

Relationships and Sex Education Policy

MARINE ACADEMY PRIMARY POLICIES

VERSION CONTROL SHEET

POLICY NAME: Relationships and Sex Education Policy

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Document date	Filename	Meeting submitted	Summary of changes required
03-06-13	MAP2 Relationships and Sex Education Policy	NA	New policy

SEX EDUCATION POLICY

The Philosophy of the Academy

The academy's philosophy aims to provide a stimulating and caring environment in which each child may experience high standards of education and preparation for the future, working in partnership with parents and the local community. The Policy for Sex Education is written in accordance with this philosophy.

The Social, Ethnic and Religious Mix of the Academy

Ernesettle Community aims to fulfill the educational needs of as wide a group of children as are represented in the local community. The children come from a varied cross section of the local community and represent different social ethnic and religious values, beliefs and customs.

Aims and Objectives of the Policy

- To reassure children of their value and self-worth including aspects of dignity, self respect and self-restraint
- To nurture a responsible attitude towards personal relationships including aspects of mutual respect and care and to develop sensitivity towards the needs of others encompassing fidelity and loyalty
- To provide knowledge of loving relationships
- To provide knowledge of human reproductive processes
- To inform children on matters of personal hygiene and related health issues
- To encourage exploration of values and moral issues taking into account physical and moral risks associated with certain behaviour
- To educate against discrimination and prejudice
- To empower children to make informed choices about sex

Moral and Values Framework

The Sex Education Policy will be sensitive towards the established morals and values framework of all the major world religions and philosophies. In its

implementation, it will draw from the practical experiences of those who represent the various religious and philosophical groups within the local community. The Sex Education Policy will be complementary with the Religious Education Policy of the academy.

Content Headings for Academy Sex Education Programme

Governors and teaching staff will take particular care to ensure that the teaching materials used will be of a very high quality and that they, and the aspects of the topics covered, will be appropriate to the needs and ages of the pupils at Marine Academy Primary, within the context of moral considerations and the value of family life.

The content outline is as follows:

Family Life; Information about the many family patterns

The Human Body; Biological information including that about sexual organs and sexual responses

Reproduction; Conception, pregnancy, birth, childcare and parenthood

Human Development; Childhood and ageing, puberty and adulthood, menstruation and menopause (to include hygiene)

Equal Opportunities

In support of the equal opportunities policy all Ernesettle Community pupils regardless of age, ability, sex or race will have the same opportunities to benefit from the sex education resources and teaching methods.

Organisation of Academy Sex Education

Who Will Teach It?

All teaching staff (class teachers) will teach the factual content. Other members of staff from Marine Academy Primary will answer direct questions and be aware of the Sex Education Policy.

Methodology and Approach

This subject will be taught in a cross-curricular way, encompassing all of the elements within the National Curriculum as well as expanding more broadly into human relationships, human and physical development and reproduction, risks of sexual activity and sexuality.

Teachers will answer children's direct questions in an open and factual way.

Teachers will not enter into discussions about personal issues and lifestyles.

Specific Classroom Arrangements

Sex education will be taught predominantly in mixed sex classes, except in Upper KS2 (Year 5 & 6) where boys and girls will also have the opportunity to discuss issues separately. Children will know that they are free to question further and discuss issues with their own or another teacher.

Curriculum Entitlement

Due to the cross-curricular nature of the subject, it will be discussed or taught as and when it arises through normal topic work. In addition, there will be separate blocks of work for Year 6 pupils. The programme will specifically address the issues of physical changes during puberty and focus on the range of issues addressed in the Sex Education Programme detailed above. Children with special educational needs relating to sex education will have their needs addressed both within the class, and where appropriate, on a one-to-one basis.

Procedures for Reviewing the Effectiveness of the Programme

Topics will be reviewed weekly through short-term plans and termly through long-term plans. Staff and governors will review the Sex Education Policy annually.

Resources and Criteria Used for their Selection

The PSME Co-ordinator, in consultation with teachers and governors, will choose all resources. Advice will be taken from area advisers and other professionals. Parents' comments will be taken into consideration.

Specific Issues

Child Sex Abuse Procedure

The Child Protection Procedures as laid down by Plymouth LA will be followed. All referrals, whatever their origin, must be taken seriously and must be considered with an open mind, which does not pre-judge the situation. The procedures adopted within the Plymouth LA area for handling cases of neglect, physical, emotional, sexual abuse and failure to thrive involving children and young persons, are based on the principle that the interests and welfare of the child or young person are of paramount importance.

Confidentiality must not prevent action if the child is 'at risk'. Teachers will listen sympathetically to anything a child tells them in confidence. However, if a teacher

feels that a child is at risk then the appropriate people will be contacted in accordance with the above Child Protection Procedures, a copy of which is available for parents in the academy. Guidance on child protection issues is contained in the academy's Child Protection policy and Staff Handbook.

Child Withdrawal Procedure

Sex Education at Ernesettle Community is to be taught across the curriculum and it will not be possible to separate out all the Sex Education lessons. There will however, be occasional specific lessons which could include Health Professionals being invited to address the children in the presence of the class teacher. Notification will always be sent to parents in advance of such lessons. If, as a parent, you feel it necessary to withdraw your child please arrange to come to the academy and discuss your concerns with the Headteacher.

In the event of a child being withdrawn from a lesson, that child must stay in the academy and will be assigned to another class until the sex education lesson is over.

Complaints Procedure

If you have any cause for concern about the Sex Education Policy, please come into the academy to resolve the problem, as soon as possible, with the Headteacher and staff. In the unlikely event that the concern cannot be dealt with, the Governors and then the LA can be contacted.

Procedures for the Involvement of Health Professionals and Visitors

All visiting Health Professionals and other visitors will only be involved in the implementation of the Sex Education Policy after detailed consultation concerning lesson content and method of teaching. An academy staff member will remain in the lesson throughout.

Working with Parents

The Policy will be available in the academy for all parents to inspect and information about the Policy is included in the prospectus, so that parents of potential pupils are fully aware of the academy's position in this matter.

Parents of Year 6 children will be invited to visit the academy to see the teaching materials and ask questions prior to the lessons being taught.

Dissemination of the Policy

The Policy will be presented to all staff and a copy given to them. A copy of the Policy will be available to parents on request.

Evaluation of Program

Children and staff will be asked to evaluate the content and delivery of the programme.