



Relationships and Sex Education Policy

February 2019

Why do we teach relationships education at Ickford School?

Children begin to ask questions about sex from a very early age. By the time they reach school they are already equipped with a range of attitudes, and a certain amount of information about sexuality and relationships. Some of this information may not be accurate or helpful. Primary school teachers are in an ideal position to help a child understand growth and development before he or she reaches puberty. A positive relationships education curriculum will put these exciting changes into context and lay the foundation for healthy attitudes towards sexuality in later years.

Guidelines for Relationships education

We have based our relationships education policy on DfE guidance which states:

Relationships education, RSE and PSHE are designed to ensure pupils are taught the knowledge and life skills they will need to stay safe and develop healthy and supportive relationships, particularly dealing with the challenges of growing up in an online world.

Relationships and Sex education is part of the Personal, Social and Health Education in our school. While we use relationships education to inform children about sexual issues, we do this with regard to matters of morality and individual responsibility in a way that allows children to ask and explore moral questions. We do not use relationships education as a means of promoting any form of sexual orientation.

Aims and Objectives

To ensure children are able to lead healthy lives and form positive, safe relationships by teaching them about:

- The physical development of their bodies as they grow into adults.
- The way humans reproduce.
- Contraception.
- Respect for their 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.
- Sex abuse and what they should do if they are worried about any sexual matters.

We aim to work in partnership with parents, to enable children to develop positive attitudes to sex and relationships.

Organisation

We teach relationships education through different aspects of the curriculum, mainly through Science and personal, social and health education (PSHE) curriculum.

In PSHE we teach children about relationships, and we encourage children to discuss issues. We teach about parts of the body and how they work, and we explain what will happen to them during puberty. For example, we tell the boys their voices will change during puberty and we explain to girls about menstruation. We encourage the children to ask for help if they need it.

In Science we follow the guidance material in the national curriculum scheme of work for Science. In Key Stage 1 we teach children about how animals, including humans move, feed, grow and reproduce, and we also teach them about the main parts of the body. In Key Stage 2 we teach about life processes and the main stages of the human life cycle in greater depth.

In Year 5 and/or Year 6 we place a greater emphasis on health education, as many children experience puberty at this age. We liaise with the Local Health Authority, when appropriate, 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, about contraception, 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.

Parents are informed in advance by letter/parent mail about the relationships education programme in Year 5 and/or Year 6. They are given the opportunity to raise any queries or concerns and are given access to the DVD used at request.

The Role of Parents

Ickford School is well aware that the primary role in children's relationships education lies with parents and carers. We wish to build a positive and supportive relationship with parents through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation. In promoting this objective we:

- Inform parents about the schools relationships education policy and practice.
- Answer any questions that parents may have about the relationships education of their child.
- Take seriously any issue that parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy or the arrangements for relationships education in the school.
- Inform parents about the best practice known with regard to relationships education, so that 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 bodies and their increasing responsibilities.

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from the relationships education programme that we teach in this school, except those parts that are required to be taught as part of the Science National Curriculum. If a parent wishes to do so, they should discuss it with the Headteacher, and make it clear which aspects of the programme they do not wish their child to participate in. We always comply with the wishes of parents in this regard.

Confidentiality

Teachers conduct relationships 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 a sexual activity, then the teacher will take it seriously and deal with it as a matter of child protection. Teachers will respond in a similar way if a child indicates that they 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 head teacher. The head teacher will then deal with the matter in consultation with health care professionals (see also child protection policy).

The Role of the Headteacher

It is the responsibility of the head teacher to ensure that both staff and parents are informed about our relationships education policy, and that the policy is implemented effectively.

The head teacher and PSHCE co-ordinator monitor this policy on a regular basis and report to the governors, when requested, on the effectiveness of the policy.

Equalities Statement

We have carefully considered and analysed the impact of this policy on equality and the possible implications for pupils with protected characteristics, as part of our commitment to meet the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) requirement to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

Monitoring and Review

This Policy will be reviewed every three years.