

Thomas Hickman School



Sex Education Policy

Adopted by Full Governing Body: XXXXXX

Governing Body accountable for review: XXXXX

SLT Member accountable for review: Headteacher

Date of last review: April 2021

Date of next review: April 2024

Signed: Date:

Alan Sherwell – Chair of Governors

Thomas Hickman School

Sex Education (SE) Policy

1. Vision

At Thomas Hickman school we are committed to providing a holistic approach to education which aims to support the academic, cultural, personal and social development of all our pupils. From September 2020 statutory Relationships Education and Health Education will be part of the taught curriculum within PSHE. This is an essential part of a child's education and contributes to their personal development.

Sex Education however, (How babies are made?), as set out in this policy, **is not statutory at primary**, but recommended by the DfE. We have chosen to offer to teach Sex Education to our Year 6 children before they move on to secondary school, to support their transition.

2. Aims of the Sex Education policy

All primary schools offering Sex Education are required to define any sex education they choose to teach other than that covered in the science curriculum, outline the subject content, how it will be taught and who is responsible for teaching it, and state the parental / carers right to withdraw from non-statutory sex education lessons and the protocols established by the school to facilitate this. Schools are also required to consult with parents with regards to the policy and to work with parents, offering support in talking too their children about sex education and how to link this to what is being taught in school. It is the statutory responsibility of the governing body to ensure the school has a compliant and up to date Sex Education Policy.

The aim of this policy is to:

- provide information to staff, parents and carers, governors, pupils and other agencies regarding the organisation, content and approach to teaching of Sex Education,
- help parents and carers to understand what is covered in Sex Education and support them to work with their child to secure the very best outcomes for all pupils,
- demonstrate how the school meets legal requirements with regards to teaching Sex Education.

Legal Requirements

To comply with The Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education (England) Regulations 2019, made under sections 34 and 35 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017, make Relationships Education compulsory for all pupils receiving primary education. They also make Health Education compulsory in all schools except independent schools.

To comply with the Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education statutory guidance from the DfE (June 2019).

To comply with the requirements to have an up to date Sex Education policy /RSE policy developed in consultation with pupils, parents and carers (Education Act 1996) and in line with the DfE statutory guidance on Relationships Education, RSE and Health Education (June 2019)

To have due regard to the Equality Act (2010) which requires schools to prevent discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relation between different groups . The protected characteristics that apply to school age children are disability, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity.

To fulfil statutory safeguarding duties and ensure any safeguarding issues arising from Relationships/ Sex Education teaching are identified and followed in accordance with the school safeguarding policy

3. Parents'/ carers right to withdraw

At Thomas Hickman School we offer to teach sex Education (How babies are made?) in addition to our Relationships and Health, Science and PSHE curriculum. As Sex Education is not statutory at primary we wish to state the right of parents and carers to withdraw their child from designated Sex Education lessons.

We encourage parents/ carers to attend the Sex Education workshop led by the PHSE lead and SLT to ensure they are informed as to the content and delivery of this sensitive subject. If, further to this workshop, parents/carers wish to withdrawal their child from this lesson, please use the form provided

Appendix 3.

4. Development of the policy

This policy was developed by the PSHE lead in consultation with school governors, parents and pupils. (A full consultation on Health, Relationship and Sex Education took place in November 2019.) The draft policy was shared with parents/carers on line. This policy is a review.

The content of the delivery material and lesson for Sex Education (How babies are made?) occurs in Spring 2 whereby the PHSE lead shares the program with parent/carers. Lessons are taught in Summer 2.

Our Sex Education Policy is linked to other policies, for example:

- PSHE Policy
- Relationships and Health Education (RHE) Policy
- Equalities Report
- Child Protection
- Confidentiality
- Managing Behaviour
- Anti-Bullying

We aim to work collaboratively with parents/ carers to ensure pupils receive Sex Education lessons that are relevant and age appropriate and sensitive to the needs of the community we serve. We encourage parents to attend the Spring 2 workshop where the content and delivery is shared with an opportunity to ask questions. We welcome parents and carers to make an appointment to come in to discuss any aspect of this policy and the provision in school.

5. Definition of Sex Education

Sex Education at THS School is taught as a non-statutory, additional element to the Science, PSHE curriculum and Relationships and Health Education and provides factual and age appropriate knowledge about conception and birth – the focus is on ‘How babies are made?’

Puberty Education is part of statutory Health Education and parents/cares do not have the right to withdraw their child from this aspect of the curriculum (See Relationship and Health Policy).

6. The Curriculum

Intent

Why teach Sex Education?

The DfE states in the statutory Relationships, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education guidance (page 23)

‘It is important that the transition phase before moving to secondary school supports pupils’ ongoing emotional and physical development effectively. The department continues to recommend therefore that all primary schools school have a sex education programme tailored to the age and the physical and emotional maturity of the pupils. It should ensure that both boys and girls are prepared for the changes that adolescence brings and – drawing on knowledge from the national curriculum for science – how a baby is conceived and born’.

High quality Sex Education will support pupils to:

- Be taught factual and correct information about this how a baby is conceived and born
- Dispel myths and incorrect information about sex and how a baby is conceived and born
- Ask a trusted adult rather than go on-line with regards to any concerns or questions they may have and avoid viewing any inappropriate material or entering into social media conversations.

Implementation

Sex Education is offered as a non-statutory, additional lesson to compliment the holistic PSHE. RHE and Science curriculum.

Distancing techniques are used in PSHE education, which provide depersonalised examples which support children to explore what is being taught.

What we use?

We use bespoke, DfE approved resources based on the PHSE association program of study.

Who teaches the lessons?

All Sex Education lessons are taught by class teachers and a DSL lead.

When

One sex education lesson is delivered in Summer 2 to our Year 6 children. The lesson is taught in single-sex groups – same content, different space.

Inclusion and Equal Opportunities

At Thomas Hickman School we offer Sex Education to all children in Year 6 whatever their ability, needs, cultural or religious beliefs. It is imperative that all children are provided with equal access to the curriculum. However, as already stated, parents/cares do have the right to withdraw their child from this lesson after viewing the materials used.

Where you can view curriculum information

The Sex Education lesson (How babies are made?) is shared with all parents/carers at the workshop: the material/learning resources can be provided on request.

We are a “No Outsiders” school and therefore highly value the different background of our pupils. In addressing different views and beliefs we seek to promote tolerance and understanding at all times.

Managing Difficult Questions

All aspects of Sex Education are underpinned by shared and understood ground rules with lessons being delivered in a safe and well managed environment. Pupils are encouraged to ask questions and raise issues in a respectful and appropriate manner. Some questions or issues raised may not be appropriately answered in whole class lessons and these will be followed up separately on an individual or group basis. A question box is available for pupils who do not feel confident to ask questions or wish to have a separate conversation with a member of staff. Given ease of access to the internet, children whose questions go unanswered may turn to inappropriate sources of information and we aim to avoid this where possible.

Confidentiality and Safeguarding

Whilst it is vital to have trust and openness, we cannot offer total confidentiality to pupils. Any disclosures or areas of concern will be followed up in accordance with our safeguarding procedures. We also respect that some questions are better addressed at home with parents/ carers and the school will share information with parents/carers on an individual basis should the need arise.

Impact

High quality sex education will enable our pupils to:

- Have a factual and age appropriate understanding of how babies are made and born
- Know they will continue to learn about sex education in their secondary school

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sex Education (Pregnancy to birth) Not statutory and in addition to the science curriculum	Vocabulary
<p>Pupils learn about human reproduction in the context of the human lifecycle</p> <p>Pupils:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• can describe how babies are made and explain how sexual intercourse is related to conception• can name the male and female reproductive organs and understand how puberty is related to becoming an adult in preparation for reproduction• understand that sex or making love may be one part of an intimate relationship between adults and understand the importance of loving and respectful adult relationships and the law regarding consent <p>Pupils learn how a baby is made and grows</p> <p>Pupils:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• know the male and female body parts associated with conception and pregnancy• can define conception• know what pregnancy is, where it occurs and how long it takes <p>Pupils:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• can identify some of skills and qualities needed to be parent and carer• understand the variety of ways in which parents and carers meet the needs of babies and children• can recognise that both men and women can take on these roles and responsibilities<ul style="list-style-type: none">• the cultural , religious and non-religious values, marriage and loving partnerships	<p>cervix clitoris penis scrotum testicles urethra vagina vulva womb</p>

7. Roles and responsibilities

The Governing Body will approve the policy and hold the Headteacher to account for its implementation.

The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring PSHE including Sex Education is taught consistently across the school and for managing requests with regards to the parental right to withdraw from non-statutory Sex Education.

The PSHE lead is responsible for leading and managing the subject. Teachers are responsible for delivering Sex Education.

8. Working with parents and carers (consulting, informing and supporting)

Consulting and working with parents to support pupils (including parent information evenings) and web page resources / leaflets are available on the school website. Parents/Carers invited to attend via on-line sharing through Google classroom the lesson content, inviting comments and questions (May 2021).

Parents and carers are entitled to withdraw their child from designated sex education lessons.

Letters will be sent home in Year 6 prior to any Sex Education lesson to remind parents of the topic being covered and the date when the lesson will take place.

Parents can receive a copy of this policy on request.

Any complaints about the content or delivery of Sex Education should be addressed to the Headteacher.

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

The PSHE Lead, the Headteacher and the Governing Body are responsible for monitoring the delivery of Sex Education.

10. Policy Development, Dissemination and Review Process

This policy will be reviewed by the PSHE Lead in consultation with the Headteacher, SEN coordinator, parent/carers representatives and governor representatives. The views of parents/carers and staff members will be used to inform practice.

Appendices

Appendix 1

Sex Education Curriculum – additional resource

HSE- How babies are made link

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ktKO_qVmPw

Appendix 2

Ground rules

Work with pupils to establish a list of ground rules that will increase their feelings of safety and comfort during puberty and sex education classes.

It is essential that the following ground rules be included:

- No personal questions or sharing of private information.
- You have the right to pass on a question.
- No question is silly or stupid.
- Use dictionary words whenever possible.
- Post the list in the classroom and refer to it as needed.

There is a balance between encouraging pupils to talk about real life and over disclosure of private information. Encourage pupils to use the phrase "Someone I know..." instead of the person's name if sharing information of a personal nature.

It may be helpful to frame the ground rules in a creative way, such as:

G...Giggling is okay but laughing at others is not

R...Respect for myself and others is important

O...Option to pass on answering questions is available to all

U...Use dictionary words when describing the body

N...No question is a silly question!

D...Do use "Someone I know..." instead of the person's name

Appendix 3 Letter template for right to withdraw

Parent form: Child withdrawal from Sex Education @ THS

TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENTS/CARERS
Name of Child:
Class:
Name of Parent/Carer:
Date:
Reason for withdrawing from Year 6 sex education:

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE SCHOOL
Agreed actions from discussion with parents/carers

Appendix 4

DFE guides for parents

DfE information for parents

**Understanding Relationships and Health Education in your child's primary school:
a guide for parents**

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/812593/RSE_primary_schools_guide_for_parents.pdf

Statutory Guidance (full guidance)

Relationships education (Primary)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education/relationships-education-primary>