



*Striving for Excellence*

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# Cirencester Kingshill School

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*Head: Christine S. Oates*

## **SEX EDUCATION**

The Governing Body of Cirencester Kingshill School considers that sex education is a crucial part of preparing children for their lives now and, in the future, as adults and parents. At the same time it places emphasis on the importance of stable human relationships. Education about sexual matters is offered to pupils in consultation with the Head Teacher using guidelines laid down by the Department of Education.

The Governing Body and Head Teacher will take such steps as are reasonably practicable to secure that, where sex education is given to any registered pupil at the school, it is given in such a manner as to encourage those pupils to have due regard to moral considerations and the value of family life, and with an emphasis throughout on caring for others.

The Governing Body recommends that:

The facts are presented by teachers in an objective and balanced manner so as to enable pupils to comprehend the basic life processes common to humans and other animals.

Puberty and the emotional, practical and social issues that it raises should be dealt with sensitively.

Pupils should be made aware of the range of sexual attitudes and behaviour in present day society, be given the opportunity to explore these issues through open discussion and know what is and is not legal.

Pupils should be able to consider their own attitudes and to make informed, reasoned and responsible decisions about the attitudes they will adopt both while they are at school and in adulthood.

The school should deal sensitively and objectively with such issues as contraception, sexually transmitted diseases, homosexuality and abortion. No teaching should encourage prejudice against any groups in society.

Sex education should stress the importance of young people recognising their obligations. They should understand that both sexes have equal responsibility in sexual matters and appreciate the benefits of stable married and family life and the responsibilities of parenthood.

The pupils will be encouraged to consider the importance of self restraint, dignity and respect for themselves and others and helped to recognise the physical, emotional and moral risks of casual and promiscuous sexual behaviour. In particular, pupils will need to know about sexual matters to ensure that health is not impaired and that they understand about the relationships between certain forms of sexual and other behaviour e.g. injecting drug misuse, which carries a risk of infection with the AIDS virus, and about ways in which risks can be avoided or lessened. The Governors and Headteacher value the need for sensitive and balanced discussion about the implications of HIV and AIDS.

The delivery of Sex education will be through planned lessons in Science and PSHE. In any lessons addressing moral and ethical issues, discussion may take place that touches on the area of sex. As long as discussion takes place within the context of the subject, it will not be deemed part of the sex education programme and therefore not subject to the parental right of withdrawal. Materials used should be appropriate to the age of the pupil i.e. Age classification on DVDs, videos and films should be observed.

The following procedures will be adhered to by all adults at school;

(i) Disclosure or suspicion of possible abuse – see the school’s child protection policy.

(ii) Disclosure of pregnancy:

Students will be asked whether they can tell their parent(s) or carers and whether they want help in doing so. If this takes place, subsequent responsibility then lies with them.

If students refuse to tell their parent(s) or carers, the adult should refer them to a health professional.

The adult should report the incident to the Headteacher who will consult with the health professional about informing the parent(s) or carers.

(iii) Advice on contraception – the following points need to be remembered:

The legal age for consent to sexual intercourse between males and females is 16 years.

Adults in school should not take responsibility for advocating a particular form of contraception;

There are moral, religious and cultural issues involved as well as medical and social ones.

Students may not be sexually active.

### **The right to withdraw from Sex Education.**

Under the Education Act 1993, parents and carers have the right to withdraw their children from part or the entire Sex Education programme. Parents and guardians wishing to exercise that right as asked to make an appointment to meet the PSHEE co-ordinator to discuss the issues involved. Once a child has been withdrawn they cannot take part in later sex education without parental approval.

### **The matter of confidentiality**

Pupils will always be encouraged and supported to discuss their issue(s) with a parent or carer. When this is not possible, pupils will be guided by teachers to adults such as school nurse, health officials or in some cases child protection staff. Staff cannot promise confidentiality\* to a pupil but would make it clear to an individual child first before information is passed on to the relevant person.

\*The exception to this would be when informing a parent/carer would place a child at greater risk of harm whereby the schools child protection procedures should be adhered to.

Reviewed by A Thomas January 2012 (Date)

Adopted by Governors \_\_\_\_\_ (Date)

Review date January 2013