

**Broadbent Fold Primary School
and Nursery**



**Relationship and Sex Education
Policy**

September 2021

In line with the Equalities Act (2010) we aim to ensure that any child, irrespective of protected characteristics (These are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.) is treated fairly and with respect. The law states that the public sector equality duty includes a general duty to, “Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.” This policy can be adapted to suit individual needs.

Introduction

Broadbent Fold school’s policy on sex and relationship education is based on the latest DfE *Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education Guidance*. We recognise Sex and Relationship Education as the policy’s full title, but for brevity’s sake we will refer in the rest of this policy simply to ‘sex education’. In the DfE document, sex education is defined as ‘learning about physical, moral and emotional development’. The Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education (England) Regulations 2019, makes Relationships Education statutory, for all pupils receiving primary education. They also make Health Education compulsory in all schools.

This has become statutory, as the document states, because:

“Today’s children and young people are growing up in an increasingly complex world and living their lives seamlessly on and offline. This presents many positive and exciting opportunities, but also challenges and risks. In this environment, children and young people need to know how to be safe and healthy, and how to manage their academic, personal and social lives in a positive way.”

The guidance also states:

‘It is about understanding the importance of marriage for family life, stable and loving relationships, friendship, 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 (PSHE) curriculum in our school. Children are taught about sexual issues with regard to morality and individual responsibility, 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

We teach children about:

- the physical development of their bodies as they grow into adults;
- the way humans reproduce;
- the importance of family life and healthy relationships;
- moral questions;
- relationship issues;
- respect for the views of other people;
- sexual abuse, and what they should do if they are worried about any sexual matters.

Context

We teach about sex in the context of the school's aims and values.

We teach about sex education on the understanding that:

- it is taught in the context of marriage and family life;
- it is part of a wider process of social, personal, spiritual and moral education;
- children are taught to have respect for their own bodies;
- children learn about their responsibilities to others, and be aware of the consequences of sexual activity;
- children are informed of the importance of building positive relationships with others, involving trust and respect;
- children learn the importance of self-control and how to keep themselves safe.

The National Healthy School Standard

We now participate in the National Healthy School Standard scheme, which promotes health education. As participants in this scheme we:

- consult with parents on all matters of health education policy;
- train all our teachers to teach about sex;
- listen to the views of the children in our school regarding sex education;
- look positively at any local initiatives that support us in providing the best sex education programme that we can devise.

Organisation

At Broadbent Fold we teach about sex through different aspects of the curriculum. The main sex education is taught through our personal, social and health education (PSHE) curriculum, some sex education is taught in other subject areas (for example, science and PE) which we believe contributes significantly to children's knowledge and understanding of their own bodies, and how they are changing and developing.

In PSHE we teach children about families, caring friendships, respectful relationships, online relationships and being safe. We encourage children to discuss issues and respect their differing views. We teach about the parts of the body, and how these work, and we explain to the children what will happen to their bodies during puberty including physical and emotional changes. We encourage the children to ask for help if they need it.

In Science lessons, in both key stages, teachers inform children about puberty and how a baby is born. For this aspect of our teaching we follow the guidance material in the national scheme of work for Science. In Key Stage 1 we teach children about how animals, including humans, move, feed, grow and reproduce, we also teach about the main parts of the body. Children learn to appreciate that people are not all the same and we need to respect each other. In Key Stage 2 we teach about life processes and the main stages of the human life cycle in greater depth.

In Year 6 we place a particular emphasis on health education, as many children experience puberty at this age. Teachers do their best to answer all questions with sensitivity and care. They will also have lessons taught by the school nurse. By the end of Key Stage 2 we ensure children know how babies are born, how their bodies and emotions change during puberty, what menstruation is, and how it affects women. This is taught with due regard for the emotional development of the children.

If a parent or carer has any questions regarding the lessons in Year 6 we are happy to arrange a meeting about this programme of work.

The role of parents

The school is well aware that the primary role in children's sex education lies with parents and carers. We therefore wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents of children at our school, through mutual understanding, trust and cooperation. To promote 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 of their child;
- take seriously any issue that parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy, or about the arrangements for sex education in the 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 bodies and their increasing responsibilities.

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

The role of other members of the community

We encourage other valued members of the community to work with us 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.

Confidentiality

Teachers conduct sex education lessons in a sensitive manner and in confidence. However, if a child makes a reference to being involved (or being likely to be involved) in sexual activity, then the teacher will take the reference 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.

The member of staff will not investigate but will immediately inform the named person for child protection issues about their concerns. The headteacher will then deal with the matter in consultation with health care professionals (see also our policy on Child Protection).

The role of the headteacher

It is the responsibility of the headteacher to ensure that both staff and parents are informed of our sex education policy and that the policy is effectively implemented. It is also the headteacher's responsibility to ensure that members of staff are sufficiently trained, so they can teach about sex effectively and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity.

The headteacher liaises with external agencies regarding the school sex education programme and ensures all adults who work with our children on these issues are aware of the school policy and work within its framework.

The headteacher monitors this policy on a regular basis and reports to governors when requested on the effectiveness of the policy.

Monitoring and review

The Curriculum Committee gives serious consideration to any comments from parents about the sex education programme. Governors require the headteacher to keep a written record, giving details of the content and delivery of our sex education programme.

This policy will be reviewed in two years, or earlier if necessary.