

DELCE INFANT SCHOOL

SEX EDUCATION POLICY

The staff and governors at Delce Infant School recognise that sex education is a sensitive subject and that it needs to be dealt with in an informed but sympathetic way. The staff seek to answer all children's questions about their bodies, the differences between the sexes and about human reproduction in an honest and factual way taking into account the age of the child and his/her level of understanding. We believe that children have a right to be taught about factors which affect their personal development in order that they are well prepared for adult life.

We recognise the importance of forming a close partnership with parents and we are aware that good home/school relationships are beneficial to the child, both socially and educationally.

We acknowledge that parents are the key figures in helping their children to cope with the physical and emotional aspects of growing up and in preparing them for the challenges and responsibilities which sexual maturity brings. The teaching offered by schools should be complementary and supportive to the role of the parent. However, we do believe that schools have a clear responsibility to ensure that pupils are adequately prepared for adult life.

The staff and governors at Delce Infants aim to make parents aware of our philosophy about sex education and to be sympathetic to their views and suggestions.

Delce Infant School recognises the close links between Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) and Sex Education and we propose to teach both of these areas mainly through our termly topics as well as answering children's questions which occasionally arise spontaneously.

Legislation

Education Acts since 1980 have:

- * stated that all schools have a statutory duty to provide in their published information a statement of the manner and context in which sex education is given.

- * placed responsibility on governing bodies for determining what sex education should be offered in their schools. Governors have to ensure that sex education is given in such a manner as to encourage pupils to have due regard to moral considerations and the value of family life.

- * required all maintained schools to offer a curriculum which promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society and also which prepares for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

- * introduced new arrangements for sex education in schools. These provide that :
 - education about human sexual behaviour (including education about HIV and AIDS) will be removed from the National Curriculum
 - at maintained primary schools, sex education will remain discretionary
 - at all maintained schools, parents will have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the sex education offered. Parents must also receive clear information about how they can exercise this right.

The Content of the Sex Education offered at Delce Infant School:

The education your child receives will enable him/her to cope with the physical and emotional challenges of growing up. This will include work on feelings and relationships as well as the

functioning of his/her body. Some aspects will arise spontaneously from children's questions whilst others will form part of the planned class topic. Teachers will endeavour to answer questions truthfully and will take into account the child's age and level of understanding.

Young children are egocentric and it is essential that their education starts with them and their immediate concerns. Children will have opportunities to study families and relationships. For example they will discuss aspects of growing up which will include the birth of a new baby, the effects of ageing and the physical and emotional changes that occur, and the death of a loved one. Children will be encouraged to consider their own needs as well as the needs of others, both younger and older. They will discuss issues such as bullying and teasing, moods and feelings, and the importance of decision making. They will learn about keeping themselves healthy and safe and will be encouraged to develop a sense of their own worth and a respect for themselves and other people.

As pupils progress through the school topics will be revisited and covered in increasing depth and complexity.

Teaching Approaches

The National Curriculum Science Document requires children to learn about themselves and develop their own ideas about how they grow, feed, move, use their senses and about the stages of human development. They are also required to be introduced to ideas about how they keep healthy through exercise, personal hygiene, diet, rest and personal safety, and to the role of drugs as medicines.

They will study the development of relationships and the importance of belonging to a community as set out in the Medway Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education.

Children will learn about Sex Education through a variety of approaches. They will have opportunities to learn about and discuss issues with their class teacher as part of the topic or R.E. work. They also will have time to reflect on issues during assembly times.

They will be encouraged to act out situations such as conflicts within friendship, bullying and jealousy, during dance and drama lessons and will have opportunities to represent their feelings and emotions through creative writing, art or music.

They will have opportunities to watch relevant television programmes related to their topic work and have access to appropriate books and resources.

Visitors will be encouraged into school to talk to the children. For example a mother with a new baby might be invited to discuss the baby's needs with a class of children and asked to return at intervals so that the children can observe the baby's growth and any changes that have occurred. The school nurse will be invited to talk to the children to support the teacher's work on children's personal hygiene and healthy living.

Responsibility for teaching the programme

Each class teacher will be responsible for the teaching of the programme to her class of children under the direction of the Headteacher.

The Headteacher will ensure that all teaching staff and classroom assistants receive relevant updated information as necessary and that the staff receive training in the use of resources when appropriate.

The role of the parents cannot be over-emphasised in the teaching of sex education and it is important that teachers and parents develop good relationships so that the child benefits emotionally, socially and educationally.

Close contact will be maintained with the local health promotion officers, school nurse and doctor and specialist speakers who will be able to offer guidance and advice to teachers as necessary.

The teaching staff and teaching assistants will always consider the parents' views when answering children's questions and they will ensure that their replies are factual and truthful whilst taking into account the age and level of understanding of the child. They will also be aware of different ethnic and religious views when dealing with issues related to sex education. The confidentiality of the questioner will always be considered.

Parents who wish to withdraw their children from all or part of the sex education offered at the school are encouraged to discuss their views with the Headteacher.

Resources

Some resources for teaching sex education are to be found in the Staffroom. Relevant books, posters and videos relating to the individual, family life and aspects of personal development are available.

Other topics, dealing with matters such as birth, death, friendship and conflicts are housed in the R.E. section of the staffroom. Books such as:

"Martin Feels Lonely" by Nigel Snell

"Peter Gets a Hearing Aid" by

"Brothers and Sisters" by Perry and Wildman

"I'll Always Love You" by Hans Wilhelm

The set of four books on "Feelings" by Janine Amos

cover relevant topics which can be dealt with as part of the class' termly topic, as a response to situations which arise naturally or as a particular sex education theme.

Policy Review

Delce Infant School Sex Education Policy will be reviewed by the teaching staff and governors as part of a three year cycle of policy review. Any statutory changes that have occurred will be addressed.

A.G.MORRIS

Headteacher

June 1997, Sept 2002, Sept 2005, Sept 2008