



Bexley Grammar School

Sex Education Policy

Introduction

Appropriate and responsible Sex Education is an important element in educating pupils to live their lives to the full in the present and in preparing them for adult life. It calls for sensitive and careful treatment.

Parents are key figures in helping their children to cope with the physical and emotional aspects of growing up and in preparing them for the challenges and responsibilities which sexual maturity brings. The teaching offered by the School should be complementary and supportive to the rôle of parents and carried out in consultation with them.

The Place of Sex Education within the School Curriculum

At the School particular care and sensitivity is needed in matching teaching and learning to the maturity of the pupils involved, which may not always be adequately indicated by chronological age.

Sex Education will take place within the timetable but is commonly subsumed within a broader programme of personal and social education. Whilst the physical aspects of sexual development and behaviour will be partly encompassed within the teaching of Biology, opportunities for considering the broader emotional and ethical dimensions of sexual attitudes and mores may arise in other subject areas across the curriculum.

The content of the Sex Education curriculum has been decided in consultation with the teaching staff and will be presented in such a manner as to encourage pupils to have due regard to moral considerations and the value of family life.

Pupils may need to know about sexual matters to ensure that education about health is not impaired, and that, for example, they understand about the relationship between certain forms of sexual behaviour and sexually transmitted diseases.

There is no statutory right for parents to withdraw their children from Sex Education. The School has the discretion to accept or reject requests from parents for their children to be withdrawn from any Sex Education to which they object.

A Moral Framework for Sex Education

Legislation requires that:

"The Local Education Authority by whom any county, voluntary or special school is maintained, and the Governing Body and the Head Teacher of the School, shall take such steps as are reasonably practicable to secure that where Sex Education is given to any registered pupils at the School, it is given in such a manner as to encourage those pupils to have due regard to moral considerations and the value of family life".

The School considers that the aims of a Sex Education programme should be to present facts in an objective and balanced manner so as to enable pupils to understand the range of sexual attitudes and behaviour in present day society, to know what is and is not legal, to consider their own attitudes and to make informed, reasoned and responsible decisions about the attitudes they will adopt both while they are at School and in adulthood. Teaching about the physical aspects of sexual behaviour should be set within a clear moral framework in which pupils are encouraged to consider the importance of self-restraint, dignity and respect for themselves and others, and helped to recognise the physical, emotional and moral risks of casual and promiscuous sexual behaviour. The School shall foster a recognition that both sexes should behave responsibly in these matters. Pupils should be helped to appreciate the benefits of stable married and family life and the responsibilities of parenthood and to recognise sexual activity as a part of a stable, long-term loving relationship.

Schools have a responsibility to ensure that pupils understand those aspects of the law which relate to sexual activity.

The School cannot avoid tackling controversial sexual matters and pupils' questions will be answered in a balanced and factual manner acknowledging the major ethical and moral issues involved.

Teaching about Sexually Transmitted Diseases

A key element to limiting the spread of STDs lies in enhanced public understanding about the diseases and the ways in which infection is and is not transmitted. The School can contribute to the general level of awareness through the teaching which it offers. The School has a clear responsibility to warn pupils of the health risks of casual and promiscuous behaviour and the dangers linked with drug abuse.

Information and discussion about other sexually transmitted diseases will be included in the programme.

A teacher approached by a pupil for advice on these or other aspects of sexual behaviour should encourage the pupil to seek advice from his or her parents. Where the circumstances are such as to lead the teacher to believe that the pupil has embarked upon, or is contemplating, a course of conduct which is likely to place him or her in moral or physical danger, or in breach of the law, the teacher has a general duty to warn the pupil of the risks involved.