

Relationships and Sex Education

As with all aspects of the school's curriculum we consider very carefully what we teach to our pupils. It is very important we offer opportunities for Relationships Education, Sex and Relationships Education and Health Education to all our pupils throughout their school career and this forms part of our PSHE curriculum. With regard to Sex and Relationships Education, it is important to note that disability does not rule out sexual feeling, sexual needs or in many cases sexual capabilities. But it can sometimes cause sexual difficulty and, where this applies, the young person should be prepared for this. Certainly the young person should be prepared for general sexual development or this may come as a surprise to them as they get older. We have a duty to see that this knowledge is passed on in a suitable form, either by the parents, the school or ideally both. High quality Sex and Relationships Education is an important part of all our pupils' personal development and preparation for adulthood.

Our aim is to provide pupils with opportunities to acquire knowledge of the facts and understanding of the emotional aspects of sex and sexual development, as well as the associated responsibilities and potential risks. Through this we aim to equip our pupils with the skills they need to keep themselves safe, in line with their individual stage of development and level of understanding. Therefore, we have broken down our Sex and Relationships Education in to five stages, and more information on each stage can be found in our FWS Curriculum Framework document (2024).

STAGE 1 - KNOWING YOUR OWN BODY

STAGE 2 - AVOIDING EXPLOITATION

STAGE 3 - GENDER CONCEPTS AND GROWING UP

STAGE 4 - HOW BABIES ARE MADE

STAGE 5 - CONTRACEPTION AND SEXUAL HEALTH

We expect to cover the basic points within each area of Sex and Relationships Education with all pupils. For those pupils who are able to comprehend a higher level of information, a greater amount of the curriculum will be covered and in a more detailed way. The inclusion of the relationships element of each stage of the Sex and Relationships Education Curriculum Framework is fundamental. It is intended that by including relationships in each area, pupils will become aware of the varying intensity of relationships, from close family or romantic relationships, to those more formal or less intimate relationships, such as with a doctor or work colleague. This is important so that they understand how to interact within those relationships, demonstrating appropriate behaviour and avoiding exploitation.

The key points in our Sex and Relationships Education policy are:

- that it is everyone's right to have relevant knowledge of their sexuality regardless of whether or not they have special educational needs
- that we will confront the many myths and misconceptions passed on regarding the sexuality (or supposed lack of it) of people with a learning disability
- that the concept of consent is a fundamental tool in keeping pupils safe and in them playing a pro-active part in relationships that they have
- that Sex and Relationships Education will be organised by each pupil's class teacher assisted by classroom support staff and/or the school nurse. Where appropriate and possible, teaching arrangements are flexible so that this area of the curriculum can be delivered sensitively - e.g. mixed groups; male staff teaching boys; female staff teaching girls; group dynamics etc
- that it is not appropriate to artificially divide our Sex and Relationship Education syllabus into the primary and secondary sections. Pupils will have access to the curriculum at a level appropriate to

their age, maturity and understanding. Whilst Stages 4 and 5 will be taught to secondary classes only, staff will address questions that arise from primary aged children on an individual basis

- that if parents feel they might wish to withdraw their child from the Sex Education teaching within the Sex and Relationships Education provided by school, they are encouraged to first discuss this with their child's class teacher or members of the Senior Leadership Team.

Sex and Relationships Education at Frank Wise School, as with all other areas of our Curriculum Framework, will be continually monitored and reviewed by the Subject Leader. This will include group work planning scrutiny and assessment of progress made by pupils, as well as areas for development highlighted through the subject audit every three years.

We aim to work collaboratively with families to ensure our Sex and Relationship Education is relevant and appropriate to all pupils. This policy has been created in consultation with our families.

Reviewed by: Natalie Miles-Clarke

Date: February 2024

Approved by Governors:

Date: February 2024

