

CAMS HILL SCHOOL

SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION POLICY

Modified April 2007

SEX & RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION POLICY

1. What is Sex & Relationships Education?

It is lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of marriage for family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality and sexual health.

It is **not** about the promotion of sexual orientation or sexual activity – this would be inappropriate teaching.

2. Background information

Cams Hill School is an 11-16 mixed comprehensive school that occupies a greenfield site on the upper reaches of Portsmouth Harbour. The intake of pupils at Cams Hill tends to contain a greater than usual number of higher ability children from mainly white, middle class families with very supportive parents. There are a very small number of ethnic minority children.

3. Aims of sex education

At Cams Hill School we believe that sex and relationships education cannot be left to chance. It is a responsibility that we share with others but the school will take such steps as are practically possible to provide all pupils with sex and relationships education of the highest standard and in such a manner as to encourage those pupils to have due regard to moral considerations and the value of family life.

We aim:

- ♦ to encourage personal responsibility in all forms of behaviour;
- ♦ to help young people explore and understand their own feelings, attitudes and values and those of others;
- ♦ to encourage self-esteem;
- ♦ to help young people to be aware of and adapt to change in themselves, in others around them and in their environment;
- ♦ to provide support and information for young people and their parents.

The aim of this policy is to establish a context and a framework within which high quality sex and relationships education will be delivered and to clearly communicate to staff, parents, visitors and pupils the manner in which sex and relationships education will be delivered in this school.

4. Content

Sex and relationships education provides knowledge, and encourages the acquisition of skills and attitudes which allow pupils to manage their lives in a responsible and healthy way.

a. Knowledge and information:

The following topics are covered at Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 with due attention paid to continuity and progression:

Key Stage 3 - Puberty, personal safety, friendship and love, family life and relationships, gender issues, conception and birth, contraception, HIV/AIDS, sexual lifestyles, helping agencies, prejudice and stereotyping, different faiths and cultures.

Key Stage 4 - Birth processes, abortion, fostering and adoption, genetic inheritance, early parenting, sexually transmitted diseases including HIV and AIDS, sexual lifestyles, helping agencies, prejudice and stereotyping, different faiths and cultures.

b. Values and beliefs:

As well as knowledge and information, pupils will be encouraged to consider the importance of the following values, which are derived from the School's value system:

- ♦ respect and valuing of themselves and others;
- ♦ understanding and sensitivity towards the needs and views of others;
- ♦ responsibility for their own actions;
- ♦ understanding the significance of marriage and stable relationships within society;
- ♦ responsibility to the school, their family and the wider community.

c. Skills and abilities:

Pupils will be helped to develop the following skills:

- ♦ communication including the making and keeping of relationships;
- ♦ assertiveness;
- ♦ decision-making;
- ♦ recognising and using opportunities to develop a healthy lifestyle.

Detailed information can be found in attached scheme of work.

5. Organisation

- a. Sex and relationships education is co-ordinated by the PSHE Co-ordinator who is responsible for the overall planning, implementation and review of the programme.
- b. Delivery is through
 - **planned** aspects within the Science, PSHE, PDL and Religious Education curricula;
 - addressing moral and ethical issues which may arise from apparently unrelated topics elsewhere in the School's programme. Within this category, **as long as any discussion takes place within the context of the subject**, it will not be deemed to be part of the sex education programme and therefore not subject to the parental right of withdrawal.
- c. Teaching approaches: as in all subject areas, teaching methods are appropriate to the ages and abilities of the children and subject material is suitably differentiated. Thus pupils are enabled to explore moral issues and acquire appropriate skills. Details can be seen in the various schemes of work.
- d. Pupil groupings: pupils are taught in a variety of groupings which reflect the School's overall pattern of ability and gender.
- e. Resources:
 - Materials - A wide range of teaching resources are available to teachers;
 - Staff - With regard to sex education it is important that staff feel comfortable with the subject matter and support will be offered through an in-service training programme where necessary. All staff will be required to teach within the School's value framework (**See paragraph 4**).

6. Specific Issues

The following issues may occur as part of education. Staff, parents and pupils need to understand the School's procedures.

a. Confidentiality and advice:

Pupils will be made aware that some information cannot be confidential, and made to understand that if certain disclosures are made certain actions will ensue. At the same time pupils will be offered sensitive and appropriate support. The following procedures will be adhered to by all adults.

- i. Disclosure or suspicion of possible abuse - the School's Child Protection procedures will be invoked via the School's Child Protection Officer in the first instance.
 - ii. Disclosure of pregnancy or advice on contraception - it is hoped that the following procedure will ensure that pupils who are in difficulty know that they can talk to an adult in the School and that they will be supported. However, the Headteacher will always be informed.
- b. Professional information and guidance will always be sought from a health professional. The school will always encourage pupils to talk with their parents first:
- The adult should report the incident to either the Headteacher or the Child Protection Officer (depending on the nature of the issue) immediately, who will consult with the health professional/ Social Services as to whether parents should be informed.
 - Pupils should be asked whether they can tell their parent(s) and whether they want help in doing so. The School will check that the parents have been informed if a child makes the decision to do so. If this takes place, subsequent responsibility then lies with the parent(s).
 - If a pupil refuses to tell the parent(s) the adult should refer him/her to a health professional. If the referral is strongly felt by the pupil to be a matter of urgency and the pupil is determined to leave the site, the teacher must accompany the pupil on the journey to the health professional to ensure their safety.

c. Family life

The value and role of family life is an important topic which will be approached largely through a consideration of the qualities and relationships between the group of people, with an emphasis on stability, respect, openness, caring and support.

- d. As part of the sex and relationships education programme, issues of contraception, HIV/ AIDS, sexuality and abortion are addressed. Facts are presented in an objective and balanced way, with pupils being encouraged to consider their attitudes and values within the framework set out in paragraph 4. They will be made aware of the difference between fact, opinion and religious belief.

e. Complaints procedure

Complaints relating to sex and relationships education should follow the normal complaints procedure as detailed in the School Prospectus.

f. Parental partnership

Under the Education Act 1993 parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the sex and relationships education programme. Parents wishing to exercise that right are asked to make an appointment to meet the Head of PSHE to explore their concerns. We sincerely hope that no parent will consider such withdrawal without discussion. Once a child has been withdrawn, s/he cannot take part in later sex education without parental approval.

7. Monitoring and review

- a. Sex education will be monitored by the Head of PSHE who will report routinely to Governors.
- b. A nominated Governor has a link role between the School and the Governing Body.

8. Dissemination of the policy

A summary of this policy is in the school prospectus. The full policy, appendices and full programmes of study are available on request to parents (at the cost of photocopying), the LA and OFSTED through the Headteacher.