

SEX EDUCATION POLICY

AIM/PURPOSE

The aim of the policy is to ensure that sex education is taught with sensitivity through a number of National Curriculum subjects.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

- ◆ Sex education will be in the context of the school ethos of caring relationships based on respect and tolerance as stated in the aims of the school
- ◆ It will be coherent and comprehensive in coverage, developed from appropriate legislation and structured to ensure that a staged programme is offered to every student
- ◆ It will be normal practice that sex education will be delivered to mixed sex teaching groups and that parents should be aware of this. However, in some circumstances, single sex groupings may be appropriate
- ◆ All students will receive an entitlement to adequate sex education as detailed above. However, opportunities for sex education can arise in a number of curriculum areas
- ◆ In view of the particular nature of sex education, it will be detailed as a separate section in the School Prospectus.

SEX EDUCATION AT TRINITY CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

Sex education is taught through a combination of science, religious education and personal, social and health education.

In science, students receive sex education as part of their Y7 course. This is concentrated mainly on the biological aspects including the human life cycle with particular focus on puberty and reproduction as required by the National Curriculum. There is discussion about personal relationships and the need for a responsible attitude to sexual behaviour.

In Personal, Social and Health Education, sex and relationship education is taught as part of a "spiral" curriculum and dedicated units are delivered in Y7, 8, 9 and 10. The aim of these is to enable students to develop and reinforce skills, attitudes and understanding in connection with the way individuals relate to each other. The main themes include; puberty, love, marriage, behaviour, teenage pregnancies, contraception, issues surrounding sexuality and consent, and where to access help and advice. Teaching methodologies are varied and include discussion, video, writing and the use of outside agencies.

In religious education, the GCSE course includes marriage and the family and this covers a variety of topics relating to sex and relationship education. Attitudes to: sex and marriage, homosexuality and contraception are requirements of the syllabus.

Parents have a right to withdraw their child from any part of sex education that does not form part of the National Curriculum; for example AIDS, HIV, sexually transmitted diseases and non-biological aspects of sexual behaviour. Parents who wish to withdraw their child from all or part of the sex education programme can do so by writing to the Head at the beginning of the academic year. He will then discuss with the parents the nature of their concern and whether a resolution to the problem

can be achieved. The Head will invite the parents to give reasons for the withdrawal request.

If a child is to be withdrawn from sex education classes it will be done sensitively so as to minimise any disruption to the child's education.

The school will continually monitor its sex education programme to see if amendments are able to reassure concerned parents.

Specific Issues

Confidentiality and contraceptive advice:

As part of the schools sex education programme teachers will provide:

- ◆ Education about types of contraception and where they can be obtained.
- ◆ Information about where and from whom students can receive confidential advice and treatment.

AIDS and HIV education (including other sexually transmitted diseases):

This must form part of any sex education programme and so will continue to be taught in science lessons although it is no longer part of the National Curriculum.

Education about Lesbian and Gay issues:

There will be objective discussion of homosexuality when it arises in sex education lessons. In the spirit of the school's aims, teachers will undertake to counteract prejudice and victimisation, and promote self-esteem and a sense of responsibility.

Other aspects of sexual behaviour:

In sex education lessons, matters arise that need careful handling. Teachers will use their professional judgement and treat any sensitive issues accordingly.

Using outside speakers:

The school is positive about using health professionals to enhance its sex education programme. Such visitors will be made aware of the ethos of Trinity and its sex education policy. They will be expected to provide lesson plans/schemes of work, and information on how the topic will be approached, delivered and followed up. They may work with a teacher in the classroom or occasionally work with small groups of students on their own.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

This will be carried out through the various subject co-ordinators and discussions at Leadership Team. Any changes to the policy will be the responsibility of the Curriculum Committee and such changes will be ratified by the Full Governing Body.