

1. Aims

Thomas Keble School believes that Sex Education is an entitlement of all pupils. We aim to:

- i) Give young people a basic knowledge and understanding of human development.
- ii) Help young people adapt to changes in themselves and their environment.
- iii) Help young people to explore and understand the feeling, attitudes and values of themselves and others.
- iv) Encourage understanding and tolerance of difference.
- v) Help young people to determine where they have control over their health and where they can make conscious choices and determine their future health and lifestyles.
- vi) Increase students' self-esteem.

Through this Policy we hope to communicate to staff, parents, visitors and pupils how Sex Education is delivered in Thomas Keble.

2. Moral and Values Framework

The Sex Education programme will reflect the ethos of the School and aims to encourage pupils to have due regard to moral considerations and the value of family life (see content below).

3. Equal Opportunities

Thomas Keble School is committed to working towards equal opportunities in all aspects of school life. Resources and methods are all in keeping with the School's Equality Policy.

4. Content

Sex Education provides pupils with a body of knowledge and encourages the acquisition of skills and attitudes which will help pupils manage their lives responsibly and in a healthy way.

a) Curriculum Content and Delivery

A wide range of teaching methods are used that enable students to actively participate in their own learning. At KS3 pupils will cover work on: family life and relationships including both healthy and unhealthy relationships (Teen Relationship Abuse, FGM and Forced Marriage), teenage pregnancy, contraception, sex and the law, STIs and HIV, assessing risk and decision-making.

Further work is continued into KS4 and is delivered through the tutorial programme and visiting speakers including work on Sexual consent and further work on HIV.

A full syllabus will be found in the Scheme of Work.

b) Values/Beliefs

As well as knowledge and information, pupils will be encouraged to consider the importance of:

- i) Personal values and self-esteem, including respect and valuing of themselves and others.
- ii) Personal responsibility for their own actions.
- iii) Responsibility to their family and wider community.
- iv) The value of family life, approached through a consideration of the qualities and relationships between groups of people with an emphasis on stability, respect, caring and support.

c) Skills

Pupils will be encouraged to develop the skills of:

- communication
- decision-making
- recognising and using opportunities to develop a healthy lifestyle.

5. Organisation

Sex Education is co-ordinated by the Head of PSHE (Personal, Social & Health Education) who is responsible for the planning, implementation and review of the programme within PSHE and the tutorial programme, and who co-ordinates other aspects of the work in Science, PE and RE.

Delivery is through planned aspects in PSHE, Science, RE and the tutorial programme. It also takes place when moral and ethical issues are addressed in any subject area. As long as any discussion takes place within the context of any subject, it will not be deemed part of the Sex Education Programme, and therefore not subject to the parental right of withdrawal.

A variety of teaching approaches are used as appropriate to ensure the aims of the programme are implemented (see Schemes of Work).

Pupils are usually taught in mixed gender groups, although some self-selected grouping takes place and there is, sometimes, provision made for a single sex session when requested by pupils.

A wide range of materials is available to staff and may be inspected by parents. Requests should be made to the front office.

6. Specific Issues

a) Confidentiality

Pupils will be told that some information cannot be held confidentially by schools. They will be informed that staff are bound to act on certain disclosures, as dictated by our Safeguarding (Child Protection) policy; however, pupils will also be offered sensitive and appropriate support.

b) Contraceptive advice, information and referrals for Under 16s

Teachers should not give contraceptive advice to an individual student under the age of sixteen. Teachers are not health professionals and the legal position when giving advice in such circumstances has never been tested in the Courts.

Pupils are advised to speak to tutors, HoY or supportive members of staff with any issue. Therefore, any pupil who thinks they may be at risk of pregnancy, will know that they can talk to an adult in the school and they will be supported.

Pupils are encouraged to talk to other health professionals who will follow their professional guidance. Pupils will be encouraged to talk with their parent(s) and asked whether they want help in doing so. If this takes place, subsequent responsibility lies with the parents(s). If pupils refuse to tell their parent(s), they will be referred to a health professional, G.P. or school nurse for example. As the child might be deemed "at risk" the matter should be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) who will inform the Headteacher and discuss with the health professional how parent(s) might be informed, as appropriate. During the sex education programme pupils will be informed of agencies where they can access advice.

c) Disclosure of sexual abuse

If there is a disclosure or suspicion of child abuse or possible abuse, the School's Child Protection procedures will be involved (see Safeguarding (Child Protection) Procedures).

d) Explicit or Difficult Questions

Teachers will use their professional judgement to deal with explicit or difficult questions in the course of sex education. Such questions need not be answered directly and can be addressed individually later, when pupils might be encouraged to discuss them with parents or a health professional.

e) Outside Visitors

Where possible the school may make frequent use of outside visitors – G.P. health visitors, school nurse or other health professionals. These will receive the Sex Education Policy and will be asked to work within it.

f) Withdrawal Procedures

Parents will be advised of course outlines relating to Sex Education. Under the 1993 Education Act, parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the Sex Education programme. To do so they should write to the Headteacher.

Parents wishing to exercise that right are asked to make an appointment to meet the Head of PSHE to discuss the issues, but 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.

g) Complaints Procedure

Any complaints about the Sex Education Policy should be made to the Headteacher who will report it to the Trust Board.

7. Monitoring and Review

Sex Education will be monitored by the Head of PSHE and line-manager. Feedback from pupils, parents and staff will help in the evaluation and planning of the programme.