



# King Edward's

W I T L E Y

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## ***Sex Education and Relationships Education***

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Sexual health education provides an understanding that positive, caring environments are essential for the development of a good self-image and that individuals are in charge of and responsible for their own bodies. It ought to provide knowledge about the processes of reproduction and the nature of sexuality and relationships. It should encourage the acquisition of skills and attitudes which allow pupils to manage their relationships in a responsible and healthy manner. Relationships Education highlights and discusses a wide range of relationships, including friendships, sexual relationships, marriage, and same sex relationships. Relationships education aims to highlight the importance of a safe, positive and caring relationship.

### **Objectives:**

- To enable pupils to understand the biological aspects of reproduction
- To consider the advantages and disadvantages of various methods of family planning in terms of personal preference and their social, ethical and moral implications
- To recognise and be able to discuss sensitive and controversial issues such as conception, virginity, birth, child-rearing, abortion, sexual assault, CSE (Child Sexual Exploitation), FGM, consent, sexually transmitted diseases and technological developments which involve consideration of attitudes, values, beliefs and morality
- To make pupils aware of the range of sexual attitudes and behaviour in modern society and recognise the importance of personal choice in managing relationships so that they do not present risks to health and personal safety
- To make pupils aware that feeling positive about sexuality and sexual activity is important in relationships and that people have the right not to be sexually active
- To teach and highlight to pupils the wide range of different sexual orientations, genders and relationships. Recognising and understanding that there are many different kinds of relationships, including same sex relationships and same sex marriage. Highlighting and learning about the LGBTQ+ community. Topics such as homophobia and equality also discussed in PSHE.
- To understand the changing nature of sexuality over time and its impact on lifestyles, e.g. the menopause
- To recognise that parenthood is a matter of choice
- To critically analyse moral values and explore those held by different cultures and groups
- To understand the concept of stereotyping and to discuss issues such as sexual harassment in terms of their effects on individuals
- To understand aspects of legislation relating to sexual behaviour, gender, sexual orientation and equal opportunities

- To provide awareness of statutory and voluntary organisations which offer support in human relationships
- To develop self-esteem and decision-making skills in pupils

### **Sex Education in the Curriculum**

Sex education at King Edward's School is not taught in isolation but through Science, Religious Studies and PSHE. Furthermore, controversial issues may arise spontaneously in a tutor period or from the study of a topic or work of literature. The diverse staffing, its professionalism and the variety of experience contained within these teaching areas is seen as a valuable resource for the delivery of sex education. The provision of sex education is seen as progressive in terms of language, concepts and content which increases in depth and complexity as pupils progress through the School.

A variety of sensitive issues will inevitably be explored. It is recognised that an individual's sexuality is a highly personal and respected matter. The teaching of sex education at King Edward's School will place stress upon the need for understanding, respect and awareness of a variety of sexual preferences and orientations across the spectrum of human sexuality.

It is intended that pupils will be given up-to-date information on a wide variety of contraceptive methods and general statements about the efficacy of these methods will be given.

#### **Context:**

The prime responsibility for bringing up children rests with parents. The teaching offered by schools should be seen as complementary and supportive to the role of parents. In an attempt to achieve this, the 1988 Education Reform Act (Section 1) states that all pupils must be offered the opportunity of receiving a comprehensive, well-planned programme of sex education during their school careers through a curriculum which:

- "promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at school and of society; and
- prepares such pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life."

It is recognised that sex education is a difficult issue which will place demands on schools and teachers. However, the purpose of sex education should be to provide knowledge about loving relationships, the nature of sexuality and the processes of human reproduction. At the same time it should lead to the acquisition of understanding and attitudes which prepare pupils to view their relationships in a responsible and healthy manner.

The sex education delivered should be tailored not only to the age, but also to the understanding of pupils. At King Edward's School, with its Christian value-system, it will not be value-free, although it will aim to present facts in an objective, balanced and sensitive manner. It will be set within a clear framework of values and an awareness of the law regarding sexual behaviour. Pupils will be encouraged to appreciate the value of a stable family life, marriage and the responsibilities of parenthood. Such matters will be treated with sensitivity and great care will be taken to encourage all children to feel a sense of worth. Particular care will be taken when issues such as marital breakdown and divorce are dealt with.

UPDATE: From September 2020 all secondary schools will be required to deliver RSE (Relationships and Sexual Education), and all primary schools will be required to deliver 'Relationships Education'. The government has also committed to statutory health education, meaning the majority of personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education will be compulsory from 2020. This is something King Edwards have been compliant with previous to 2020.

**The Parental Right to withdraw their son or daughter from Sex Education Lessons (updated September 2020 by the PSHE Association and The Board of Education):**

- Following discussion with the school, parents can withdraw their child from the 'sex' elements of relationships and sexual health education. This would be following a meeting with the Head.
- Parents **DO NOT** have the right to withdraw their child from any element of Health Education, Relationships education or any other aspect of PSHE Education.
- There is no right of withdrawal from the national curriculum of science.
- Three terms before a pupil turns 16, a pupil can 'opt' back in to sex education lessons against their parents' wishes. This then in turn means that the school has a duty to provide sex education during one of those remaining three terms.

The places where relevant topics are covered may be summarised thus:-

1<sup>st</sup> Form - a module in Science on sex and science, including reproductive organs, sex, fertility treatment, periods, being pregnant, a healthy foetus, giving birth and adolescence

2<sup>nd</sup> Form - HIV is covered within the topic of disease in Science

3<sup>rd</sup> Form - there is a module on genetics including inherited disease. The first part of the course on sexual health, sex education and relationships occurs in 3<sup>rd</sup> Form PSHE lessons

In the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Form curriculum sex education and relationships education is delivered through lessons in Biology, Religious Studies and PSHE. IGCSE Topic 8.3 (Cambridge IGCSE coordinated Science) includes sexual reproduction in humans, menstrual cycle, fertilisation, early development of the embryo and transmission of HIV. IGCSE Topic 1.2.2, 1.3, 1.4 (Cambridge IGCSE Biology for Pre-IB) covers sexual reproduction in humans, menstrual cycle, sexual intercourse, fertilisation, early development of the embryo, development of the foetus, role of placenta, antenatal care of pregnant woman, labour and birth, sex hormones and puberty, methods of birth control and sexually transmissible disease. The second part of the sexual health and relationships course is delivered in PSHE lessons. The 5<sup>th</sup> Form receive a module on parenting and relationships and body image and eating disorders also in PSHE lessons. In Religious Studies there are topics such as Religion and the Media, in which the portrayal of sex on television, in films and video games is studied. In the 5<sup>th</sup> Form Human Relationships topic, sex before marriage and contraception is considered. The Medical Ethics topic deals with abortion and fertility treatment, and the morality of homosexuality and masturbation. In all of the work in Religious Studies the focus is on the ethical dimension within a Christian context.

**Advice to individual pupils:**

Where the circumstances are such as to lead a member of staff to believe that the pupil has embarked upon, or is contemplating, a course of conduct which is likely to place him or her at moral or physical risk or in breach of the law, the member of staff has the general responsibility to ensure that the pupil is aware of the implications and is urged to seek advice. The member of staff will have an obligation to pass on any concerns to the designated person for child protection.