



Beths Grammar School

Sex and Relationships Education Policy

The Governors intend that sex and relationships education should be available to all students in accordance with the provisions of the 1996 Education Act, other relevant legislation and guidance from the Department of Education and Government recommendations.

Introduction

1. Sex and Relationships Education is lifelong learning about physical, sexual, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of stable family life and loving relationships; respect, love and care. It involves acquiring information, and forming positive beliefs, values and attitudes. It is also about teaching in relation to sex, sexuality and sexual health. It is not about the promotion or endorsement of sexual orientation or sexual activity.
2. The aim of the Beths programme of sex and relationships education is to present facts in an objective and balanced manner so as to enable students to comprehend the range of sexual attitudes and behaviour in present day society; to know what is and is not legal; to consider their own attitudes; and to make informed, reasoned and responsible decisions about the attitudes they will adopt, both while they are at school and in adulthood. Teaching about the physical aspects of sexual behaviour will be set within a clear moral framework in which students are encouraged to consider the importance of self-restraint, dignity and respect for themselves and others; and are helped to recognise the physical and moral risks of casual and promiscuous sexual behaviour. We are also committed to teaching about the dangers caused by online pornography.

Intentions and Ethos

3. It is intended that:
 - Sex and Relationships education will form part of the whole curriculum for the school.
 - Sex and Relationships education will not feature as a discreet subject on the timetable, but will form part of a broader programme of Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE). Elements of Sex Education are also delivered in units of Science work.
 - The teaching offered by this school aims to be complementary and supportive to the role of the parents/carers.
 - Education about sexually transmitted disease is an important element in the teaching programme offered to the students in later years of compulsory schooling at Beths.

The School will aim to ensure that all classroom aspects of the Sex Education programme are handled sensitively, professionally and responsibly by teaching staff who acknowledge the importance of the School's values. Students will be encouraged to treat all sexual issues with thoughtfulness and with a due regard to individual responsibility.

Implementation

4. Sex and Relationships Education will be delivered in such a manner as to encourage students to have due regard to moral consideration and the value of family life. The Governors support the use of Outside Specialist speakers on particular topics – e.g. The School Nurse – whose contribution will need to be consistent, both with the Governors’ overall policy for Sex and Relationships Education, and with current statutory requirements.

5. It is the responsibility of the PSHCE Co-ordinator to oversee, monitor and evaluate the delivery of Sex and Relationships Education in the context of its delivery through PSHCE, and of the Head of Science in the context of the science curriculum. This will be done as part of the school’s programme of self-evaluation.

They will likely focus on:

- different types of relationships, including friendships, family relationships, dealing with strangers and, at secondary school, intimate relationships;
- how to recognise, understand and build healthy relationships, including self-respect and respect for others, commitment, tolerance, boundaries and consent, and how to manage conflict, and also how to recognise unhealthy relationships;
- how relationships may affect health and wellbeing, including mental health;
- healthy relationships and safety online; and
- factual knowledge, at secondary school, around sex, sexual health and sexuality, set firmly within the context of relationships.

There is an emphasis throughout these years on developing each student’s self-esteem and respect for others, and on the importance of making unforced informed personal moral choices about sexual behaviour within an ethical framework informed by the law.

The Sex and Relationships Education programme aims to ensure that students “revisit” the issues covered at different stages and with growing moral maturity.

The Governors Students Committee is responsible for overseeing, reviewing and revising the Sex and Relationship Education Policy.

Right of Withdrawal of Students from Sex and Relationships Education

6. Some parents/carers prefer to take the responsibility for aspects of this element of education. They have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the sex and relationships education except for those parts included in the statutory National Curriculum (i.e. in Science lessons). Parents/Carers requesting withdrawal will be invited to discuss their concerns with the PSHCE Co-ordinator or a senior member of staff. It is hoped that, in most cases, explanation or a minor modification may assure them that the programme is suitable for their child.

Personal Advice and Counselling

7. The School Nurse is available to provide a personal advice and counselling service for students on sexual matters. The School Nurse will follow the Registered Nurse professional code of conduct and ethics regarding confidentiality in such exchanges.

Clearly in cases where the possibility of unlawful or sexually abusive behaviour is disclosed the School Nurse will refer to the Head teacher and to the Child Protection Officer. Occasionally students may wish to talk with

teaching staff about their personal sexual concerns. In such cases, all teaching staff should refer to the student's Head of Year (HOY) who might further refer to their Key Stage Manager (KSM). They will offer support or referral to the School Nurse as appropriate.

In cases where there is thought to be a possibility of unlawful or abusive sexual behaviour, the HOY and/or KSM will refer to the Headteacher and to the Child Protection Officer.

Where a student is seeking advice on matters such as sexuality, contraception, sexual behaviour or relationships, the School's policy will be to encourage the student to discuss these matters with their parent(s), their GP, or, in some cases, with an appropriate counselling service. When the School Nurse provides consultations for students the same procedures will apply.

All staff are also instructed that they may not promise confidentiality to any student, but should make it clear to the student that they are referring the matter to the appropriate member of staff. The School advises extreme caution to staff in offering any direct advice in matters concerned with sex or sexuality.

Issues of Confidentiality

7. In a case where a teacher learns from a student under the age of 16 years that they are having or contemplating sexual intercourse:

- the young person will be persuaded, wherever possible, to talk to their parent/carer and if necessary to seek medical advice.
- safeguarding and child protection issues will be considered, and referred if necessary to the teacher responsible for safeguarding and child protection under the school's procedures.
- the young person will be properly counselled about contraception and safer sex, including precise information about where young people can access contraception and advice services.

In any case where safeguarding issues arise, staff must follow the usual procedures (see the school's Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy).

Sexuality

8. Some of our students may well define themselves as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT). Students may also have LGBT parents/carers, brothers or sisters, other family members and/or friends. All our students will meet and work with LGBT people.

Our approach to sex and relationship education will include sensitive, honest and balanced consideration of sexuality. Our pastoral support will take account of the needs of LGBT students. We shall also actively tackle homophobic behaviour.

*Reviewed Spring 2019
Next scheduled review date: Spring 2022*