



Sex Education Policy

*(Approved by Trustees 18 June 2018-
Next review date: Spring 2019)*

Introduction

We have based the Lakes Academies Trust sex education policy on the DfEE guidance document Sex and Relationship Education Guidance (ref DfEE 0116/2000). In this document, sex education is defined as 'learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about understanding the importance of family life, stable and loving relationships, 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 schools. We use sex education to inform children about sexual issues, we do this with regard to matters of human biology, morality and individual responsibility, and in a way that allows children to ask and explore questions. We do not use sex education as a means of promoting any form of sexual orientation.

The trustees are responsible for reviewing and amending this policy annually.

Aims and objectives

We teach children about:

- the physical development of their bodies as they grow into adults;
- the way humans reproduce;
- respect for their own 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;
- sexual abuse and sexual exploitation and what they should do if they are worried about any sexual matters.
- All sessions are age appropriate

Context

- sex education is part of a wider social, personal, spiritual and moral education process;
- 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;
- we aim to build positive relationships with others, involving trust and respect;
- children learn the importance of self-control.
- children are given factual information relevant to their age.
- Adults provide opportunities for open discussions as the need arises.

Organisation

Schools teach sex education through different aspects of the curriculum. They carry out the main sex education teaching in the (PSHE) curriculum.. They also teach some sex education through other subject areas (for example, science and PE), where we feel that they contribute significantly to a child's knowledge and understanding of his or her own body, and how it is changing and developing.

In Years 5+6 schools 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. The schools run single sex sessions that allow open and frank discussions to take place. By the end of Key Stage 2, we ensure that both boys and girls know how babies are born, how their bodies change during puberty, what menstruation is, and how it affects girls. We always teach this with due regard for the emotional development of the children.

The role of parents

Schools work closely with parents to promote the following;

- 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 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 body and their increasing responsibilities.

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from all or part of the sex education programme that schools teach. 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

The Lakes Academies Trust encourage other valued members of the community to work with them 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 call on include local clergy, social workers and youth workers.

Confidentiality

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 this is reported to the designated child protection teacher in line with the child Protection policy.

Monitoring and review

The Curriculum Committee of the Local governing bodies monitors the sex education policy on an annual basis. This committee reports its findings and recommendations to the board of trustees as necessary. The Lakes Academies Trust await new government guidance and will review this policy earlier should such guidance be issued.