



King David Primary School

Relationships and Sex Education Policy

Sex Education at King David School forms a component of PSHCE (Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education). The main objective of this education is the knowledge of self, and alleviation of fear and worries. The lessons meet the requirements of Government legislation, which says that steps should be taken to give sex education to registered pupils at a school, in such a manner as to encourage pupils to have due regard to moral considerations and the value of family life (Education Act (No. 2) 1986).

By the time they reach top juniors, children have been bombarded with all sorts of information about, and images of, “sex”. In fact, very little of this is of real value to them in their adult life, but unless the home or the school makes a specific effort to counteract these snippets of gossip and Hollywood images, that is all they will take with them into adulthood. Whilst some of these preconceptions can only properly be addressed at secondary school, a sound foundation at primary school will engender an open and questioning approach to dubious sources of “facts” from an early age. The teaching of sex education will encourage pupils to reflect and talk further on the topics within a safe environment; it is essential to give children the opportunity to go over the topics in follow-up lessons, to clear the air of misconceptions. Sex education cannot be “done” in one embarrassed lesson.

In essence the course will ensure that pupils know every part of their body, its purpose and function. They will know the importance of keeping healthy in mind and body. As pupils in a Jewish school, from the start they will know of the value and responsibilities of family relationships and marriage, and physically what is good, e.g. exercise, and what is bad, e.g. drugs, excessive drinking, etc, for their bodies. They will learn what is right, e.g. respect for their own and other peoples’ bodies and property, and what is wrong, e.g. destroying their own or other peoples’ property, abusing other people by intimidating or physically hurting, and taking other peoples’ property.

In Year 6, pupils will learn more about the human life-cycle, including the reproductive process, the physical and emotional changes associated with puberty, their implications and the beginning of an explanation of the moral responsibilities these bring. The point at which a cohort of children studies this topic will depend on the maturity of the class, and will be decided through discussion between the class teachers, the Headteacher and the Head of Religious Studies. A range of resources may be used, but the central part of most lessons will be video resources. Where videos refer to the reproductive process or intimate details of the human body, they will only be shown separately to boys and girls. Parents will be informed when this takes place, and will have the opportunity to view the film in advance. In such lessons, there will always be at least two members of staff present.

Topics such as homosexuality, HIV and Aids, abortion and miscarriage, adultery and rape will not be taught specifically, but questions from the pupils on these topics will be answered honestly and appropriately. Whilst a child deserves an honest answer to any reasonable question they ask, teachers must also be aware of other pupils in the class who may not yet be ready to consider the issue raised. In such cases, the teachers should decide whether it is more appropriate to answer the question in front of the whole class, or to the individual pupil privately. Pupils will also be encouraged to speak to trusted adults, such as parents or ministers of religion, on contentious issues.

Parents will have access to the Sex Education Policy and may discuss the policy with the Headteacher on request. Section 241 of the Education Act 1993 gives parents the right to withdraw their children from a school’s programme of sex education, other than the elements which are required by the National Curriculum Science Order.