



# ABINGDON

## SEX & RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION POLICY

### 1. Aims of sex education

Abingdon School believes that sex education is an educational entitlement of all pupils and an integral part of each pupil's emergence into adulthood.

Sex Education at Abingdon aims to improve the boys' ability to:

- value themselves and others.
- discover their own views on human sexuality.
- respect different individuals' consciences.
- judge what kind of relationships they want.
- understand the consequences of their actions and behave responsibly within sexual and nonsexual relationships.
- communicate effectively.
- know how to gain access to confidential sexual health advice, support and if necessary treatment.
- know how the law applies to sexual relationships.
- understand the arguments for delaying sexual activity.
- understand the reasons for having protected sex.
- to protect themselves and, where they have one, their partner from unintended and/or unwanted conceptions, and sexually transmitted infections including HIV.
- avoid being pressured into unwanted or unprotected sex.
- use social media appropriately.

One of the aims of sex and relationship education is to deal with the issue of homophobic bullying.

The aim of this policy is to communicate clearly to staff, parents, visitors and pupils the manner in which sex education will be delivered at Abingdon. Sex and relationship education should contribute to promoting the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at school and of society and preparing pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life. In reviewing our Sex and Relationships Education we feel we already meet the parameters outlined by the [Government's Policy Statement on this issue in March 2017](#).

### 2. Organisation

Sex Education is co-ordinated by the PSHCE co-ordinator. He is responsible for the overall planning, implementation and review of the programme.

Delivery is through

- planned aspects within the science, PSHCE and religious studies curricula;
- addressing moral and ethical issues which may arise from apparently unrelated topics in any subject, or in tutorial time, or at any time on school business when the occasion requires intervention.
- a dedicated Sex and Relationships Day in the Third Year.

## Teaching approaches

A variety of approaches are used to give pupils relevant information; to enable moral issues to be explored through discussion; and to acquire appropriate skills. Visiting Health professionals and theatre groups deliver workshops in the Third Year and the School Health Centre plays a role in providing information through literature and drop-in sessions. A day of anonymous chlamydia screening is available for the Sixth Form and for members of the Fifth Year.

### 3. **Specific issues**

The following issues may occur as part of education.

#### a) *Confidentiality and advice*

Pupils will be made aware that some information cannot be held in confidence, if only in the interests of the pupil himself. Pupils will need to understand that, if certain disclosures are made, certain actions may ensue. At the same time, pupils will be offered sensitive and appropriate support.

Where the pupil concerned is “Gillick competent” staff will maintain the appropriate level of confidentiality, with due reference to the need to safeguard the wellbeing of the pupil, and with reference to the Abingdon School [Safeguarding Policy](#).

The following guidelines will be adhered to by all staff:

- i) Staff should be alert to the possibility of giving inappropriate advice on sensitive issues and should draw on the pastoral resources of the School for consultation and support.
- ii) Staff are expected to consider the moral dimension of pupils' sexual dilemmas by representing a variety of opinions and attitudes.
- iii) With regard to the disclosure of pregnancy or advice on sensitive issues such as contraception or homosexuality: the intention is to ensure that pupils who are in difficulty know that they can talk to an adult in school and that they will be supported. Where appropriate, the pupil will be asked to consider whether he should consult with his parents or with a health professional or with another member of staff.
- iv) With regard to the disclosure or suspicion of possible abuse: this would be deemed a safeguarding issue so would need to be dealt with in accordance with the Abingdon School [Safeguarding Policy](#).

#### b) *Family life*

The value of family life is an important aspect. This will be approached largely through a consideration of the quality of relationships with an emphasis on stability, respect, caring and support.

#### c) *Problem issues*

As part of the sex education programme, issues of contraception, HIV/AIDS, sexuality, ‘sexting’, pornography and abortion are addressed in age appropriate ways. Facts are presented in an objective and balanced way, with pupils being encouraged to consider their attitudes and values. They will be made aware of the differences between fact, opinion and religious belief.

A teacher may judge that a pupil's line of questioning requires advice from a health professional. In such cases, the teacher will advise the pupil's tutor. The tutor will then discuss the business of obtaining advice with the pupil.

d) *The teacher's personal opinions and experiences*

Members of staff might feel it is relevant to discuss their own personal viewpoint on sexual issues so long as that viewpoint is broadly commensurate with the framework indicated in this policy. They are required to make it clear that it is their own viewpoint.

Members of staff are not permitted to describe their own sexual experiences to pupils.

e) *Complaints procedure*

Any complaints about the sex education curriculum, or its delivery, should be made to the Head.

f) *Parental partnership*

At Abingdon School, parents do have the right to withdraw their sons from part or all of the sex education programme, where it does not form part of the Biology GCSE syllabus. If their son is studying GCSE Biology, then he will be required to cover the relevant syllabus content through teacher guided, independent work. He would be withdrawn from class work on sex education topics because class work would very likely go beyond the GCSE syllabus. He would not be able to take Religious Studies examinations because the sex education syllabus in those lessons does not, by and large, address the same syllabus content as the GCSE biology syllabus.

4. **Monitoring and review**

a) Sex education will be monitored by the Senior Academic Staff and the PSHCE co-ordinator.

b) Where appropriate, any possible need for policy change will be brought to the attention of the pastoral committee.

5. **Dissemination of the policy**

The policy and the scheme of work are available on request to parents, governors and inspection bodies through the Head's Office.

6. **Other policies** which have relevance to sex education are the Anti-Bullying and Child Protection Policies.

**Deputy Head Pastoral**

**Last Policy Review: May 2017**

**Next Policy Review: May 2018**

**Appendix:**



**Abingdon School Sex and Relationships Education overview**

**First Year Biology –**

- puberty in boys & girls, including physical and emotional changes, relationships, rights and responsibilities
- reproductive systems,
- sexual orientation,
- pregnancy and birth;
- sexual intercourse.

**Second Year Religious Studies - Jewish marriage and Bah Mitzvah.**

**Third Year PSHCE –**

- healthy relationships,
- sexual relationships - consent & the Law,
- purpose & methods of contraception, including using a condom and sexually transmitted infections.
- ethics of sexual relationships and the appropriate use of social media.

**Fourth Year PSHCE – A review of Third Year topics, discussion of emotional well-being, address the issues surrounding pornography**

**Fifth Year Biology –**

- Review of First Year topics,
- evaluation of different methods of contraception,
- testicular cancer, chlamydia and other STIs.

**Fifth Year PSHCE in Tutor time**