

Childwall Abbey School

A calm, safe and welcoming place in which to work and learn.

A place where everyone supports each other to achieve.

A place we enjoy coming to each day.



SEX AND RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION POLICY

Introduction

At Childwall Abbey School we value the importance of sex and relationship education to help and support young people through their physical, emotional and moral development. This programme is linked closely to the Policy for Personal, Social and Health Education, Sex and Relationship Education Guidance and the National Healthy School Standard Guidance.

We recognise the partnership of home and school, of parent and teacher, in this important area of personal development.

Sex education is a continuing, developmental process, which includes the exploration of attitudes and values and the development of skills, as well as the presentation of factual knowledge. As with all other learning, it should be gradual and matched to the child's maturity and stage of development.

Sex education teaches children to develop an awareness of, and respect for, themselves and others. It aids the development of positive self-esteem, which will help children to cope with the challenges of personal growth. It enables children to be aware of the personal choices they can make and prepares them to make responsible decisions. It is about exploring feelings and emotions and enjoying confidence in one's own ability.

As part of the sex and relationship education framework, pupils are taught about the nature and importance of family life and bringing up children. Pupils will learn about the significance of marriage and stable relationships. Care is taken that no child is stigmatised because of his or her home circumstances.

What is Sex and Relationship Education?

Sex and relationship education is about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of marriage for family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality and sexual health.

Sex and relationship education has three main elements.

1. Attitudes and values:
 - learning the importance of values and moral considerations
 - learning the value of family life, marriage and stable relationships
 - learning the value of love, respect and care.
2. Personal and social skills:
 - learning to manage emotions and relationships confidently and sensitively
 - developing empathy and self-respect
 - learning to make choices without prejudice
 - appreciating the consequences of choices made
 - managing conflict

- recognising and avoiding exploitation and abuse.
3. Knowledge and understanding:
- learning about and understanding physical development
 - understanding human sexuality, reproduction, sexual health, emotions and relationships.

The Philosophy of the School

It is the philosophy of Childwall Abbey School that all children experience a planned programme of sex and relationship education that offers them the opportunity to explore attitudes and values, and develop personal and social skills, as well as learning the facts necessary for life.

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, such as aspects of mutual respect and care, and to develop sensitivity towards the needs of others encompassing fidelity and loyalty.
- To foster the ability to manage relationships in a responsible and healthy manner.
- To promote the value of loving relationships and of family life.
- To recognise that marriage is an important, but not exclusive, context for family life.
- 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 the physical and moral risks associated with certain behaviour.
- To educate against discrimination and prejudice.
- To empower children to make informed choices about their developing sexuality.

This policy supports the following School Policies:

- Equal Opportunities
- Education for Ethnic Diversity
- School Discipline
- Statement of School Philosophy, Aims and Objectives
- Health and Safety
- Personal, Social and Health Education and Citizenship
- Child Protection.

Areas of Responsibility

Governors

- To ensure the legal framework is followed.
- To consult with parents on the determination of the school's sex and relationship education policy.
- To implement the sex and relationship education policy through the Head Teacher.
- To implement the annual reviews.
- To make, and keep up to date, a separate written statement of the school's policy with regard to Sex Education.
- To make copies of this statement available for inspection by parents of pupils registered at the school and provide a copy free of charge to any parent who requests one.
- To include a summary of the content and organisation of sex education in the School Prospectus.

Head Teacher

- To implement the Sex and Relationship Education Policy.
- To ensure the policy is followed.
- To liaise with the Governors on the teaching in school.
- To liaise with parents.
- To ensure the policy is reviewed <annually>.
- To disseminate information to staff.
- To respond to individual problems experienced by children, enlisting external agency support if appropriate.

Pastoral and subject teachers

- To prepare long- and short-term plans to include Sex and Relationship Education in the Curriculum.
- To ensure the correct resources are available.
- To respond to the individual needs of children, giving relevant support should a child be experiencing difficulties.

School Nurse/Health Service Specialists

- To give support throughout the school, when appropriate.
- To take separate lessons for Key Stage 3 and 4 where required.

Learning Mentors

- To assist in the development of the school's policy concerning the welfare and educational needs of all children at Childwall Abbey School.
- To take advice from all appropriate sources and, where necessary, adapt the policy to meet each individual child's needs.

Policy, Formation and Consultation Process

The policy has been written following the DfES guidelines for Sex and Relationship Education Guidance 0166/2000.

On an annual basis, a group of Governors from the Non-Finance Committee will agree a draft policy in consultation with teachers. The draft policy will be presented to the teachers for their views. The parents or guardians will be consulted during an Open Evening and/or via the postal system, web-site, and given the opportunity to ask questions of the teachers, Governors and others within the community involved with sex and relationship education. The full Governing Body finally agree the policy.

Equal Opportunities

In support of the Equal Opportunities Policy, all Childwall Abbey School pupils, regardless of age, ability, gender or race, have the same opportunity to benefit from the sex education resources and teaching methods.

Organisation of School Sex and Relationship Education

Who Will Teach It?

All pastoral staff and Learning Mentors may teach sex and relationship education as part of related PSHCE activities or with outside providers. Specific teaching is provided through the Science and the PSHE Curriculum by specialist staff.

Opportunities will be provided where appropriate with identified pupils in both Key Stages for separate lessons on physical changes, conception and birth. Other members of staff, including the School Nurse might be involved in these lessons.

Methodology and Approach

There will be a whole-school approach from Year 7 to Year 11. The subject will be taught in a specific (i.e. through science and PSHCE lessons and units of work) or a cross-curricular way, encompassing human relationships, human and physical development and reproduction, sexuality and the risks of sexual activity.

Dealing with Sensitive Issues

Governors and teachers are in agreement that teachers should answer all children's questions relating to sex and relationship education in an open and factual way, taking into consideration the family background, culture, religious beliefs, and pupils' differing experiences. The Governors expect teachers to use their professional judgement and discretion when faced with, or answering, questions, which they deem to be of a sensitive nature, for example homosexuality, contraception or sexually transmitted diseases.

The following ground rules have been established:

- Teachers should not enter into discussions about personal issues and lifestyles.

- No one (child or adult) has to answer a personal question.
- Nobody is forced to take part in discussion.
- In discussion, teachers will promote the knowledge and use of accepted names of body parts.
- Meanings of words are explained in a sensible and factual way.

Childwall Abbey School Sex and Relationship Education Programme

Sex and relationship education is delivered within the Science Curriculum and the four broad themes within PSHE.

1. Increasing confidence and responsibility and making the most of pupils' abilities.
2. Preparing to play an active role as citizens.
3. Embracing a healthier lifestyle.
4. Developing good relationships and respecting differences between people.

Through sex and relationship education, the children should:

- develop confidence in talking, listening and thinking about feelings and relationships
- be able to name parts of the body and describe how their bodies work
- be able to protect themselves and ask for help and support
- be prepared for puberty.

Within the Science Curriculum, the children should:

- know that all creatures, including humans, move, feed, grow, use their senses and reproduce
- recognise the main external parts of their bodies
- know that humans and animals can produce offspring, which grow into adults
- recognise the similarities and differences between themselves and others, and treat others with sensitivity
- know that the life processes common to humans and other animals include nutrition, growth and reproduction
- know about the main stages of the human life cycle.

Parents should be aware that children cannot be withdrawn from these Science lessons.

Content for Sex and Relationship Education

At Childwall Abbey School the Scheme of Work for sex and relationship education covers the following headings. Progression and continuity are built into the programme throughout the Key Stages.

Relationships	
1. Myself as an individual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loving, caring and supportive relationships and family life. • Exploring and expressing feelings and emotions. • Who cares for me? • Secrets • Promoting self-image
2. Myself and my friends	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friends and friendships • Keeping safe • Feelings
3. Myself and the wider community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living and working together • Safety • Similarities and differences • Valuing • Celebrating the fact that everybody is unique
Family Life	
1. Family patterns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying key members of a family and special people in life. • Describing the different roles of individuals in a family. • Knowing that there are different types of family. • Distinguishing between family and friendly relationships. • Life cycles, birth, parenthood, childhood and adulthood.
2. Family responsibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birth and marriage • Parental care • Family units • Working and playing together
3. Family emotions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying, discussing and expressing emotions • Exploring parental love • Understanding loss and separation • Interpreting visual signs of emotion
Growth and Development	
1. Self-awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Myself as an individual • Gender issues • Stereotypes • Physical and emotional change • Exploring developing responsibility
2. Physical change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding life cycles

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charting growth • Exploring change • Looking after my body • Changes in puberty <Years xx only> • Sexual reproduction
3. New life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New life • Conception and birth • Care and responsibility

Specific Classroom Arrangements

When planning lessons, teachers should consider appropriate grouping in respect of pupil experience and need. Mixed-gender classes will be the norm for the younger pupils.

Girls and boys are generally taught about issues, such as menstruation together, thus treating the issue as part of the broad sex education programme and avoiding boys' misconceptions and speculation.

Curriculum Entitlement

Sex and relationship education will be taught at Childwall Abbey School within PSHE and Science. It is therefore not envisaged that there will be a one-off or isolated lessons, except when a Health Professional is invited to address the children. Children with complex Special Educational Needs relating to sex education, may 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 are reviewed weekly through short-term plans and each term through medium and long-term plans. Staff and Governors review the Sex and Relationship Education Policy annually. Parents are invited to comment at each annual review.

Resources and Criteria Used for their Selection

The Sex Education Co-ordinator (Mrs Miller, Head of PSHCE Faculty) in consultation with teachers and Governors chooses all resources. Advice is taken from appropriate sources. Parents' comments are taken into consideration.

Specific Issues

Child Sex Abuse Procedure

The Child Protection Procedures as laid down by the Local Authority are followed. All referrals, whatever their origin, are taken seriously and considered with an open mind, which does not pre-judge the situation. The procedures adopted within the Local Authority area for handling cases of neglect, physical, emotional or 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 should not prevent action being taken if the child is at risk. Teachers listen sympathetically to anything a child tells them in confidence; however, if a teacher believes that a child is at risk, the appropriate people will be contacted in accordance with the above Child Protection Procedures. A copy of this is available in school for parents.

Child Withdrawal Procedure

Sex education at Childwall Abbey School is taught across the Curriculum and it is not possible to separate all the sex education lessons. There will be, sometimes, specific lessons at which Health Professionals are invited to address the children in the presence of the class teacher. Notification is always sent to parents in advance. If parents wish to withdraw a child, they should discuss their concerns with the Head Teacher.

In the event of a child being withdrawn from a lesson, that child is provided with appropriate, challenging work until the sex education lesson is over.

Complaints Procedure

If a parent or guardian has any cause for concern about the Sex Education Policy, they should approach the Head Teacher and staff. If the concern cannot be resolved, the Governors can be contacted.

Procedures for the Involvement of Health Professionals and Visitors

Visiting Health Professionals are involved in the implementation of the Sex Education Policy only after detailed consultation concerning lesson content and method of teaching. The class teacher remains in the lesson throughout.

Working with Parents

Childwall Abbey School seeks to work in partnership with parents through consultation and support. Parents are vital in teaching children about sex and relationships, maintaining the culture and ethos of the family, helping children to cope with the emotional and physical aspects of growing, and preparing them for the challenges and responsibilities that sexual maturity brings.

The school provides support to parents in helping children learn the accepted names of the body, talking with the children about their feelings and relationships, and answering questions about growing up, having babies, relationships and sexual health.

Parents are consulted before the formal policy document is submitted to the full Governing Body for approval. Local Health Care Professionals are invited to take part in the presentation of the document to parents to provide any additional information and support. The policy is available in school for all parents to inspect and details of the policy are published in the annual School Prospectus, so that parents of potential pupils are fully aware of Childwall Abbey School's position in this matter. The policy is presented annually to new parents, again with the involvement of local Health Care Professionals.

Dissemination of the policy

The policy is presented via the school web-site for parents and guardians. A copy is sent to those parents and guardians who request one. Every parent or guardian receives a copy of the policy. A copy can be obtained from the Head Teacher.

The policy is presented to all staff and a copy made available to them.

Supporting pupils on the autism spectrum

We use a range of multi-sensory teaching and learning styles. We use a number of common fundamental principles that make for successful teaching of pupils on the autism spectrum. These include:

- Intensive, structured and purposeful teaching.
- Clear, unambiguous and explicit instructions and teaching strategies.
- Use of repetition to consolidate.
- Re-teaching in different contexts and in different ways, not assuming that the pupil has understood because they have repeated or demonstrated something.
- Using a communicative form that the pupil understands and can use to convey ideas to others i.e. visual, auditory or kinaesthetic learning, giving students the opportunity for learning to be achieved through experience of the world.
- Giving opportunities for learning with a personal meaning that is interesting and motivating.
- A high level of adult support and tuition.
- Access to 'My Space' areas in each classroom
- Access to Mentors and Intervention staff
- Use of time out cards as required
- Regular staff training updates regarding ASD/C

Online safety awareness statement

- Online safety awareness is a whole school priority and the responsibility of all stakeholders at Childwall Abbey School.
- Online safety awareness is part of all staff's normal teaching routine.
- Online safety awareness is incorporated into lessons and Schemes of Work.

Further Information

Useful Documents and Resources

- DfES - Sex and Relationship Education Guidance (Circular 0116/2000) DfES
- National Healthy School Standards Guidance 1999
- QCA - The National Curriculum Handbook 2000 for Primary Teachers in England