



## **SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS POLICY**

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*All staff working in our school share a responsibility for promoting and safeguarding the welfare of the children with whom they come into contact*

### **AIMS**

To ensure that pupils:

- Have respect for their own bodies
- Understand the importance of sexual activity as part of a committed, long-term and loving relationship
- Value the importance of family life
- Are able to show a respect for the views of other people.

### **OBJECTIVES**

To teach and discuss with pupils:

- The physical development of their bodies as they grow into adults
- The way humans reproduce
- Relationship issues
- Moral questions
- Sex abuse and what they should do if they are worried about any sexual matters

### **CONTEXT**

At Alveston, we teach sex education in the context of the school's aims and values framework (see Curriculum Policy). Whilst 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 that underpin all our work in school. In particular, we teach sex education in the belief that it should be taught in the context of marriage and family life and that sex education is part of a wider social, personal, spiritual and moral education process.

Children will learn about their responsibilities to others, and be aware of the consequences of sexual activity. They will be taught that it is important to build positive relationships with others, involving trust and respect and they will need to learn the importance of self-control.



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### **IMPLEMENTATION**

Most sex education teaching is carried out during PSHE, although it may also be taught through other subject areas, e.g. Science or P.E., where it is felt that these subjects contribute significantly to a child's knowledge and understanding of his or her own body, and how it is changing and developing.

Children are taught about relationships in PSHE, and children are encouraged to discuss issues. They are taught about the parts of the body and how these work, and it is explained to them how their bodies will change during puberty. For example, boys are informed that their voices will change during puberty and menstruation is explained to the girls. The children are encouraged to ask for help if they need it (e.g. Question Box).

In Science lessons, teachers inform children about puberty and how a baby is born. For this aspect of the school's teaching, the Primary National Curriculum for science is followed. In Key Stage 1, children are taught to identify, name, draw and label the basic parts of the human body and say which part of the body is associated with each sense. They are also taught to notice that animals, including humans, have offspring that turn into adults. In Key Stage 2, life processes and the main stages of the human life cycle are taught in greater depth.

In Year 5, children are introduced to the emotional and physical changes that they are likely to experience during puberty. School nurses take some of the lessons and the topic of menstruation is taught separately to the girls by them. Teachers do their best to answer all questions with sensitivity and care.

Sex education takes place in Year 6, again with the help of the school nurse. By the end of Key Stage 2, both boys and girls know how babies are born, how their bodies change during puberty, what menstruation is, and how it affects women. This is always taught with due regard for the emotional development of the children (as stated earlier in this policy). Parents and carers of children in Year 6 are always informed of this particular programme of lessons. The issues are explained and there is opportunity to see some of the teaching resources that are being used.

### **THE ROLE OF PARENTS/CARERS**

The school is aware that the primary role in children's sex education lies with parents and carers. At Alveston, we wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents of children at our school through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation. In promoting this objective:



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- Parents/carers are informed about the school's sex education policy and practice
- Every effort is made to answer any questions that parents may have about the sex education of their child
- Any issue that parents may raise with teachers or governors about this policy or the arrangements for sex education in the school are taken seriously

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

### **THE ROLE OF OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY**

Other valued members of the community are encouraged to work with the school 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. Other people that we may call on include local clergy, social workers and youth workers.

### **CONFIDENTIALITY**

At Alveston, 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 he/she may have been the victim of abuse. In these circumstances, the teacher will talk to the child as a matter of urgency. If a teacher has concerns, he/she will draw these concerns to the attention of the Headteacher. The Headteacher will then deal with the matter in consultation with health care professionals (see Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy).

### **THE ROLE OF THE HEADTEACHER**

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.

The Headteacher will liaise, where necessary, with external agencies regarding the school sex education programme. She will ensure that all adults working with



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children on these issues are aware of the school policy, and that they work within this framework. The Headteacher will monitor this policy on a regular basis and report to governors when requested on the effectiveness of this policy.

### **MONITORING AND REVIEW**

The Curriculum Committee of the Governing Body will monitor the Sex Education Policy on a regular basis. The Curriculum Committee will give serious consideration to any comments from parents about the sex education programme and make a record of all such comments.

Signed: Headteacher \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Chair of Governors \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Next Review Date: September 2017**