

DOCUMENT CONTROL	
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SEX AND RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION POLICY	
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**THE LOXFORD SCHOOL TRUST
SECONDARY - SEX AND RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION POLICY**

This is based upon current government policy and is based upon the existing policy and the DFE E Circular 0116/2000

Section A outlines the statutory context, and Section B outlines Loxford School Trust sex education policy within this framework.

SECTION A

STATEMENT OF ENTITLEMENT

All maintained secondary schools are required under section 2 of the Education Reform Act 1988 (as amended by section 241 (1) of the Education Act 1993) to make provision for sex education for all students registered at the school. As a result of the amendment, governors no longer have any choice other than to make this provision.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK / STATUTORY PROVISION

“The Government believes that all pupils should be offered the opportunity of receiving a comprehensive, well planned programme of sex education during their school careers in fulfilment of the requirement of section 1 (2) of the Education Reform Act 1988 that the school curriculum should be one which:

- a) promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and the society; and
- b) prepares such pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

Implementation

“From 1st September 1994, schools will have the legal powers and duties summarised below:

In maintained secondary schools, sex education (including HIV and AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases) must be provided for all registered pupils.” (At Loxford School – this includes the Sixth Form students).

It must be noted that any statutory change will supersede any areas of this document.

The Role of Governors

Governing Boards of all such schools are required by section 241 (5) of the Education Act 1993 to:

- a) make, and keep up to date, a separate written statement of their policy with regard to the provision of sex education, and
- b) make copies of the statement available for inspection (at all reasonable times) by parents of pupils at the school and provide a copy of the statement free of charge to any such parent who asks for one.

The Education (School Information) Regulations 1993 require all maintained schools to publish in their prospectus a summary of the content and organisation of any sex education they provide.

The Role of Parents

Section 17A of the Education Reform Act 1988 (inserted by section 242(2) of the Education Act 1993) provides that:

“The prime responsibility for bringing up children rests with parents”

“The teaching offered by schools should be complimentary and supportive to the role of parents, and should have regard to parents’ views about its content and presentation.”

Section 405 of the Education Act 1996 enables parents to withdraw their children from sex education other than the sex education that is in the National Curriculum (such as the biological aspects of human growth and reproduction that are essential elements of National Curriculum Science).

“Parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the sex and relationship education provided at school except for those parts included in the statutory National Curriculum... Schools should make alternative arrangements in such cases. The DfE will offer schools a standard pack of information for parents who withdraw their children from sex and relationship education.”

The Moral Framework

A moral framework for sex education is explained in paragraph 8 of circular 5/96

- “The purpose of sex education should be to provide knowledge about loving relationships, the nature of sexuality and the processes of human reproduction.”
- “It should lead to the acquisition of understanding and attitudes which prepare pupils to view their relationship in a responsible and healthy manner. “
- “It must not be value – free.”
- “It must be tailored to the age and understanding of pupils.”
- “It must present facts in an objective, balanced and sensitive manner, set within the framework of the law on sexual behaviour.”
- “Pupils should be encouraged to appreciate the value of stable family life, marriage and the responsibilities of parenthood, consider the importance of self-restraint, dignity, respect for themselves and others, acceptance of responsibility, sensitivity towards the needs and views of others, loyalty and fidelity.”

It must be noted that any statutory change will supersede any areas of this document.

- “Pupils should be enabled to recognise the physical, emotional and moral implications, risks, of certain types of behaviour, and to accept that both sexes must behave responsibly in sexual matters.”
- “Teachers need to acknowledge that many children come from backgrounds that do not reflect such values or experiences – multi-cultural and multi-faith dimensions.”

Advice to individual students

Teachers need to distinguish between providing education and giving advice. (Paragraphs 38, 39, 40, 41, 42 Sex Education 5/94)

- “...a teacher approached by an individual pupil for specific advice on contraception or other aspects of sexual behaviour should, wherever possible, encourage the pupil to seek advice from his or her parents, and, if appropriate from the relevant health service professional.”

SECTION B

IMPLEMENTATION OF SEX EDUCATION - LOXFORD SCHOOL TRUST

Statement of aims

The aims of Loxford School Trust Sex Education Policy are to:

- prepare students to pass from childhood to adulthood with an awareness of the needs and rights of others and the capacity to make choices in a caring and sensitive manner;
- enable students to conduct personal relationships with a full understanding of the meaning of responsibility;
- enable students to conduct their lives with confidence within their own moral spiritual and cultural background.

Statement of Objectives

Our objectives are to:

- give students a clear understanding of sexual and reproductive biology;
- give students a clear understanding of the moral and legal aspects of personal and sexual behaviour;
- provide students with an understanding of the broader emotional and ethical dimensions of sexual attitudes;
- provide students with the skills to deal positively with difficult social and moral choices;
- provide students with knowledge and understanding of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.

Implementation

These aims and objectives will be addressed through:

- The PSCHE programme Reception – Year 13
- Science Programme
- Certain aspects of The Diploma of Vocational Education
- Other curricular areas where appropriate
- The SEAL programme

INSET

All members of staff will have appropriate INSET to help in the delivery of Sex Education within the PSCHE programme.

It must be noted that any statutory change will supersede any areas of this document.

All new members of staff and Newly Qualified Teachers will have INSET on the Sex Education Policy.

Monitoring

Implementation will be monitored by the Head of PSICHE, Head of Science, others Head of Curriculum Areas where it is agreed to be appropriate, and the Deputy Headteacher Pastoral. Progress will be reviewed annually.

SPECIFIC ISSUES CONCERNING SEX EDUCATION

1. **CONTRACEPTION:** It is absolutely permissible for the basics to be taught within a correct curriculum framework and in the light of the number of teenage pregnancies it is incumbent on the school to deal with this matter. However, if a pupil of under 16 years asks a member of staff for individual contraceptive advice, that member of staff should always refer the pupil to the Achievement Team Leader, Deputy Headteacher Students, who will contact parents or a Health Professional who is legally allowed to counsel on this matter.
2. When visitors are invited in to Sex Education lessons, staff would check that they are aware of the school's policy and that they will be working within the Department for Education guidelines.
3. **PARENTAL WITHDRAWAL:** The new Act has made it legitimate for parents to request the withdrawal of their son/daughter from Sex Education lessons. We accept this but would always welcome the opportunity to discuss our work on Sex Education with parents.
4. **SEXUALITY:** This is a topic which it is legal to approach within the classroom situation. It must be remembered that as with all aspects of sexuality it should be taught within a value framework.
5. **SEXUAL ABUSE:** The school has a Child Protection policy on this matter with which all staff should be familiar. The Achievement Team Leaders and Deputy Head Students, deal with this issue. The topic is always seen as a priority in the INSET programme for New Staff and Newly Qualified staff.