

Balcombe C E (C) School



Sex & Relationship Education Policy

Adopted by Governors: 2001

Reviewed: Jun 2015
Oct 2018

Next Review: Oct 2021

Policy Statement

Children who attend Balcombe CE Primary School, no matter what their circumstances, will be equipped with the skills, knowledge and attitudes needed to deal with life's challenges and opportunities. They will develop and live by a set of Christian values and will know how to stay safe and be healthy.

Sex and relationship education is lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about understanding the importance of loving and caring relationships. It is about the teaching of sex, sexuality and sexual health.

Aims

Balcombe CE Primary School aims for pupils:

- To be prepared for puberty and adulthood by understanding their physical development, sexual feelings and behaviour so they can lead fulfilling and enjoyable lives.
- To learn the importance of values, individual conscience and moral choices; the value of family life, stable and loving relationships and marriage; the value of respect, love and care, including respect and care of their bodies.
- To feel comfortable seeking help and advice from suitable adults when they need to.
- To understand the consequences of sexual relationships.
- To develop skills for a healthier, safer lifestyle.
- To challenge myths and misconceptions.

Organisation and content

The Governing Body have decided that sex education will be integrated into the personal, social and health education programme of the school as well as the science curriculum. The programme includes:

- In Key Stage 1 and 2 science lessons children learn about how animals including humans move, grow, feed and reproduce, and we 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.
- A concern for relationships with other people, respecting the rights and feelings of others, developing loving, caring relationships as friends, parents, members of a family and ultimately sexual partners.
- Knowledge of how the human body functions, how it grows and how we change physically and emotionally. In Year 6 we place a particular emphasis on health education as many children begin to experience puberty at this age. We liaise with the Local Health Authority about suitable teaching materials.
- The importance of self-esteem in encouraging the pupil to respect and care for his/her body, to make informed judgements and to learn to cope in the modern world.
- Video/DVD materials (BBC DVD 'Growing Up') previously approved by the Governing Body.

Age, emotional and physical maturity as well as cultural background will be considered in relation to the resources teachers use to deliver Sex and Relationships Education. They will also consider the amount of prior Sex and Relationship Education pupils have been exposed to by the school, media and other sources.

Right of withdrawal

Parents will be notified in advance of the start of this phase of teaching by the KS3 leader. DVD material is available for pre-viewing. Whilst we believe this is an important element of children's education, parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the sex education provided, except that which is required by the Science National Curriculum. Parents should see the Headteacher or Class Teacher. This right of withdrawal is also explained in the school prospectus.

Dealing with questions

Teachers will set clear boundaries for questioning are established and ground rules set as to what is appropriate and inappropriate. Whilst personal questions will not be answered, teachers are ready to deal with questions on relationships and sexuality, naturally and honestly, as and when they arise.

If a teacher is asked a question that is too explicit, is age inappropriate or raises questions about sexual abuse, then it will be acknowledged with a promise to attend to it later on an individual basis. If a question is raised that alerts a member of staff that a child is at risk of sexual abuse, the Headteacher will be informed and school child protection procedures will be followed.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed at least every three years by the Governing Body's curriculum committee. The committee will consult with teaching staff and take into consideration any views of the parents and pupils that have been brought forward.