

Bhaktivedanta Manor Primary School



Sex Education and Relationship Policy

Authority	Name	Date Approved	Next Review Date
Governing Body	Members	October 2017	October 2018

Bhaktivedanta Manor School

Sex Education and Relationship Policy

Statement of Policy

A programme to prepare pupils to cope with the physical and emotional challenges of growing up, and provide them with an elementary understanding of human reproduction as prescribed by the National Curriculum.

We have also based our school's sex education policy on the teaching of the Vedas where love and respect for each other extends to the human body which is held sacred. We promote the sanctity of marriage and explain that sexual relations may take place when two people love each other in a secure and loving environment such as marriage. In this document, sex education is defined as 'learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about understanding 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 personal, social and health education curriculum in our school. While we may also use sex education to inform children about sexual issues, we do this with regard to matters of morality and individual responsibility, and in a way that allows children to ask and explore moral questions. We do not use sex education as a means of promoting any form of sexual orientation.

Aims and Objectives

- To ensure sex education is taught within a moral framework and within the context of a caring, loving and supportive family relationship
- To establish a framework for the provision of a sex education programme covering personal relationships in addition to the biological aspects, with due sensitivity to the age groupings involved
- To promote the spiritual, moral cultural and physical development of the children
- To foster self respect, self esteem and an understanding/pride in their bodies and their responsibilities
- To provide clear factual information to promote self confidence and to counter prejudices, discrimination, abuse and misunderstanding

We teach children about:

1. The physical development of their bodies as they grow into adults
2. The way humans reproduce
3. Respect for their own bodies and the importance of sexual activity as part of a committed, long-term and loving relationship such as marriage

4. The importance of family life
5. Moral questions
6. Relationship issues
7. Respect for the views of other people
8. Sex abuse and what they should do if they are worried about any sexual matter

Context

The National Curriculum Science framework focuses primarily on the factual and biological aspects of life process and development. These include:

- The main stages of the human life cycle
- Life processes, including nutrition, movement, growth and reproduction (both human and animal)

The Approach

We teach Sex education at Bhaktivedanta Manor School in the context of our core Hindu beliefs. While sex education in our school means that we give children information about sexual behaviour, we do this with an awareness of our Vaishnava code and ethos which underpins all our work in school. In particular, we teach sex education in the belief that:

- Sex education should be taught in the context of marriage and family life
- 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

Health in Mind and Body

We value the importance of healthy attitudes towards looking after the mind and body. We promote holistic views on health by:

- Consulting with parents on all matters of health education policy
- Training our teachers to teach sex education as part of a whole school perspective and in a cross-curricular way according to the age and maturity of the students
- Listening to the views of the children in our school regarding sex education
- Looking positively at any local initiatives that support us in providing the best sex education teaching programme that we can devise.

Organisation

We teach sex education through different aspects of the curriculum. Whilst we carry out the main sex education teaching in our Personal, Social and Health education (PSHE) curriculum, we also teach some sex education through other subject areas such as science and PE, 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.

At KS1 sex education is taught informally utilising a variety of teaching approaches, within a general context of the observation of living things. This should be built upon and formalised at KS2.

In addition the children take part yearly in a Safety Week where one of the subjects we explore is "Good touch/Bad touch"....This is delivered yearly by the Child Protection Team at Bhaktivedanta Manor. It helps children to value themselves and their bodies.

SRE and Science

In Key Stage one the children will learn:

1. That animals including humans, move, feed, grow, use their senses and reproduce
2. To recognise and compare the main external parts of the bodies of humans
3. To recognise that humans and animals can produce offspring and these grow into adults
4. To recognise similarities and differences between themselves and others and treat others with sensitivity

In Key Stage Two the children will learn:

1. To understand that the life processes common to humans and other animals include nutrition, growth and reproduction
2. To understand about the main stages of the human life cycle.

Sex and Relationships education and PSHE

At primary level sex and relationship education should contribute to the foundation of PSHE and Citizenship by ensuring that all children:

- Develop confidence in talking, listening and thinking about feelings and relationships
- Are able to name parts of the body and describe how their bodies work
- Can protect themselves and ask for help and support

- Are prepared for puberty

In Year 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 also teach this with due regard to the emotional development of the children.

In addition there are sensitive areas that children need to be aware of, specifically in upper KS2 and these include:

- Sexual orientation and homosexuality – according to the Vedic perspective
- Child Sexual exploitation
- Female genital mutilation

Confidentiality

Teachers conduct sex education lessons in a sensitive manner and in confidence. However, if a child makes 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 Head teacher. The Head Teacher will then deal with the matter in consultation with health care professionals. (see also Safeguarding policy)

Guidelines

1. Where pupil/teacher confidentiality is an issue teachers should use their own professional judgement with due reference to the interests of the child. Normal practice would encourage reference back to the parent.
2. Child protection issues or disclosure of abuse should be immediately referred to the Headteacher/Head of Safeguarding as per our Safeguarding policy.
3. The class teacher will deliver the National curriculum element of sex education. In addition a health professional who is a devotee will be called in to conduct single sex discussion groups in year 6 to deal with the practicalities of approaching puberty, including personal hygiene, menstruation and body changes within a health context.

4. The school will ensure adequate provision to help girls with menstruation at school including disposal facilities and responding to requests for supplies in a helpful manner without embarrassment.

Working with Parents

The school is well aware that the primary role in children's sex education lies with parents and carers. We wish to bid a positive and supporting relationships with the parents of children at our school through mutual understanding, trust and cooperation. For effective Sex and Relationship education we see it vital to work in partnership with parents for the following reasons as parents are the key people in:

- Teaching their children about sex and relationships
- Maintaining the culture and ethos of the family
- Helping their children cope with the emotional and physical aspects of growing up
- Preparing them for the challenges and responsibilities that sexual maturity brings

In promoting this objective, we:

- Inform parents about the school's sex education policy and practice
- Answer any questions that parents may have about the sex education for their child
- Take seriously any issue that parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy or the arrangements for sex education in school
- Encourage parents to be involved in reviewing the school policy and making modifications to it as necessary
- Inform parents about the best practice known with regard to sex education so that the teaching in school supports the key messages that parents and carers give to children at home

We believe that, through this mutual exchange of knowledge and information, children will benefit from being given consistent messages about their changing body and their increasing responsibilities.

Parental Right to Withdraw

Parents do not have a right to withdraw their child from lessons that cover the National Curriculum element of the Sex Education Programme, or discussions that arise naturally within other lessons.

Parents CAN withdraw their child from elements of the Sex Education Programme that fall outside the curriculum and should be given notice when a lesson is planned

Teachers will have due regard to parental wishes where a child is withdrawn ensuring adequately supervised alternative lessons.

This policy will be reviewed annually and we will make note of any comments that come from parents in regards to the sex education and bring them to the attention of the Governing Body.