

# Thomas Gray Primary School

## Sex Education Policy

### 1. Introduction

1.1 We have based our schools Sex Education Policy on the experiences we have gained through various strategies and the comments and views of parents with regards to Sex Education.

1.2 The Governors agree that Sex Education should form part of the curriculum, but should be based on the needs and level of understanding of the pupils throughout. Therefore the following programme has been adopted for the purposes of Sex Education within Thomas Gray Primary School.

1.3 As of 2014 National Curriculum change Sex Education forms part of the Year 5 curriculum.

### 2. Aims and objectives

2.1 We teach children about:

- The physical development of their bodies as they grow into adults;
- Respect for their own bodies
- The importance of family life;
- Moral questions;
- Relationship issues;
- Respect for the views of other people;
- Sex abuse and what they should do if they are worried about any sexual matters.

### 3. Context

3.1 We teach sex education through different aspects of the curriculum. While we carry out the main sex education teaching in our personal, social and health education curriculum, we also teach some sex education through other subject areas, for example, science, where we feel that they contribute significantly a child's knowledge and understanding of his or her own body, and how it is changing and developing.

3.2 In PSHE we teach children about their feelings, emotions and relationships and we encourage children to discuss issues. We teach about the parts of the body and how these work, and we explain to them what will happen to their bodies during puberty. For example, we tell the boys that their voices will change during puberty and we explain to the girls about menstruation. We encourage the children to ask for help if they need it.

3.3 In Science lessons teachers inform children about puberty and how a baby is born. For this aspect of the schools teaching, we follow guidance material in the National Scheme of Work

for Science. In Key Stage 2 we teach about life processes and the main stages of the human life cycle in greater depth.

3.4 In Year 5 we place a particular emphasis on health education, as many children begin to experience puberty at this age. We liaise with local health authority about suitable teaching materials to use with our children in these lessons. Teachers do their best to answer all questions with sensitivity and care. By the end of Key Stage 2, we ensure that both boys and girls know how their bodies change during puberty, what menstruation is, and how it affects women. We also teach this with due regard to the emotional development of the children (as stated earlier in this policy.)

## 4. The Role of Parents

4.1 The school is well aware that the primary role in children's sex education lies with parents and carers. We wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents of children at our school through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation. In promoting 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 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;

4.2 Parents have the right to withdraw their child from all 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 head teacher, 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.

## 5. The role of other members of the community

5.1 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.

## 6. Confidentiality

6.1 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 the teacher will take the matter 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. In these circumstances the teacher will talk to the child as a matter of urgency. If the

teacher has concerns, they will draw their concerns to the attention of the head teacher. The head teacher will then deal with the matter in consultation with health care professionals. (See also Child Protection Policy).

## 7. Monitoring and review

7.1 The Curriculum Committee of the governing body monitors our sex education policy. This committee reports its findings and recommendations to the full governing body, as necessary, if the policy needs modification. The Curriculum Committee gives serious consideration to any comments from parents about the sex education programme, and makes a record of all such comments.

Signed: A.P. Taylor  
Chair of Governors

Date: 13/07/16

Signed: R. P. [Signature]  
Headteacher

Date: 13/07/16

Date to be reviewed: Summer 2019