



NETHERTHORPE SCHOOL

SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS COLLEGE

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Netherthorpe School

Sex Education Policy

September 2017

Last Approved: September 2017

Next Review: September 2019

1. **Introduction**

Netherthorpe School believes Health Education is an educational entitlement for all students. The school has a responsibility to provide accurate information about health matters, to help the students clarify the attitudes and values which influence health choices and to promote the acquisition of healthy patterns of behaviour. This will include the formal curriculum and the messages which permeate from the ethos of the school.

Through the Sex Education Programme the School aims to develop students' knowledge and understanding, skills, attitudes and values, which will enable them to manage their lives in a responsible and healthy way. Emphasis is placed on the importance of caring, stable and supportive relationships and in particular the value of family life.

Throughout the programme facts are presented in a sensitive and balanced way. Students are encouraged to consider the importance of a range of values and attitudes including self-esteem, self-respect, respect for others and their beliefs, sensitivity and responsibility. Students are also given the opportunity to develop skills in decision making, assertiveness and communications.

Sex Education is taught from Year 7 in Science, PSHE and some aspects of Religious Studies using a variety of approaches.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from aspects of the programme taught outside the National Curriculum Science. Parents wishing to exercise that right are asked to contact the Head of PSHE in the first instance.

2. **Aims of sex education**

Netherthorpe School believes that sex education is an educational entitlement of all students and an integral part of each student's emergence into adulthood. We aim:

- To provide knowledge and information to which all students are entitled;
- To clarify/reinforce knowledge students have already acquired;
- To raise students' self-esteem and confidence, especially in their relationships with others;
- To help students to understand their sexual feelings and behaviour;
- To develop skills (language, decision making, choice, assertiveness) which are necessary in a range of situations;
- To promote acceptable and appropriate behaviour in public and private situations;
- To give practice of strategies which reduce the risk of exploitation, misunderstanding and abuse;
- To provide the confidence to be an active member of society;
- To support access to information and facilities.

3. **Content**

Sex Education provides knowledge, and encourages the acquisition of skills and attitudes which will allow students to manage their lives in a responsible and healthy way.

- a. Knowledge and information**
Key Stage 3 Reproduction, adolescence, fertilisation and implantation, development of the foetus, the menstrual cycle.
 personal safety, friendship and love, different faiths and cultures, gender issues, conception and birth, contraception, safer sex, helping agencies, sex and the law.
Key Stage 4 Birth processes, abortion, fostering and adoption, genetic inheritance, fertility treatment, sexually transmitted diseases including HIV and AIDS, sexual lifestyles, helping agencies, prejudice and stereotyping.
- b. Values and beliefs**
 As well as knowledge and information students 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 other;
 - Understanding and sensitivity towards the needs and views of others;
 - Responsibility for their own actions;
 - Responsibility to the school, their family and the wider community.
- c. Skills and abilities**
 Students 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.
- 4. Organisation**
- a. Sex Education** is coordinated by the Head of PSHCE who is responsible for the overall planning, implementation and review of the programme.
- b. Delivery is through**
- Planned aspects within National Curriculum Science, PSHCE, and some aspects of Religious Studies using a variety of approaches – PSHCE half days and assemblies with the School Nurse and outside agencies.
- c. Teaching approaches**
 A variety of approaches are used to give students relevant information; to enable moral issues to be explored through discussion; and to acquire appropriate skills. Details can be seen in the scheme of work.
- d. Students groupings**
 Students are taught in mixed ability and gender groups. When there is a specific need (for example members of a faith groups), arrangements will be made to teach students in appropriate groupings.
- e. Resources**
- Materials – A wide range of teaching resources are available to teachers from the Derbyshire Health Promotion Unit; the School Nurse and her team and the Head of PSHCE.
 - Staff – With regard to sex education it is important that staff feel comfortable with the subject matter. Some staff training may be required. Support will be offered through an in-service training programme. All staff are asked to teach within the school's value framework (See para 3b).
- f. Time available**
 Sex education will be part of the curriculum in Y7 – Y10. Y7 are taught reproduction in Science and some areas are covered at GCSE.

5. **Specific Issues**

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

a. **Confidentiality and advice**

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

i. Disclosure of pregnancy or requests for advice on contraception –The school's safeguarding procedures will be invoked. (see relevant policy).

It is hoped that the following procedure will ensure that students who are in difficulty know that they can talk to an adult in the school and that they will be supported. Professional information and guidance will always be sought from a Health Professional. The school will always encourage students to talk with their parents first.

ii. **Pregnancy advice:**

Students should be asked whether they can tell their parent(s) or whether they want help in doing so. This will need to be checked and if it has taken place subsequent responsibility lies with the parents. If the student fails to tell their parents the Assistant Headteacher responsible for safeguarding should refer them to a health professional and consult about informing parents.

iii. **Contraceptive advice:**

Requests for individual advice should be referred to a health professional unless it is thought in the best interests of the child that a student's confidence should be respected. The School Nursing team offer an enhanced drop in one day a week which students can go to for contraception and advice. Staff may wish to consult with the Assistant Headteacher responsible for safeguarding.

b. **Family life**

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

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

d. **Complaints procedure**

Any complaints about the sex education curriculum should be made to the Head who will report to the governors.

e. **Parental partnership**

Under the Education Act 1993 parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the sex education programme, which is not part of the National Curriculum. Parents wishing to exercise that right are asked to make an appointment to meet the Head of PSHCE to discuss the issues, although they are under no obligation to do so. Once a child has been withdrawn they cannot take part in later sex education without parental approval.

6. **Monitoring and review**
 - a. Sex education will be monitored by the Head of PSHCE supported by the Deputy Headteacher (Teaching & Learning).
 - b. The full policy will be made available, on request, to all parents when their child enters the school.

7. **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 through the Headteacher.