



Sex and Health Education Policy

Rationale

At Excelsior we place Sex Education and Health firmly within our Personal Development curriculum. We believe passionately that our Personal Development curriculum will give pupils the knowledge, skills and understanding they need to lead confident, healthy independent lives and to become respectful, active and responsible global citizens. Personal Development lies at the cornerstone of our MAT ethos; we are preparing children for life in modern Britain. We believe all our children can leave our schools confident and assured of their place in this diverse and changing world.

Definition

Sex education and health education is about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of stable and loving relationships, respect love and care. It involves children acquiring information and being informed about the physical and emotional changes that happen during puberty, forming positive values and attitudes in their family life. Central to the Sex Education and Health policy is the growth of self-esteem and taking responsibility for oneself and one's actions.

The word 'sex' is used in its widest form and focuses on differences in biological sex as well as sexual reproduction. As the children grow older, our aim is to help them become aware of and understand the changes their bodies are starting to make as the emotional changes that they may start to feel.

Aims

Our aims in Sex Education are to:

- Teach children the appropriate language to talk about themselves and their bodies and to be able to make informed choices about their bodies when they grow older.
- Inform children about the human reproductive cycle at an age-appropriate time.
- Enable pupils to understand and manage their own feelings and emotions as they experience adolescence.
- Promote attitudes of self-respect in our pupils and respect for others

- Provide channels for our pupils to feel able to communicate their needs and be able to ask for help in an atmosphere where questions relating to sex and relationships can be asked and answered
- Teach pupils about peer pressure and to have the confidence and skills to deal with unwanted pressure; understand that some parts of the body are private and what to do if someone is making you feel uncomfortable.
- Provide children with understanding about personal hygiene and germs, including bacteria, viruses, how they are spread and the importance of keeping our bodies clean.
- Enable children to make sense of the messages that they receive about relationships and growing up from the world around them.
- To enable pupils to differentiate between appropriate / inappropriate behaviour in relationships.
- To make sure children understand adult relationships can mean same sex as well as opposite sex couples.
- Provide clear information to parents and carers about the Sex Education and Health Education curriculum and content in an accessible way so that they can support what their child is learning in school with their own teaching at home.
- Ask for feedback on this Sex Education and Health policy from parents and carers. We welcome constructive dialogue so that we reach a mutual understanding of the aims. We will provide opportunities for parents and carers to air their views about our curriculum, and we will consider all views given.
- Provide opportunities for parents and carers to join the school in the delivery of Sex Education and Health Education. This will be achieved through parent workshops where materials will be shared.

Planning

Sex Education and Health Education is part of the Personal Development curriculum, and is delivered by class teachers in the last half term of each year group.

From Key Stage 1 onwards, if children mention their body parts, staff will use the correct names.

Planning will be provided by the Excelsior Personal Development Lead and Personal Development lead for each school in the Trust.

Excelsior MAT recommends schools use the Christopher Winters scheme of work and feel able to adapt the plans, should they wish, to meet the needs of their pupils.

Schools may wish to deliver the plans as they stand. While Excelsior MAT support schools to have autonomy in the way they deliver SRE, there is a minimum expectation to cover the following in each year group:

Year 1- How children grow and change, how families can be different

Year 2 - Naming body parts

Year 3 – Understanding consent and “private” body parts

Year 4 – Human lifecycle, respectful relationships

Year 5- What is puberty and how does it affect us

Year 6 – How are babies made / reproduction

Equality of Opportunity

At Excelsior we consider that all pupils and adults should have equal access to Relationship Education, regardless of gender, race, faith, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity.

We recommend in Year 5 and Year 6 children will be taught Sex Education in single sex groups. This is to encourage children to ask questions in groups where they might feel more comfortable to do so. Presently, where a child is questioning their gender we will be led by discussions with them and their parents when deciding which teaching group to attend or to identify alternative arrangements. At Excelsior schools, we will not force any child to attend a sex education lesson where they feel uncomfortable or exposed. It is imperative that all children feel safe in these lessons.

Each Excelsior school will ensure where support is needed for a pupil with additional needs to access a Sex Education and Health lesson, it is provided.

The right to withdraw

Parents have the right to request withdrawal from those elements of non-statutory sex education delivered in primary school. Pupils cannot be withdrawn from Relationships education, health education, or national curriculum science content. Decisions regarding withdrawal will be discussed with parents in accordance with DFE guidance.

Assessment, record keeping and monitoring

Assessment of the Sex Education and Health education will be monitored through sensitive pupil voice interviews in small groups at the end of the term where the lessons were delivered. Sex Education and Health lessons are often discussion-based, but recording may take place in class Personal Development books.

Resources

The Personal Development lead in each school will provide lesson plans and resources for Sex Education and Health education. The Personal Development lead for Excelsior will support and provide resources and support for each school where needed.

Staff training

The Personal Development lead for the Trust will lead staff CPD each year to ensure all staff are confident in their contribution to the Sex Education and Health policy as part of Personal Development.

Links with other policies

This Sex Education and Health Policy should be read in conjunction with:

- The Excelsior Personal Development Policy (PD)
- The Excelsior Relationships Education Policy
- The Excelsior Social transition/ Gender questioning children policy

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