



**MERCHANT
TAYLORS'
SCHOOLS**

For Boys and Girls
aged 4 to 18 years

Sex Education Policy

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Author:

Last Amended:

Review:

SEX EDUCATION POLICY

Merchant Taylors' Boys' School (MTBS) aims to provide a secure framework for the teaching of the physical, moral and emotional development of boys as they develop in to men. SRE is about the teaching of sexual health as well as the understanding of sexuality and respect for others. It is taught within PSHE in all years up to the Sixth Form under the direction of the Head of PSHE, the School Nurse and Group Tutors and occasionally by visiting experts and Health Professionals.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- To help clarify attitudes and values and enhance the emotional and social skills of all boys.
- To encourage boys to delay first sexual intercourse and to encourage awareness of the social implications of sexual behaviour.
- To reduce risk taking and increase awareness of sexual health and sources of advice.
- To educate the boys in all aspects of SRE so as to make sensible and informed choices about behaviour.

THEMES OF SRE:

Attitudes and values

- the importance of values, individual conscience and moral considerations;
- the value of family life, marriage, and stable and loving relationships and the value of respect, love and care.
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Personal and social skills

- the confident and sensitive management of emotions and relationships;
- development of self-respect and empathy for others and for alternative opinions and values;
- developing an appreciation of the consequences of choices made;
- learning how to recognise and avoid exploitation and abuse.
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Knowledge and understanding

- understanding physical development at appropriate stages;
- understanding human sexuality, reproduction, sexual health, emotions and relationships;
- contraception and the availability of sexual health advice;
- reasons for delaying sexual activity, and the benefits to be gained from such delay;
- the avoidance of unplanned pregnancy.
- Awareness of a range of STIs and the most appropriate way to avoid and treat them.

At MTBS the syllabus is arranged to cover the following topics:

Year 7

The mechanics of reproduction and the onset of puberty and physical development; relationships, love, care and the responsibilities of parenthood; the changing nature of relationships within

families and of the role of families over time. The factors involved in setting up and maintaining a home, planning and having a family; the role of the father and the mother and their relationships before and after the arrival of children.

Year 8

The importance of self-esteem; the significance of marriage and stable relationships as key building blocks of community and society. Distinctions between “right” and “wrong”, morality and immorality. Dealing with physical and emotional maturity.

Year 9

Personal hygiene and an introduction to testicular cancer. An introduction to the consequences of freedom of choice and of what it means to be a man. The problems which can occur in family life – e.g. domestic violence, abuse, bereavement, substance use, unemployment, illness and an awareness of their effects. An awareness of partnerships, marriage and divorce and the impact of loss, separation and bereavement. Understanding differences in human sexuality and the importance of tolerance for other people’s perspectives. Abstinence as a concept and a choice; understanding the arguments for and benefits of delaying sexual activity.

Year 10

Helping pupils clarify their knowledge of HIV/AIDS/STIs and the development of assertiveness skills for negotiating relationships; understanding the reasons for having protected sex, the consequences of actions and how to behave responsibly within relationships. Information about different types of contraception, safe sex and how to access sources of further advice. The importance of personal choice in managing relationships so that they do not present risks to health or personal safety. Responsibility and the consequences of actions in relation to sexual activity and parenthood; the importance of confidence, self-esteem, respect for others and the skills to judge what kinds of relationships are appropriate and how the law applies to sexual relationships.

In Year 10 lessons are supported by the MTBS Health Centre and School Nurse. Leaflets and booklets are given out, as appropriate. Examples of various methods of contraception will be provided and a range of educational videos will be shown to support the teaching objective.

Year 11

Contemporary issues such as sexual harassment in terms of its effects on individuals and current legislation, genetic engineering, cloning, fertility treatment and medical ethics. The importance of being able to express feelings confidently. Review of Year 10 work on STIs. Masculinity and what it means to be a man. Parenting.

MONITORING

Sex and Relationship Education is monitored and evaluated on a regular basis by the Head of PSHE in collaboration with the Deputy Head (Pastoral) and with reference to any changes to legislation (see appendix). Regular discussions between Heads of Year, School Nurse and the Head of PSHE inform any changes to the teaching programme. Advice from Health Professionals and appropriate experts is regularly sought. Heads of Year and other teaching staff are required to ensure that any material they deliver relating to Sex and Relationships Education (especially in Assemblies) is approved by the Head of PSHE.

PARENTS

Parents should regard Sex and Relationships Education at MTBS as complementary to their own essential involvement. All parents are welcome to enquire about the way in which the programme is taught and to discuss the programme with the Head of Department. Parents' evenings may provide useful information and feedback about SRE matters.

The Headmaster will consider any request from a parent to withdraw his son from Sex Education Lessons.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

All pupils are entitled to receive sex education, regardless of ability, race or religious belief.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Whenever possible confidentiality will be respected, but it cannot be guaranteed where breaches of the law are suspected.

Appendix 1

Sex Education is also covered within the Science Curriculum:

Key Stage 3

- that fertilisation in humans...is the fusion of a male and a female cell
- the physical and emotional changes that take place during adolescence
- the human reproductive system, including the menstrual cycle and fertilisation
- the development of the foetus in the uterus
- the growth and reproduction of bacteria and how the replication of viruses can affect health

Key Stage 4

- The way in which hormonal control occurs, including the effects of sex hormones
- some medical uses of hormones, including the control and promotion of fertility
- the defence mechanisms of the body
- how gender is determined in humans

Appendix 2

Legislation Relating to Sex Education in Schools

As of October 2008

Sexual Offences Act 2003 –

Introduces in May 2004, the Sexual Offences Act was designed to protect people from sexual crimes, especially vulnerable people such as children. This Act recognised that mutually agreed, non-exploitative sexual activity between teenagers does exist and it was stated in the guidance that the Government has no intention of criminalising this type of activity.

Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act 2000

The Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act came into effect on January 8th 2001, and reduced the age of sexual consent for gay men from 18 to 16 in England, Wales and Scotland. In Northern Ireland, the age of consent for gay men was brought into line with the heterosexual age of 17.

Local Government Act 2000

Section 104 of this act amended Section 2A of the Local Government Act 1986, which had been created by Section 28 of the Local Government Act 1988. The new act stated that the prohibition on local authorities promoting homosexuality should not prevent teachers, headteachers or school governing bodies from taking steps to prevent bullying.

Learning and Skills Act 2000

Section 148 of this act updated and amended the Education Act 1996.

- Local education authorities no longer had any responsibility for sex education in maintained schools; this now rested with school's governing body and head teacher. [(3)]
- The Secretary of State for Education was now required to issue guidance on the delivery of sex education in schools. The guidance had to ensure that when pupils received sex education in schools they learnt about the nature of marriage and its importance for family life and the bringing up of children. Pupils also had to be protected from teaching and materials considered inappropriate with regard to the age and religious cultural background of the pupils concerned. [(4)]
- The guidance also had to include advice on the use of any materials produced by NHS bodies intended for use in schools for the purposes of sex education. [(4)]
- The Secretary of State reserved the right to revise his guidance at any time. [(4)]
- School governors and head teachers were required to bear this guidance in mind when fulfilling their obligations as outlined in the Education Act 1996. [(4)]
- When formulating their statement of policy on sex education, the governors and head teachers of a school were now required to state within this policy the right of a parent to withdraw their child from the school's sex education programme. [(6)]

Sex and Relationship Guidance. Ref: DfEE 0116/2000

This guidance was designed to replace that previously provided under Department of Education Circular 5/94.

- The guidance addressed uncertainty as to what sex and relationship education (SRE) is and how it should be delivered. The document was intended to support head teachers, teacher and governors when defining and delivering sex education in schools.
- The guidance included advice and guidance on developing a policy for sex and relationships education, and how schools could work with parents and local communities. Information was included on where the Department saw SRE fitting into a school's wider Personal Social and Health Education framework.
- Specific advice was provided on teaching strategies for SRE and particular issues that may arise. The guidance gave advice on devising a confidentiality policy and discussed situations in which it may not be possible to guarantee confidentiality issues.
- Although this document had the status of '*good practice*', the passing of the Learning Skills Bill (see above) meant that the legal requirements of teachers and governors changed. When providing sex and relationships education it was now required by law that young people were made aware of the nature of marriage, and its importance for family life and the raising of children. It was also required that young people were protected from '*inappropriate teaching materials*.'

Local Government Act 1988, England and Wales (Amendment) Bill 2003

The repeal of the controversial Section 28 of the Local Government Act came into effect on November 18th 2003.

Section 28 had said that a local authority was not permitted to "...promote the teaching in any maintained school of the acceptability of homosexuality as a pretended family relationship."

Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill 2001

Reduced the age of sexual consent for gay men from 18 to 16 in England, Wales and Scotland.

Learning and Skills Bill 2000

Clause 117 of the bill updates and amends the Education Act 1996

- Local education authorities no longer have any responsibility for sex education in maintained schools; this now rests with the school's governing body and head teacher.
- The Secretary of State for Education is now required to issue guidance on the delivery of sex education in schools.
- When formulating their statement of policy on sex education, the governors and head teachers of a school are now required to include in this policy a statement that parents may withdraw their child from the school's sex education programme.

Sex and Relationship Guidance. Ref. DfEE 0116/2000

Replaces that previously provided under Department of Education Circular 5/94.

- † When providing sex and relationships education it is required by law that young people are made aware of the nature of marriage and its importance for family life and the raising of children. It is also required that young people are protected from ‘inappropriate teaching materials’.

Education Act 1996

This act consolidates the Education Act 1944 and other legislation relating to education. The substance of the law relating sex education was not changed.

- † For the purposes of the Education Act 1996 – as with the Education Act 1993 – sex education is defined as specifically including information about AIDS and HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases. [Section 352 (3a)]
- † The governing bodies of schools decide (bearing in mind their LEA’s policy statement) whether sex education should be part of the school’s secular curriculum. They are also required to keep an up-to-date statement of their sex education policy. This should include information on the content of sex education and where in the curriculum it takes place. [Section 371 (a-b)]
- † Sex education should be provided in such a way that it encourages “...pupils to have due regard to moral considerations and family life.” [Section 403 (1)]
- † Emphasized that schools are required to ensure that their sex education policy is kept up-to-date and available for consultation by parents of pupils at the school.
- † Re-affirmed the right of parents to withdraw their children from sex education lessons occurring outside the National Curriculum.

Department of Education Circular 5/94 (Not legally binding)

(Education Act 1993: Sex Education in Schools)

- † Highlighted need for caution when giving contraception advice to pupils under 16 i.e. below the age of consent (for heterosexuals). “The general rule must be that giving an individual pupil advice on such matters without parental knowledge or consent would be an inappropriate exercise of a teacher’s professional responsibilities”. [Section 39]

Education Act 1993

- † Made sex education including about HIV, AIDS and STDs statutory in maintained secondary schools.
- † Established the right of parents to withdraw their children from sex education provided outside the National Curriculum. [Section 241]
- † Amended the Science Orders of the National Curriculum to remove any references to HIV, AIDS, STDs and human behaviour other than the biological aspects.

- † Required the governing bodies of all maintained school to write and keep up-to-date a statement of the school's policy regarding sex education. The policy should be made available to parents for inspection and copies provided free of charge.

Education Reform Act 1988

- † Required maintained schools to implement a curriculum that "...prepares such pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life". [Section (2)]
- † National Curriculum Science was required to cover human reproduction.