

SEX EDUCATION POLICY

AIM / PURPOSE

The aim of the policy is to ensure that sex education is taught with sensitivity through distinct National Curriculum subjects.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

- ◆ Sex education will be in the context of the school ethos of caring relationships based on respect and tolerance as stated in the general aims of the school
- ◆ It will be coherent and comprehensive in coverage, developed from appropriate legislation and structured to ensure that a staged programme is offered to every pupil
- ◆ It will be normal practice that sex education will be delivered to mixed sex teaching groups and that parents should be aware of this. However, in some circumstances, single sex groupings may be appropriate
- ◆ All pupils will receive an entitlement to adequate sex education as detailed above. However, the Governors recognise that opportunities for sex education can arise in a number of curriculum areas
- ◆ In view of the particular nature of sex education it will be detailed as a separate section in the annual curriculum handbook to parents.
- ◆ The Governors recognise the right of parents to withdraw their child from sex education and will ensure that parents are informed of this

SEX EDUCATION AT TRINITY CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

Sex education is taught through a combination of Science, Religious Education and Personal, Social and Health Education.

In Science, pupils receive thorough sex education as part of their Year 7 course which concentrates mainly on the biological aspects including, the human life cycle as required by the National Curriculum and contraception. Education on sexually transmitted diseases and HIV / AIDS is included, although these are not now part of the science orders. This is mainly worksheet based with class discussion and videos where appropriate. Inevitably, there is discussion about personal responsibility and the need for a responsible attitude to sexual behaviour. In Year 9 this is extended and is more academically rigorous and detailed. Contraception is covered in more detail with examples being demonstrated.

In upper school, aspects of sex education occur in several of the SALTERS Science units and mainly concentrate on the biological aspects such as how hormones affect human fertility (which leads to discussion of the contraceptive pill) and HIV. Science teachers will use their professional judgement on defining the division between biological and non-biological aspects of sexual behaviour.

In RE, pupils receive a course in year 7 called "Changing relationships" which aims to enable pupils to develop and reinforce skills, attitudes and understanding in connection with the way individuals relate to one another. In year 9 the theme of relationships is extended to examine the implications of early relationships with boyfriends and girlfriends. The CD-ROM "Facts of Life" is developed by the Science and RE Departments.

In PSHE, as part of health education's input to the tutorial programme, Year 8 girls receive a hygiene talk from a representative from Tampax. The boys also receive a talk on personal hygiene organised by the health education co-ordinator with help from staff who have a commitment to this area. Plans to enrol other health professionals are underway.

The Right of Withdrawal

Parents have a right to withdraw their child from any part of sex education that does not form part of the National Curriculum, for example AIDS, HIV, sexually transmitted diseases and non-biological aspects of sexual behaviour. Parents who wish to withdraw their child from all or part of the sex education programme can do so by writing to the Head at the beginning of the academic year, who will then discuss with the parents the nature of the concern and whether a resolution of the problem can be made. The Head will invite the parents to give reasons for the withdrawal request but it is understood that the parents are not required to do so.

If a child is to be withdrawn it will be done sensitively so as to minimise any disruption to the child's education and to prevent any teasing of the child concerned by other pupils.

The school will continually monitor its sex education programme to see if amendment could reassure concerned parents.

Specific Issues

Confidentiality and contraceptive advice:

As part of the school's sex education programme teachers will provide:

- ◆ education about types of contraception and where they can be obtained.
- ◆ information about where and from whom pupils can receive confidential advice and treatment. (Teachers will not give advice about sexual matters to a child who has been withdrawn from the programme but can give information on how to get such advice.)

Teachers will not promise confidentiality but neither will they break a confidentiality if, according to their professional judgement, the pupil's best interests are served by not doing so unless the Head has instructed otherwise.

AIDS and HIV education (including other sexually transmitted diseases):

This must form part of any sex education programme and so will continue to be taught in Science lessons although it is no longer part of the National Curriculum.

Education about Lesbian and Gay issues:

Section 28 of the Local Government Act 1988 does not apply to schools. Therefore there will be objective discussion of homosexuality when it arises in sex education lessons. In the spirit of the school's aims, teachers will undertake to counteract prejudice and victimisation, and promote self-esteem and a sense of responsibility in our pupils.

Other aspects of sexual behaviour:

In any sex education lesson, matters arise that need careful handling. Teachers will use their professional judgement and will treat any sensitive issues carefully.

Using outside visitors:

The school is positive about using health professionals to enhance its sex education programme. Such visitors will be made aware of the ethos of Trinity and its sex education policy. They will be expected to provide lesson plans / schemes and information on how the work will be followed up. They may work with a teacher in the classroom or occasionally work with small groups of pupils on their own.

MONITORING & EVALUATION

This will be achieved through the various subject co-ordinators and discussions at Leadership Team. Any changes to the policy will be the responsibility of the Curriculum Committee.