



Dixons City Academy

Policy Documentation

Policy: Sex Education

Responsibility for Review:
Vice Principal - Ethos & Aspiration
Academy Nurse
Date of Last Review: July 2015

Sex Education

Statement of Policy

The Academy is committed to ensuring that all students should be offered the opportunity of receiving a comprehensive, well-planned programme of sex education; the Academy believes that high quality sex education is an essential part of schooling which supports young people's development and prepares them for adult life.

The aims are to:

- promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical developments of students so that all may enjoy and achieve
- prepare the students for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life so that they may make a positive contribution to society
- to encourage health-promoting behaviour
- complement and be supportive to the role of parents and have regard to parents' views about its content and presentation; and ensure students have the information to make informed, healthy and safe life choices

The sex education programme will reflect the Academy ethos and demonstrate and encourage the following values:

- personal responsibility in all forms of behaviour
- self-esteem and confidence
- respect and consideration for others
- provide support and information for young people and their parents

Procedures:

The Academy has an on-going programme of sex education throughout Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4 and Post-16. This programme is regularly updated and reviewed. The programme will be delivered through National Curriculum Science lessons and through the Academy Tutorial and Guidance programme. The topics covered in each key stage are:

Key Stage 3

Year 7

- Relationships in general as an introduction to sex education and recognising the importance of personal choice in managing relationships so that they do not present risks
- self worth and image
- biological reproduction in humans, development of a baby in the womb, as required by the Science National Curriculum
- extract from National Curriculum Key Stage 3 document
“about the physical and emotional changes that take place during adolescence, the human reproductive system, including the menstrual cycle and fertilisation, how the foetus develops in the uterus, including the role of the placenta.”

Year 8

- Understand the concept of stereotyping and identifying its various forms
- health and the human body in Science

Year 9

- Laws about sex and moral attitudes to sexuality and awareness of the range of sexual attitudes and behaviours in present day society
- decision making
- HIV, AIDS and sexually transmitted infections
- differing sexual images in the media

Key Stage 4

- family planning and contraception – the advantages and disadvantages
- general health care and sexually transmitted infections
- HIV and AIDS
- in Science the National Curriculum covers aspects of hormonal control, including aspects of sex hormones and the medical use of hormones

Post –16

At Post-16 the work done in the earlier key stages is reinforced and expanded upon, preparing students for the adult world. It extends the topics touched on earlier into real life situations. The Year 12 students will be involved in assemblies and preparing material for use in lower years.

Information through other National Curriculum Subjects

Parents must be aware that, through other National Curriculum subjects such as English, Drama and History, controversial issues may come up and therefore require a certain amount of discussion. Within this category, as long as any discussion takes place within the context of the subject, it will not be deemed to be part of the sex education programme and therefore not subject to parental right of withdrawal. However, the Academy holds the belief that staff will deal both sensitively and professionally with any issues which arise in the classroom.

A number of these issues are mentioned below

- Birth, contraception, child-rearing, abortion and technological developments which involve consideration of attitudes, beliefs, values and morality
- awareness of the availability of statutory and voluntary organisations which offer support in human relationships, such as Relate
- awareness that feeling positive about sexuality and sexual activity is important in relationships and understanding the changing nature of sexuality over time and its impact upon lifestyles, such as the menopause
- awareness of partnerships, marriage and divorce and the impact of loss, separation and bereavement
- discussion of issues such as sexual harassment in terms of their effect on individuals

The Parental Right of Withdrawal from lessons where these issues are being addressed

By working closely with parents, our experience has shown that we have convinced them of the value of sex education for their children. We are optimistic that this situation will continue.

Parents now have the right to withdraw their children from their sex education although not from those elements which are in National Curriculum Science. If a parent wishes to withdraw a child from these classes, they are asked to discuss it with the Principal or Deputy Principal to be clear about what the student will do when withdrawn. It should be made clear, however, that if students who are withdrawn from sex education ask questions at other times, these questions will be answered honestly by staff.

Use of Outside Visitors

It is anticipated that professionals from outside Academy will be involved in teaching the sex education programme at certain times. Every visitor or professional speaker involved in this programme will be made aware of the sex education policy of this Academy. The Academy Management exercises great care in the choice of external speakers.

Information

Parents are informed of the Academy's sex education policy through the Academy Handbook and the Year 7 Information Booklet. The Academy will also inform parents when their child is due to receive sex education and all parents will have the opportunity to raise and discuss concerns about the Academy Sex Education Programme at PTA meetings.

Monitoring and Reviewing

- Sex Education will be monitored by the Vice Principal and the Heads of Year continually and adjusted as necessary