

Sex Education Policy

November 2010



**Icknield Community College
Love Lane
Watlington
OX49 5RB**

Approval & Review

Approved by:	Governing Body for the academic year 2010/2011
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Sex Education Policy

Rationale

This policy shows the teaching and learning that are offered to students in order to understand their own and others' sexuality, and to develop skills for relationships and informed decision making.

Definition

The school agrees that sex education is the entitlement of each child and is committed to deliver it within the context of a broad and balanced programme of health education.

Aims

- Ensure that Sex Education is integrated into the curriculum and not isolated, taken out of context or over-emphasised in any way.
- Foster self-esteem and respect for others as the cornerstone of good health education and of therefore, good sex education.
- Nurture a partnership between caring adults – teachers, ancillary staff and parents to ensure sensitive support for children and young people as they grow and mature.
- Ensure children have the ability to accept their own and others' sexuality.
- Encourage children to enjoy relationships based upon mutual trust and respect, free from any abuse.
- Generate an atmosphere where questions and discussion on sexual matters can take place without embarrassment.
- Adopt a whole school approach to Sex Education.

Teaching and Learning

Effective teaching of sex education will increase students' knowledge of:

- Their body
- Human growth and development
- Families, parenting and life cycles
- Safety and child protection
- Helping agencies
- Sexual identity
- Contraception

It will also enable students to :

- Improve their self-esteem
- Make informed choices and decisions
- Develop personal initiative and be able to take responsibility
- Recognise personal skills and qualities in themselves and others
- Maintain and develop relationships
- Develop self-confidence
- Develop assertiveness in appropriate situations
- Develop the motivation to succeed

Within the taught and hidden curriculum, students should be given frequent and regular opportunities to work on feelings and to practice personal and interpersonal skills. We value

and respect the learning that occurs in the community and in the home believing that these, alongside school links, are essential dimensions of sex education.

It is important, whenever possible, to involve, and certainly to inform, parents about the Sex Education programme within the curriculum. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from receiving Sex Education at school.

Role of the School Health Nurse

The School Health Nurse will be available to offer help to students in accessing contraception when appropriate. The school nurse will work within the national guidelines of confidentiality which govern all nurses. Confidentiality is not broken unless there are child protection issues, but the school nurse will encourage all young people under 16 to discuss sexual issues with their parents.

Actions the school nurse can take:

Pregnancy Tests

If a girl is thought to be at risk of pregnancy, the nurse may offer a pregnancy test and if found to be pregnant will ensure that she is put in contact with a doctor. Similarly, if there is a need for contraceptive advice, she will be helped to access this service. The girl will be encouraged to discuss the matter with her parent/carer.

If the SHN is not immediately available, either in person or by phone, the Assistant Head (Pastoral) or the School Counsellor will manage the situation.

Teaching on how to use condoms

This is sometimes done in PSHCE lessons, but many young people benefit from having it reinforced individually. We will only provide a supply of condoms if this is absolutely essential, and then only a small quantity. We will give information on where condoms can be obtained

Help with accessing emergency contraception

Girls are sometimes not sure whether they need this and how to get it. The nurse will be able to assess the need for the girl to obtain emergency contraception, and help her to arrange this if necessary. The nurse will also help her access on-going contraception.

If the SHN is not immediately available, either in person or by phone, the Assistant Head (Pastoral) will provide assistance.

Success Criteria

- There will be fewer incidents of homophobic bullying
- There will be fewer incidents of pregnancy
- The school counsellor/School Nurse drop-in service (Tuesday lunchtime) will be well used by students
- All students will be aware of the essential facts of life

Further Information:

For further guidance see Oxfordshire's Curriculum Matters 9

For information on Child Protection and Confidentiality see OCC guidelines.

Our School Counsellor and Connexions Advisor continue to offer support and guidance on health issues, including sex education.