

MEATH GREEN JUNIOR SCHOOL

Sex Education Policy



Contents

Rationale.....2

Aims2

Right to be excused3

Equality of Opportunity.....3

Plan Admin	
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To be read in conjunction with Personal Development Policy

Rationale

At Meath Green Junior School we believe that an open and honest sex education curriculum provides children with the tools to prepare them for a safe and healthy future. We have worked hard to ensure that children learn at an age and stage appropriate level which reflects their physical and mental health needs. The curriculum has been thoroughly researched and decisions have been made based on up-to-date data on child development and puberty. It is our aim to ensure that all children feel comfortable with their bodies and have an understanding of how they will change as they grow and mature. We have also included the repeated themes of respect, trust, joy, justice, power and choice which provide the spiral curriculum upon which learning is based.

Our Sex Education lessons are delivered as part of our Personal Development curriculum and great care has been taken to link our resources with those used in the No Outsiders scheme. In line with our ARE approach in Personal Development, the children are taught to Accept, Respect and Empathise with physical and emotional differences in others. Our use of the Massage in Schools Programme (MISP) introduces and reinforces the concept of consent in children so they can develop body autonomy.

Guidance from the DFE, PSHE Association and the Sex Education Forum has been followed.

Aims

Our Sex Education Curriculum aims to...

- Teach children the appropriate language to talk about themselves and their bodies and to be able to make informed choices about their bodies when they grow older
- Inform children about the human reproductive cycle at an age-appropriate time
- Enable pupils to understand and manage their own feelings and emotions as they experience adolescence
- Promote attitudes of self-respect in our pupils and respect for others
- Provide channels for our pupils to feel able to communicate their needs and be able to ask for help in an atmosphere where questions relating to sex and relationships can be asked and answered
- Teach pupils about peer pressure and to have the confidence and skills to deal with unwanted pressure; understand that some parts of the body are private and what to do if someone is making you feel uncomfortable.
- Provide children with understanding about personal hygiene and germs, including bacteria, viruses, how they are spread and the importance of keeping our bodies clean
- Enable children to make sense of the messages that they receive about relationships and growing up from the world around them.
- To enable pupils to differentiate between appropriate / inappropriate behaviour in relationships
- Teach children in their usual mixed class setting to demystify and normalise gender specific development thus reducing discrimination and discomfort
- Provide clear and timely information to parents and carers about the Sex Education curriculum and content in an accessible way so that they can support what their child is learning in school with their own teaching at home

- Ask for feedback on this Sex Education and Health policy from parents and carers before it is ratified by Governors and after any need for updating. We welcome constructive dialogue so that we reach a mutual understanding of the aims. We will provide opportunities for parents and carers to air their views about our curriculum and we will consider all views given
- Provide opportunities for parents and carers to join the school in the delivery of Sex Education and Health Education. This will be achieved through parent workshops where materials will be shared

Right to be excused

In line with the DFE guidance on RSE (updated in 2021) parents and carers do have the right to excuse their children from the sex education content within the PD curriculum. We would encourage parents and carers to engage with the PD lead and headteacher to discuss any concerns they may have before this request. Those parents and carers wishing to exercise this right are invited in to see the headteacher who will explore any concerns and discuss any impact this may have on the child. Once a child has been excused, they cannot take part in the RSE programme until the request has been removed.

The decision by parents and carers must be put in writing to the headteacher and this will be kept on record. Any child withdrawn from relationship and sex education will be set work to be done in another class during these times. Materials are available to anyone who wishes to supplement the school RSE programme or who wish to deliver RSE to their children at home.

Equality of Opportunity

In accordance with the Equality Act 2010 we believe that all pupils and adults should have equal access to Relationship Education, regardless of gender, race, faith, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity.