

## Ravenswood School

### Sex and Relationships Education and Guidance Policy

#### Purpose

We believe that sex and relationships education is a lifelong process of acquiring information and forming attitudes, beliefs and values, and therefore is revisited in each key stage. Effective sex and relationship education promotes the moral, cultural and personal development of our pupils, and prepares pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life. Sex education is a *statutory requirement* set within the broader context of Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education and the Science National Curriculum. The RE curriculum also offers opportunities for exploring related issues such as family life and relationships.

Our sex and relationships education programme helps pupils develop and maintain friendships and learn to make responsible decisions about the relationships that they form with others and develop their personal and community safety.

We take into account moral considerations, and the value of family life and acknowledge pupils' rights to information about themselves and their bodies. Pupils should be aware of their right to develop responsible, loving, sexual relationships whatever their physical or learning disability. The expressed needs and concerns of the pupils may influence aspects of sex education. All pupils have a right to be valued and to be treated with dignity and respect. We also educate our pupils about aspects of abuse and exploitation, physical and emotional intimacy and being in control of their own bodies.

Fundamental to our school's values and practice is the principle of sharing responsibility for the education of children with parents and we aim for effective communication and co-operation with all families.

#### Delivery

At Ravenswood School we recognise that all pupils deserve effective sex education which complements information provided by their parents/carers and prepares them for adulthood. Parents are notified by letter when pupils are about to start a PSHCE or Science module which incorporates sex education. This letter can be located on our curriculum plan. The parents are invited to discuss the contents and resources to be used with the appropriate teacher. The school nursing team support the school in the delivery of sex education. Each term 6 includes a dedicated week when we teach all pupils the relevant aspects of their SRE curriculum.

For nursery/reception aged pupils sex education is delivered within the framework of Foundation programmes. At this stage pupils learn the differences between boys and girls; learn the names of their body parts and develop self-awareness. This is taught through everyday classroom activities, group work and individual interactions with pupils. Stories, role play and doll play are used to explore differences in people.

Being mindful of the risks of Child Sexual Exploitation, each term 3 includes a dedicated week when we teach all pupils the relevant aspects of their Safer Internet curriculum including saying No.

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In Key Stage 1 pupils are taught (in PSHCE and Science lessons) awareness that humans can produce babies and that those babies grow into children and then adults. This is taught through group work, practical activities, role play, doll play and stories.

At Key Stage 2 there is a statutory requirement to teach the main stages of the human life cycle. This work builds upon the knowledge pupils have gained in Key Stage 1. Specific, structured lessons are planned for effective coverage of these facts. The PSHCE curriculum continues to develop pupils' personal and social skills. Pupils are given opportunities to explore values and attitudes. Role play, doll play, stories and videos are used to support this work. Pupils are taught in class groups or small groups. There is also the opportunity to address individual needs should this be necessary.

At Key Stages 3 and 4 and in Post-16 the biological aspects of sex education (from the National Science Curriculum) include the physical and emotional changes that take place during adolescence and some medical uses of hormones including the control and promotion of fertility. At Key Stages 3 and 4, all pupils have structured Science and PSHCE lessons each week. Post 16 learn about Sex and Relationships through their Personal Development lessons. Biological aspects of sex are taught in science lessons and family relationships are discussed within the PSHCE curriculum. Pupils have opportunities to explore values and attitudes. Aspects of relationships, love and family life are considered. Pupils develop social and communication skills, decision-making skills and interpersonal skills for managing relationships. A variety of teaching resources are used to support teaching, along with role play, circle time, discussion and opportunities from outside speakers to share information and experiences. Pupils are taught in class groups, ability groups and on an individual basis as necessary. Pupils may be placed in single gender groups if deemed appropriate.

At the upper end of the secondary department pupils are taught about HIV and AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. Students also learn about 'Safe Sex', the responsible use of contraceptives and how the various contraceptives work.

#### Sex and Relationships Education & Guidance for Foundation and KS1 pupils

We aim through our contacts with pupils and incidentally throughout the curriculum:

- To lay the foundations for personal and social development
- To prepare pupils for puberty
- To develop skills and self-esteem to help pupils enter adolescence
- To address concerns and correct misunderstandings pupils may have gained from the media and their peers
- To provide pupils with appropriate information about the nature of their sexuality and the processes of reproduction in a balanced and sensitive manner
- To learn about sex within the context of loving relationships and family life

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#### Sex and Relationships Education & Guidance for KS2, KS3, KS4 and Post 16 pupils

We aim through direct sessions, which are part of our personal, health and social education, and the science curriculum

- To provide pupils with appropriate information about the nature of their sexuality and the processes of reproduction in a balanced and sensitive manner
- To learn about sex within the context of loving relationships and family life
- To foster self-awareness and interpersonal skills, social and decision making skills and assertiveness
- To encourage pupils' empowerment and the development of self-advocacy
- To prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life
- To provide pupils with personal contacts which will help them to develop responsible, loving relationships
- To teach skills to avoid and resist unwanted sexual advances
- To encourage openness and discussions to develop a better understanding of sexual matters
- To have sufficient information and skills to protect themselves and others from infection or unwanted pregnancy including accessing advice and support services
- To have confidence and self-esteem to value themselves and others

#### Assessment

Assessment of pupils' knowledge and understanding of sex and relationships education takes place within the context of the Science and PSHCE curriculum.

#### Multi-agency Support

We access the national programme of Sex & Relationships guidance from the NSPCC for our Year 7 pupils.

Families seeking advice and guidance on contraception will be referred to the Complex Health Nursing Team.

#### No-Worries Clinics

Clinics are available to pupils in their local communities. Pupils who ask for advice and support will be signposted as appropriate.

#### Dealing with sexualised behaviours

We are always mindful that children and young people have enquiring minds and will at times be particularly focussed on their own bodies and the bodies of other people. We need to ensure that all pupils are in a safe environment and whilst we recognise that some pupils may be at a developmental stage where they are exploring their body parts and

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functions, we cannot allow sexualised behaviours on the school site. This is particularly important as we have very vulnerable pupils at Ravenswood.

Pupils who show sexualised behaviours to other children, will be dealt with according to their abilities and understanding of their behaviours. Parents will be informed when we have concerns about their child.

We recognise that some pupils, with significant developmental delays need to learn where and when they are allowed to masturbate. We give a consistent message aligning with the guidance provided by CAMHS LD team and the School Nursing team to such pupils that they can only masturbate at home in their bedroom.

We distract pupils who are masturbating into another activity, usually washing hands. This behaviour has a sensory reward, removes the pupil's hands from genital areas and provides a hygienic alternative. We do not encourage them to masturbate in any room at school, including the toilet. We do not want to inadvertently teach them that masturbating in a toilet area is acceptable, as we believe this could place them in a vulnerable position later in life, when they learn to use public toilets. If needed, we provide clear guidance on safe masturbation through social stories.

#### **Statutory Requirements**

Elements of sex education which form part of the Science curriculum are statutory and as such must be covered by all pupils in that key stage. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from other aspects of the Sex & Relationships Education curriculum. We ask them to do this in writing.

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#### History of Document

Previous versions now deleted from systems.

New Issue No.	Author/Owner	Date Reviewed	Approved by Governors on	Comments
1.	School	May 2013	09/05/13	References to other policies added.
2.	School	March 2014	20/03/14	Minor amendments to wording requested by Governors
3.	School	April 2015	Pupil Committee 6/5/15	
4.	School	May 2016	Pupil Committee 11/5/16	
5.	School	April 2017	Pupil Committee 10/05/17	
6.	School	April 2018	Pupil Committee 9/5/18	

#### References:

- Guidance on Safer Working Practices for Adults working with Children and Young Adults. DFE 2015
- Sex & Relationships Scheme of Work.
- Science National curriculum