



Sex and Relationship Education Policy

This policy also applies to the Early Years' Foundation Stage and Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014

Introduction

St Margaret's School provides a programme of Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) which reflects the DfES Guidance of July 2000. This policy is due to be updated in line with the changes in SRE requirements due to become mandatory in September 2020.

This current policy was drawn up by the teachers responsible for the teaching of PHSE and Science in the Senior School in consultation with the Principal.

SRE in the Junior School is taught through the PHSE and Citizenship programme and delivered by the class teachers and/or the Deputy Head.

The policy acknowledges that all people have differing:

- Experience
- Religious views
- Philosophical views
- Orientation

The above will naturally have a bearing on pupils' attitudes to sex and relationships. It is an integral part of this policy that all pupils' opinions will be respected and that no-one should feel intimidated or unduly influenced when stating their views. This respect for others is an essential part of the school ethos.

Aims of the Policy

This policy aims to enable pupils to:

- Learn about physical development and understand the process of human reproduction
- Develop healthy and fulfilling relationships and feel positive about their sexuality
- Make informed choices
- Be aware of the dangers of unprotected sex
- Be aware of differing types of contraception
- Respect other people's views and behaviour

The Policy and Parents

St Margaret's School acknowledges the dual responsibility of school and parents to provide information, guidance and support over these matters. The school will endeavour to provide a framework in which the pupils feel comfortable when discussing issues arising from and related to Sex Education.

Parents will be informed in advance, by letter, of the content of forthcoming lessons and have the right to withdraw their daughter from any or all of the Sex Education provided by the school, apart from that which is included in the National Curriculum. In practical terms, this will mean that they may not withdraw their daughters from lessons which approach Sex Education from a Scientific standpoint.



Confidentiality

The teacher running a sex education lesson is not in a position to promise that all information that might emerge will be kept confidential. If, for example, some information were to emerge about sexual abuse, the teacher would not be in a position to guarantee keeping such information confidential, although she would not be bound by law to break such confidence either. The determining factor here is the nature of priorities as determined by our Child Protection Policy. The school also provides a counsellor who is able to offer support and advice to pupils who may, with parental permission, be referred by a member of staff with agreement of the Principal.

The Delivery of the Curriculum

Year 6

- Puberty

Year 7

Science

- Male and female sexual anatomy
- The menstrual cycle
- Human reproduction
- Pregnancy
- Physical changes during puberty

PSHE

- Changing bodies – physical changes

Year 8

PSHE

- STDs
- Contraception
- Family relationships

Year 9

Science

- Review of reproduction
- Inheritance of characteristics from parents
- Moral implications of selecting for genes
- Maintaining health through diet and exercise
- Drugs and pregnancy

PSHE

- You and the opposite sex
- Attitudes to sexuality
- Safe sex

Year 10 and 11

Science

- Hormonal coordination of the development of secondary sexual characteristics
- Hormonal coordination of the menstrual cycle and fertility
- Inheritance of genes and genetic diseases



- Dangers of drugs in relation to pregnancy
- Transmission of sexually transmitted diseases
- Structure, reproduction, spread and control of infectious diseases
- Moral implications of gene technology and manipulating reproduction