

The Anthony Roper Primary School

Sex Education Policy

A policy statement by the Governing Body of Anthony Roper Primary School, DfEE no. 2089

This policy statement was agreed on 23rd February 2012 after full consultation with staff and in accordance with Section 18 of the Education Act of 1986 (No. 2) and 1993.

This Governing Body believes that Sex Education is an essential and integral part of the balanced curriculum mentioned in the 1986 Act, and therefore requires that the subject of Sex Education forms part of the curriculum of the school. They have done so for the following reasons:

- (a) Education about relationships and sexuality begins at birth – the way we are touched, handled and spoken to. Young children are interested in themselves, their bodies and their relationships. Children will come to school with a range of sexual information and attitudes about sexuality and relationships from home and pre-school education. This interest can be built on and developed in school where some Sex Education will come spontaneously from children's questions. Where this happens such questions will be dealt with in a sympathetic and appropriate way.
- (b) Not all parents are confident about answering questions and may feel embarrassed by them or may be uncertain about the vocabulary to use.
- (c) Primary teachers are in an ideal position to help a child understand growth and development, before puberty.
- (d) At the primary level, particular care and sensitivity is needed in matching teaching to the maturity of the pupils involved, which may not always be adequately indicated by chronological age. Teachers will aim to help pupils cope with the physical and emotional challenges of growing up and give them an elementary understanding of human reproduction. Pupils' questions are to be answered with due consideration for any particular religious or cultural factors bearing on the discussion of sexual issues.

A Moral Framework for Sex Education

The Governors affirm that Sex Education given to pupils must be given in such a manner as to encourage those pupils to have due regard to moral considerations, the value of family life as an institution and the important part it plays in the development of attachment, love and concern. This is an underlying principle adhered to by ALL staff when teaching Sex Education.

The framework for Sex Education is set out below and is recommended by the Health Education Authority.

Parents have a statutory right to withdraw their children from formal Sex Education lessons in Year 6.

A suggested guide for teaching Sex Education, which will normally be taught as part of the PSHE and Science curriculum

Ages 4-5:

- People in my life. What they do for me and what I do for them (i.e. family)
- Friendships
- Loss and mourning – e.g. a relative
- My body and other people's bodies – similarities and differences
- The beginning of life – me, animals, plants
- Ageing – how we know things are alive, dead, young, old.

Ages 6-7:

- Changes as we grow
- Different types of families
- Feelings in families (e.g. love, jealousy)
- What helps people to get on with each other (e.g. listening/sharing)
- People who help me to care for myself (i.e. family)
- Inside my body – the functions of different parts

Ages 8-9:

- Feelings – things which make me happy, sad, embarrassed, scared etc.
- Changes in my own body and in those of others – including introduction to menstruation for girls
- Family trees
- Making decisions
- Varied lifestyles in the class and community

Ages 10-11:

- Decision making and risk taking
- Feelings about the future
- Families and how they behave – what members expect of each other
- Celebrations of birth, christening, puberty, marriage and death in different cultures
- Expressing feelings and how we do this
- Differences and similarities in people
- Sexuality – what is it and what words describe it
- Body changes in me and others – why they are happening

Issues such as sexual intercourse and contraception are dealt with in greater detail in Year 6.

2 sessions will be arranged.

One session will be taught by qualified secondary teachers trained in sex education

The other will be taught by the school nurse.

Pupils will have the opportunity to discuss topics and ask questions during and after each session. There will also be a forum for single sex discussion.

Monitoring and Review

The policy is to be reviewed annually by the Headteacher and updated as necessary. Any alterations will be referred to the School Development Committee of the Governing Body.

Any comments from parents about the Sex Education Programme will be recorded.

Signed:

Date: