Beechwood Primary School
Sex Education Policy

1 Introduction

1.1 Children learn about their physical, moral and emotional development I the context 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 education is part of the Science and PSHCE curriculum in our school. We do not use sex education as a means of promoting any form of sexual orientation.

1.2 This policy is drawn up in consultation with Headteacher, having a statutory responsibility to regard the guidance LSA (2000) when developing the SRE policy

2 Aims and objectives

2.1 We teach children about:

- the physical development of their bodies as they grow into adults
- the way humans reproduce
- respect for their own bodies and the importance of sexual activity as part of a committed, long-term, and loving relationship
- the importance of family life
- moral questions
- relationship issues
- respect for the views of other people
- what they should do if they are worried about any sexual matters.

3 Context

While sex education in our school means that we give children information about sexual behaviour, we do this with an awareness of the moral code and values which underpin all our work in school. In particular, we teach sex education in the belief that:

- sex education should be taught in the context of a committed relationship
- sex education is part of a wider social, personal, spiritual and moral education process;
- children should be taught to have respect for their own bodies;
- children should learn about their responsibilities to others, and be aware of the consequences of sexual activity
- it is important to build positive relationships with others, involving trust
- and respect
- children need to learn the importance of self-control.

4 The National Healthy School Standard

4.1 We participate in the National Healthy School Standard scheme, which promotes health education. As participants in this scheme we:

- listen to the views of the children and parents in our school regarding sex education
- look positively at any local initiatives that support us in providing the best sex education teaching programme that we can devise.

5 Organisation

5.1 We teach sex education through different aspects of the curriculum, where we feel that they contribute significantly to a child's knowledge and understanding of his or her own body, and how it is changing and developing (eg PE).

5.2 In PSHCE we teach children about relationships, and we encourage children to discuss issues. We teach about the parts of the body and how these work, and we explain to them what will happen to their bodies during puberty.

5.3 In science lessons in both key stages, teachers and health care support workers (eg the nurse) inform children about puberty and how a baby is born. For this aspect of the school's teaching, we follow the guidance material in the national scheme of work for science. In Key Stage 1 we teach children that animals, including humans, move, feed, grow and reproduce, and we also teach them about the main parts of the body. Children learn to appreciate the differences between people and how to show respect for each other. In Key Stage 2 we teach about life processes and the main stages of the human life cycle in greater depth.

5.4 In Year 5/6 we place a particular emphasis on health education, as many children experience puberty at this age. We liaise with the Local Health Authority about suitable teaching materials to use with our children in these lessons. Teachers do their best to answer all questions with sensitivity and care. By the end of Key Stage 2, we ensure that both boys

and girls know how babies are born, how their bodies change during puberty, what menstruation is, and how it affects women. We always teach this with due regard for the emotional development of the children.

5.5 We arrange a meeting for all parents and carers of children in Year 5/6 to discuss this particular programme of lessons, to explain what the issues are and how they are taught, and to see the materials the school uses in its teaching.

6 The role of parents

6.1 The school is well aware that the primary role in children's sex education lies with parents and carers. We wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents of children at our school through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation.

6.2 Parents have the right to withdraw their child from all or part of the sex education programme that we teach in our school. If a parent wishes their child to be withdrawn from sex education lessons, they should discuss this with the headteacher, and make it clear which aspects of the programme they do not wish their child to participate in. The school always complies with the wishes of parents in this regard.

7 The role of other members of the community

7.1 We encourage other valued members of the community to work with us to provide advice and support to the children with regard to health education. In particular, members of the Local Health Authority, such as the school nurse and other health professionals, give us valuable support with our sex education programme.

8 Confidentiality

8.1 Teachers conduct sex education lessons in a sensitive manner and in confidence. However, if a child makes a reference to being involved, or likely to be involved in sexual activity, then the teacher will take the matter seriously and deal with it as a matter of child protection. Teachers will respond in a similar way if a child indicates that they may have been a victim of abuse. In these circumstances the teacher will talk to the child as a matter of urgency. If the teacher has concerns, they will draw their concerns to the attention of the headteacher. The headteacher will then deal with the matter in consultation with health care professionals. (See also Child Protection Policy.)

9 The role of the headteacher

9.1 It is the responsibility of the headteacher to ensure that both staff and parents are informed about our sex education policy, and that the policy is implemented effectively.

9.2 The headteacher liaises with external agencies regarding the school sex education programme, and ensures that all adults who work with children on these issues are aware of the school policy, and that they work within this framework.

10 Monitoring and review

10.1 This policy will be reviewed by the curriculum committee annually

Signed: (Headteacher / Chair of Governors)

Date: October 2016 Date For Review: October 2021