

Sex and Relationships Policy

It is the policy of Bedford Modern School to develop each student's awareness of his/her own sexual development, to understand changes as they take place and to see these in the context of similar developments in both the male and female of the species.

Students at BMS will be taught sex education within the following framework of values: -

- The ideal framework for relationships should be love, respect and tolerance.
- Respect for and honesty with themselves and others
- Responsibility for their own actions in personal and sexual relationships
- Understanding and sensitivity towards the views and needs of others

This framework aims to be consistent with the School's overall aims and ethos and supports the School's Equal Opportunities Policy.

The aims of the sex education policy are: -

- To enable students to use acceptable vocabulary, without embarrassment, about sexuality and issues relating to sex;
- To provide relevant information about "safe sex" and to encourage students to respect their own bodies;
- To facilitate understanding about the biological facts related to human growth and development including contraception and reproduction;
- To recognise the value of intimacy in loving and caring relationships;
- To develop a range of personal skills and qualities, such as self-esteem, self-empowerment, communication, negotiation, listening, empathy, assertiveness, and problem solving so that our students have more control over the choices that will affect their lives;
- To challenge sexism and other prejudices such as homophobia, biphobia and transphobia in society and to promote equality of opportunity;
- To provide awareness of the sources of help and advice available within the family, school and society: and confidence and skill to make good use of them;
- To encourage respect and consideration for others;
- To encourage personal responsibility in sexual relationships.

Sex and Relationships Education Programme

With the help of visiting speakers and specialists the PSHE programme which is in place throughout a student's school career at Bedford Modern will address matters such as:

- Relationships
- Peer Pressure
- Changes in the body at Puberty
- Contraception
- Sexually transmitted infections

The responsibility for the delivery of this programme lies with staff. Parents have a right to withdraw their child from such lessons but we do not expect this right to be exercised frequently. When such lessons are planned parents will be informed. If parents wish to withdraw their children from these lessons they should in the first instance contact either the form tutor if the student is in the Junior School or the Head of PSHE or the Deputy Head Pastoral to discuss their concerns.

Science Curriculum

The Science Curriculum at BMS also includes some aspects of sex education. These are the purely biological aspects and are taught with regard to the National Curriculum and the Edexcel International GCSE specification. The work that will be covered includes:

- Naming the parts of the reproductive system
- Fertilisation
- Pregnancy
- Hormones in the menstrual cycle.
- The role of sex hormones in the development of secondary sexual characteristics.

Responsibility for this teaching lies with the Science Faculty. There is no right to withdraw your child from this work.

**Mrs J Goodacre
Deputy Head Pastoral**

**May 2020
Interim Review September 2020**