

Policy status

Statutory - Reviewed every two years.

Consultation

This policy was established and reviewed by all school staff in consultation with the governing body.

Purpose

We teach children about:

- the physical development of their bodies as they grow into adults
- the way humans reproduce
- raised self-esteem and respect for their own bodies
- respect for the views of other people
- to reassure children of their value and self-worth
- to inform children on matters of personal hygiene and related health issues
- to educate against discrimination and prejudice

Roles and responsibilities of the Headteacher

- It is the responsibility of the Headteacher to ensure that both staff and parents are informed about our sex education policy, and that the policy is implemented effectively.
- It is also the Headteacher's responsibility to ensure that members of staff are given sufficient training, so that they can teach effectively and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity.
- The Headteacher liaises with external agencies regarding the school sex education programme, and ensures that all adults who work with children on these issues are aware of the school policy, and that they work within this framework.
- The Headteacher monitors this policy on a regular basis and reports to governors, when requested, on the effectiveness of the policy.

Roles and responsibilities of parents

- The school is well aware that the primary role in children's sex education lies with parents and carers.
- We wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents of children at our school through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation.
- In promoting this objective we:
 - inform parents about the school's sex education policy and practice;
 - answer any questions that parents may have about the sex education of their child;
 - take seriously any issue that parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy or the arrangements for sex education in the school;
 - encourage parents to be involved in reviewing the school policy and making modifications to it as necessary;
 - inform parents about the best practice known with regard to sex education, so that the teaching in school supports the key messages that parents and carers give to children at home. We believe that, through this mutual exchange of knowledge and information, children will benefit from being given consistent messages about their changing body and their increasing responsibilities.
- Parents no longer have the right to withdraw their child from sex education lessons – this is due to a change in Welsh Government Legislation which came into effect in September 2022.
- If a parent has any concerns regarding sex education lessons, they should discuss this with their child's class teacher. The school will always work with parents to alleviate any concerns.

Roles and responsibilities of other members of the community

We encourage other valued members of the community to work with us to provide advice and support to the children with regard to health education. In particular, members of the Local Health Authority, such as the school nurse and other health professionals, give us valuable support with our sex education programme.

Implementation

- All children at Ysgol Maes Owen experience a planned programme of Sex Education that offers them the opportunity to explore attitudes and values, and develop personal and social skills.
- Sex Education is taught through different aspects of the curriculum.
- The main teaching is in the Personal and Social Education (PSE) curriculum.
- In PSE, children are taught about relationships, and we encourage children to discuss issues.
- We teach about the parts of the body and how these work, and in the Upper Key Stage, we explain to pupils what will happen to their bodies during puberty.
- In Science lessons we teach about life processes and the main stages of the human life cycle in greater depth.
- In Years 5 and 6 we place a particular emphasis on health education, as many children experience puberty at this age.
- We liaise with the Local Health Authority about suitable teaching materials to use with our children in these lessons.
- Teachers do their best to answer all questions with sensitivity and care.
- By the end of Key Stage 2, we ensure that both boys and girls know how babies are born, how their bodies change during puberty, what menstruation is, and how it affects women.
- We always teach this with due regard for the emotional development of the children.

Confidentiality

- Teachers conduct Sex Education lessons in a sensitive manner and in confidence.
- If a child makes a reference to being involved, or likely to be involved in sexual activity, then the teacher will take the matter seriously and deal with it as a matter of Child Protection.
- Teachers will respond in a similar way if a child indicates that they may have been a victim of abuse.
- In these circumstances the teacher will talk to the child as a matter of urgency. If the teacher has concerns, they will draw their concerns to the attention of the Headteacher. The Headteacher will then deal with the matter in consultation with health care professionals, (See Child Protection Policy.)

Equal Opportunities

- All children have access to a broad and balanced curriculum.
- The curriculum will be differentiated appropriately to meet the diverse needs of all children. All children have the right to be included in the life of the school on a social, locational and functional basis. (see Equal Opportunities and Race Equality policies for further information)

Additional Learning Needs

Pupils recognised as having additional learning needs are given close attention. When monitoring these children's progress, less weight will be given to the standard of their written work, and evidence of progress will be looked for and recorded. In the teaching and learning of more able and talented children, staff will support and guide the pupils to extend, challenge and enrich their thinking, understanding, skills and knowledge through differentiated tasks.

Arrangements for policy monitoring and evaluation

- The Curriculum Committee of the governing body monitors our Sex Education policy on an annual basis. This committee reports its findings and recommendations to the full Governing Body, as necessary, if the policy needs modification.
- The Curriculum Committee gives serious consideration to any comments from parents about the Sex Education programme, and makes a record of all such comments.

This policy is available on the school website, and in translation, on request.