Headmaster. Any pupil withdrawn by his or her parents cannot take part in any aspect of the Sex and Relationships Education programme until the request for removal has been cancelled by parents.

Pastoral Support

During Sex and Relationships PSHEE lessons, pupils will be reminded that pastoral support is always available from members of staff.

Last reviewed: March 2017

Next review: March 2019