



Ysgol Gynradd Brynhyfryd Primary School

"Breuddwydio, credu, llwyddo gyda'n gilydd!"

"Dream, believe, achieve together!"

Brynhyfryd Primary School is a Rights Respecting School

SCHOOL POLICY DOCUMENT

SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS POLICY

Approved by Governors: 2017

Next Review

Sex and Relationship Education Policy

Effective Sex and Relationship Education is essential if young people are to make responsible and well-informed decisions about their lives. Sex and Relationship Education is not taught in isolation, but is rooted within the framework of the P.S.E. curriculum at Brynhyfryd Primary School. The objective of sex and relationship education is to help and support young people through their physical, emotional and moral development. This will help our young people learn to respect themselves and others and move with confidence from childhood through adolescence into adulthood.

What is sex and relationship education?

- It is developmental, beginning in early childhood and linked to age and maturity.
- It develops respect for self and others.
- It is about information, attitudes, values and skills.
- It equips children to take responsibility for their behaviour in their personal relationships, and to make informed choices in that area.
- It is more than information or facts about the body or reproduction.
- It involves more curriculum time than a 'one-off' talk by a representative of external agencies.

Why teach it?

- Sex and relationship education provides an understanding that positive, caring environments are essential for the development of a good self-image and that individuals are in charge of and responsible for their own bodies.
- Sex and relationship education encourages the acquisition of skills and attitudes which allow pupils to manage their relationships in a responsible and healthy manner.

Content

The City and County of Swansea Policy Statement on sex and relationship education suggests that by the end of primary phase all children should have an understanding of the following:-

- a) physical differences between male and female
- b) menstruation
- c) living things come from living things
- d) like comes from like
- e) human babies grow inside their mothers before they are born
- f) both men and women are needed to make babies
- g) babies/children need care, love and protection and should not be subjected to abuse
- h) the restricting effect of traditional male/female stereotyping and how it should be avoided

These topics form an integral part of a broad-based curriculum within the school.

Pupils are given accurate information and helped to develop skills to enable them to understand difference and respect themselves and others, preventing and removing prejudice.

Effective sex and relationship education does **not** encourage early sexual experimentation. It should teach young people to understand human sexuality and to respect themselves and others. It enables young people to mature, to build up their confidence and their self-esteem. It builds up knowledge and skills which are particularly important today because of the many different and conflicting pressures on young people.

All materials used in schools must be in accordance with the PSE framework, statutory requirement and the law. Inappropriate images should not be used nor should explicit material not directly related to explanation. Schools should ensure that pupils are protected from teaching and materials which are inappropriate, having regard to the age and cultural background of the pupils concerned. Pupils are also protected from accessing unsuitable materials on the Internet whilst at school.

Aims and Objectives

- To support children in understanding the physical development of their bodies as they grow into adults;
- To develop an understanding of how humans reproduce;
- To help develop a personal moral code sensitive to the needs of others and to promote equality of opportunity and respect for all men and women irrespective of race and gender;
- To develop an understanding of what constitutes sexual abuse, and what they should do if they are worried about any sexual matters.

Sex and relationship education in our school has three main elements

Attitudes and values

- learning the importance of values and individual conscience and moral considerations;
- Learning the value of family life and stable and loving relationships for the nurture of children;
- Learning the value of respect, love and care;
- Exploring, considering and understanding moral dilemmas;
- Developing critical thinking as part of decision-making.

Personal and social skills

- Developing self-respect and empathy for others;
- Learning to manage emotions and relationships confidently and sensitively;
- Learning to make choices based on an understanding of difference and with an absence of prejudice;
- Developing an appreciation of the consequences of choices made;
- Managing conflict;
- Learning how to recognise and avoid exploitation and abuse.

Knowledge and understanding

- that the life processes common to humans include nutrition, growth and reproduction
- about the main stages of the human life cycle
- the names, positions, functions and relative size of a human's main organs (Year 6)
- the reasons for the physical and emotional changes which take place at puberty

Organisation

While we carry out the main sex and relationship education in our personal and social education (PSE) curriculum, we also do some sex and relationship education and health education through other subjects areas, such as, in science we teach about life processes and the main stages of the human life cycle, which we believe contributes significantly to children's knowledge and understanding of their own bodies, and how they are changing and developing.

In PSE we teach children about relationships and we encourage children to discuss a variety of issues, especially during Circle Time activities.

Children learn through activities and assemblies that people are not all the same and that we need to respect each other.

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 and the school Nurse delivers a lesson whereby the children consider the emotional and physical changes that happen to boys and girls as they begin to grow into adulthood. Parts of the body are discussed and puberty is explained. All questions are answered with sensitivity and care. By the end of Key Stage 2, we ensure that both boys and girls know how babies are born, how children's 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. Our duty is also to ensure that children with special educational needs and learning difficulties are properly included in sex and relationship education. Sex and relationship education should help all pupils understand their physical and emotional development and enable them to make positive decisions in their lives.

We send a letter to all parents and carers of children in Year 6 to inform them that their children, if they so wish, will be undertaking lessons in sex and relationship education and how they are taught. Parents have the right to remove their children from these lessons by informing the school in writing.

The role of the Head teacher

It is the responsibility of the Head teacher to ensure that all staff, parents and carers are informed about our sex and relationship education policy and that the policy is implemented effectively. It is also the Head teacher's responsibility to ensure that members of staff are given sufficient training and support, so that they can teach sex

and relationship education effectively and handle any difficult issues confidently and sensitively.

The Head teacher ensures the school liaises with external agencies regarding the school's sex and relationship education programme and ensures that all adults who work with our children on these issues are aware of the school's policy and therefore work within its framework.

The Head teacher monitors this policy and reports to governors, when requested, on its effectiveness.

The role of the Parents

Parents and carers have the right to withdraw their child from all or part of the sex and relationship education programme. If a parent or carer wishes their child to be withdrawn from sex and relationship education lessons, they should put this in writing to the school or talk with the Head teacher or child's class teacher, making it clear which aspects of the programme they do not wish their children to participate in. Parents do not have to give reasons for this withdrawal nor do they have to indicate what other arrangements they intend to make for providing sex education to their children. The school always complies with the wishes of parents and carers in this regard.

The role of the members of the wider community

Members of the Local Health Authority, such as the school nurse and other health professionals, give us invaluable support with our sex and relationship education programme.

Further information about sex and relationship education is available

- Locally through the LA PSE advisory service and local Health Promotion Units;
- From a range of national statutory bodies and voluntary organisations such as the Sex and relationship education Forum based at the National Children's Bureau;
- On the Healthy Schools Programme website Wired for Health (www.wiredforhealth.gov.uk).