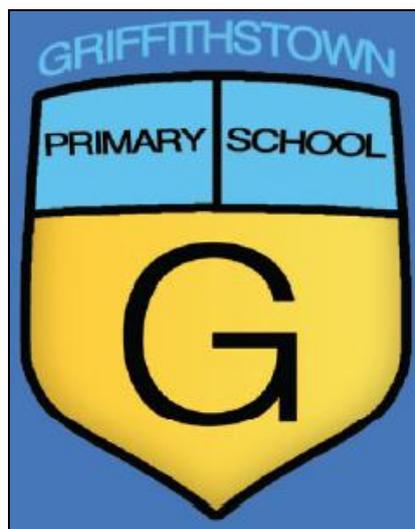


GRIFFITHSTOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL



Title	Sex and Relationships Policy
Date	Summer 2015
Author	Mr Blackburn



INSPIRE CHALLENGE ACHIEVE

SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS POLICY
Griffithstown Primary School

Our school values the individuality of all our children. We are committed to giving all our children every opportunity to achieve the highest standards. This policy helps to ensure that this school promotes this, irrespective of ethnicity, attainment, age, disability, gender or background.

Introduction

At Griffithstown Primary School we value the importance of sex and relationship education to help support young people through their physical, emotional and moral development. The programme is linked closely to the School's Policies for Personal and Social Education and Science.

We recognise the partnership of home and school, of parents and teachers, in the important area of personal development.

Sex education is a continuing, developmental process, which includes the exploration of attitudes and values and the development of skills, as well as the presentation of factual knowledge. As with all other learning, it should be gradual and matched to the child's maturity and stage of development.

Sex education teaches children to develop an awareness of, and respect for, themselves and others. It aids the development of positive self-esteem, which will help the children to cope with the challenges of personal growth. It enables children to be aware of personal choices they can make and prepares them to make responsible decisions. It is about exploring feelings and emotions and enjoying confidence in one's own abilities.

As part of the Sex and Relationships Education in Schools Circular and the PSE framework, pupils are taught about the nature and importance of family life and bringing up children. Pupils will learn about the significance of marriage and stable relationships. Care is taken that no child is stigmatised because of his or her home circumstances.

What is Sex and Relationship Education?

Sex and relationship education is about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of marriage for family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. It is also about teaching of sex, sexuality and sexual health.

Attitudes and Values:

- Learning the importance of values and moral considerations
- Learning the value of family life, marriage and stable relationships
- Learning the value of love, respect and care

Personal and Social Skills

- Learning to manage emotions and relationships confidently and sensitively
- Developing empathy and self respect
- Learning to make choices without prejudice
- Appreciating the consequences of choices made
- Managing conflict
- Recognising and avoiding exploitation and abuse

Knowledge and Understanding

- Learning about and understanding physical development
- Understanding human sexuality, reproduction, sexual health, emotions and relationships.

It is the philosophy of Griffithstown Primary School that all children experience a planned programme of sex and relationship education that will help them to learn to respect themselves and others and move with confidence from childhood through adolescence into adulthood. Preparing the children for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life, enabling them to develop considerate attitudes, values and skills, which will influence the way in which they behave.

Aims and Objectives of Sex and Relationship Education Policy

- To reassure children of their value and self worth, including aspects of dignity, self-respect and self-restraint.
- To nurture a responsible attitude towards personal relationships, such as aspects of mutual respect and care, and to develop sensitivity towards the needs of others encompassing fidelity and loyalty.
- To foster the ability to manage relationships in a responsible and healthy manner.
- To promote the value of a loving relationship and family life.

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- To recognise that marriage is an important, but not exclusive, context for family life.
- To provide knowledge of human reproductive processes.
- To inform children on matters of personal hygiene and related issues.
- To encourage exploration of values and moral issues, taking into account the physical and moral risks associated with certain behaviour.
- To educate against discrimination and prejudice
- To empower children to make informed choices about their developing sexuality.

Equal Opportunities

In support of the Equal Opportunities Policy, all Griffithstown Primary School pupils, regardless of age, ability, gender, disability or race, have the same opportunity to benefit from the sex education resources and teaching methods.

Areas of Responsibility

Head Teacher

- To implement the Sex and Relationship Education Policy.
- To ensure the policy is followed.
- To liaise with the Governors on the teaching in school.
- To liaise with parents.
- To ensure the policy is reviewed.
- To disseminate information to staff.
- To respond to individual problems experienced by children, enlisting external agency support if appropriate

Class Teacher

- To prepare long and short term plans to include Sex and Relationship Education in the curriculum.
- To ensure the correct resources are available.
- To respond to the individual needs of children, giving relevant support should a child be experiencing difficulties.

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School Nurse/Health Service Specialist

- To give support throughout the school, when appropriate.
- To take separate lessons, under the direction of the class teacher.

The Special Needs Co-ordinator

- To assist in the development of the school's policy concerning the welfare and educational needs of all children at Griffithstown Primary School.
- To take advice from all appropriate sources and, where necessary, adapt the policy to meet each individual child's needs.

Organisation of School Sex and Relationship Education

All class teachers will teach sex and relationship education as part of the Religious Education, Science and PSE curriculum. Opportunities will be provided in Year 6 for separate lessons on physical changes, conception and birth. Other members of staff, including the School Nurse will be involved in these lessons.

There will be a whole-school approach – Foundation Phase to Year 6. The subject will be taught in a cross-curricular way, encompassing all the elements within Personal and Social Education, as well as expanding on human relationships, human and physical development and reproduction, sexuality and the risks of sexual activity.

Dealing with Sensitive Issues

Governors and teachers are in agreement that teachers should answer children's questions relating to sex and relationship education in an open and factual way taking into consideration the family background, culture, religious beliefs, and pupils' differing experiences and maturity. The Governors expect teachers to use their professional judgement and discretion when faced with, or answering questions, which they deem to be of a sensitive nature, for example homosexuality, contraception or sexually transmitted diseases.

The following guidance has been established to ensure that sensitive issues are dealt with professionally and in the best interests of the child.

- Teachers should not enter into discussion about personal issues and lifestyles.
- No one (child or adult) has to answer a personal question.
- Nobody is forced to take part in discussion.
- In discussion, teachers will promote the knowledge and use of 'accepted' names of body parts.
- Meanings of words are explained in a sensible and factual way.

Sex and Relationship Programme

Sex and relationship education is delivered within the Science Curriculum and through the PSE Framework, with specific recommendations for learning in terms of knowledge and understanding for

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each aspect. The Framework also outlines Attitudes, Values and Skills, which should be developed within PSE. Of particular relevance to sex and relationship education are the Social, Emotional and Moral aspects.

Through sex and relationship education, the children should:

- Develop confidence in talking, listening and thinking about feelings in relationships.
- Be able to name parts of the body and describe how their bodies work.
- Be able to protect themselves and ask for help and support.
- Be prepared for puberty.

Within the Personal and Social Development Curriculum, the children should:

Foundation Phase

- feel confident and be able to form relationships with other children and with adults
- demonstrate care, respect and affection for other children and adults
- begin to show sensitivity to others and to those with difficulties
- concentrate for lengthening periods when involved in appropriate tasks
- explore and experiment confidently with new learning opportunities
- acknowledge the need for help and seek help when needed
- begin to take responsibility for personal hygiene (for example, washing hands after using the toilet, before handling food and so on)
- dress themselves, if given time and encouragement
- take turns, share and begin to exercise self-control
- understand that all living things should be treated with care, respect and concern
- respond positively to a range of new cultural and linguistic experiences.
- Know that all creatures, including humans, move, feed, grow, use their senses and reproduce.
- Recognise the main external parts of their bodies.
- Know that humans and animals can produce offspring, which grow into adults.
- Recognise the similarities and differences between themselves and others, and treat others with sensitivity.

Key Stage 2

- Know that the life processes common to humans and other animals include nutrition, growth and reproduction.
- Know about the main stages of the human life cycle.

Curriculum Entitlement

Sex and relationship education is taught at Griffithstown Primary School within PSE and Science. It is therefore not envisaged that there will be 'one-off' or isolated lessons, except when a Health Professional is invited to address the children. Children with Special Educational needs relating to sex-education, will have their needs addressed both within the class, and where appropriate, on a one-to-one basis.

The transition year before pupils move to Secondary School is considered a crucial one at Griffithstown Primary School. The school supports pupils' emotional and physical development. In this year, the children are taught, or will have already been taught about:

- Changes in the body related to puberty, such as periods, voice-breaking and body hair.

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- When these changes are likely to happen and what issues could cause young people anxiety and how they can cope.
- How a baby is conceived and born.

Specific Issues

Child Sex Abuse Procedures

Please refer to the Child Protection Policy.

Child Withdrawal Procedures

Sex Education at Griffithstown Primary School is taught across the Curriculum and it is not possible to separate all the sex education lessons. There will be, sometimes, specific lessons at which Health Professionals are invited to address the children in the presence of the class teacher. Notification is always sent to parents in advance. If parents wish to withdraw a child they are invited to discuss their concerns with the Head Teacher.

In the event of a child being withdrawn from a lesson, that child is provided with appropriate, challenging work until the sex education lesson is over.

Complaints Procedure

If a parent or guardian has any cause for concern about the Sex Relationship Education Policy, they should approach the Head Teacher and Staff.

Procedures for the Involvement of Health Professionals and Visitors

Visiting Health Professionals are involved in the implementation of the Sex Education and Relationship Policy only after detailed consultation concerning lesson content and method of teaching. The class teacher remains in the lesson throughout.

Review of Policy

A review of the policy will be undertaken annually. Any amendments or updates will be reported to the full Governing Body. Any new legislation or directives will be incorporated into the policy as necessary.

Governor approval date: Summer 2015

Next review date: Summer 2016

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