



# ABINGDON

## SEX & RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION POLICY

### 1. **Basic information**

Date: Policy last amended August 2011.

The policy was discussed and approved by the Pastoral Committee.

### 2. **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 and respect for individual conscience and the skills to judge what kind of relationships they want.
- understand the consequences of their actions and behave responsibly within sexual and pastoral relationships.
- communicate effectively.
- 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/unwanted conceptions, and sexually transmitted infections including HIV.
- avoid being pressured into unwanted or unprotected sex.
- know how to gain access to confidential sexual health advice, support and if necessary treatment.
- know how the law applies to sexual relationships.

The aim of this policy is to communicate clearly to staff, parents, visitors and pupils the manner in which sex education will be delivered in this school.

### 3. **Content**

**First Year** **Biology** - Puberty in boys & girls, reproductive systems, pregnancy and birth.

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

**Third Year** **PSHE** - Healthy relationships, sexual relationships - consent & the Law, purpose & methods of contraception, using a condom, sexually transmitted infections. Ethics of sexual relationships.

**Fourth Year** **Biology** - Review of First Year topics, evaluation of different methods of contraception, testicular cancer, chlamydia.

**Fourth Year** **PSHE** – A review of Third Year topics, discussion of emotional well-being

**Fifth Year** **PSHE** – Sexual orientation.

### 4. **Organisation**

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

b) Delivery is through

\* planned aspects within the science, PSHE 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.

c) 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 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.

## 5. **Specific issues**

The following issues may occur as part of education. Staff, parents and pupils need to understand the School's procedures.

### a) *Confidentiality and advice*

Pupils will be made aware that some information cannot be held confidential, 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. 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 consultations and support.
- ii) Staff are expected to examine the moral dimension of pupils' sexual dilemmas by examination of opinions and attitudes. Pupils will be reminded of the Christian, and specifically the Anglican, viewpoint.
- iii) 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) Disclosure or suspicion of possible abuse: The School's child protection procedures will be invoked, (see relevant 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, pornography and abortion are addressed. Facts are presented in an objective and balanced way, with pupils being encouraged to consider their attitudes and values within the framework set out in para.3b. 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 or to discuss their own sexuality with them.

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 does the GCSE biology syllabus.

6. **Monitoring and review**

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

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

7. **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.

8. **Other policies** which have relevance to sex education are the anti-bullying and child protection policies.

Deputy Head Pastoral – August 2011