



MERCHANT  
TAYLORS'  
SCHOOLS

For Boys and Girls  
aged 4 to 18 years

# SEX EDUCATION POLICY

**Sex Education**

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The Government requires that all maintained secondary schools must provide Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) for all registered pupils. The Government outlined their commitment to SRE in the Schools White Paper 'The Importance of Teaching' first published in November 2010. The Paper states that children need high-quality sex and relationships education so they can make wise and informed choices and the Government promises to work with teachers, parents, faith groups and campaign groups to improve SRE.

Therefore the most up-to-date legislation relating to sex and relationships education (SRE) are contained within the Education Act (1996) and the Learning and Skills Act (2000). The requirements are that: It is compulsory for all maintained schools to teach some parts of sex education i.e. the biological aspects of puberty, reproduction and the spread of viruses. These topics are statutory parts of the National Curriculum Science which must be taught to all pupils of primary and secondary age. There is also a separate requirement for secondary schools to teach about HIV and AIDS and sexually transmitted infections. The broader topic of sex and relationships education (SRE) is currently not compulsory but is contained within non statutory PSHE education within the National Curriculum and is strongly recommended within Government SRE Guidance (2000). School governors are in law expected to give 'due regard' to this guidance. Secondary schools are legally obliged to have an up-to-date SRE policy that describes the content and organisation of SRE taught outside the Science Curriculum.

Merchant Taylors' Girls' School, aligning with the state sector, teaches SRE within the Personal, Social and Health Education programme. It is implemented during a half-day session for Years 7 – 9 each academic year and is delivered during the allocated PSHE session within the curriculum for Y10-11. Sixth Form SRE is delivered in specialist slots of the Sixth Form Tutorial programme. SRE is taught in small groups led by a team of specialists.

## Aims and Objectives of School Sex Education Policy

### Aims:

- to provide appropriate knowledge about the processes of reproduction and the nature of sexuality and relationships;
- to promote attitudes and behaviour which respect diversity and contribute to personal, family and community health.

### Objectives:

- to provide sex education (including education about HIV and AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases) for all registered pupils.
- to encourage responsible behaviour in relation to sexuality, through the development of personal and interpersonal skills, having regard to moral and legal considerations;
- to help pupils make informed choices, establish a healthy lifestyle and build up a system of values in preparation for adult life;
- to build self esteem and link the issues of peer pressure and other risk taking behaviour to include drugs, smoking and alcohol;
- to encourage understanding of and respect for diversity.

The interests of the student will be paramount in all sex education.

## **Morals and Values Framework**

Where sex education is given to pupils at the school it will be given in such a manner as to encourage a due regard to moral considerations and the value of caring relationships, tailored to the age and understanding of the pupils. Teaching about the physical aspects of sexual behaviour will be set within a clear moral framework in which pupils are encouraged to consider the importance of self-restraint, dignity and respect for themselves and for others, and helped to recognise the physical, emotional and moral risks of casual sexual behaviour. Pupils should be helped to appreciate the benefits of stable family life and the responsibilities of parenthood.

Pupils should be made aware of the laws relating to sexual behaviour.

## **Content Headings for School Sex Education Programme**

- Relationships; pressures, safety and risks.
- Partnerships; marriage and divorce.
- Attitudes, values, beliefs and morality in connection with sensitive issues such as HIV / AIDS.
- Preventative health care.
- Reproduction – male and female; physical, social and emotional aspects.
- Contraception and responsibility.
- The range of sexual attitudes and behaviour.
- Legislation relating to sexual behaviour.
- Stereotyping, harassment and effects on individuals.
- Support agencies – statutory and voluntary.

## **Equal Opportunities**

All pupils should be offered the opportunity of receiving a comprehensive, well-planned programme of sex education throughout their school careers; sexual responsibility is a joint responsibility for men and women. The parents of a pupil may, if they wish, withdraw that pupil from all or part of the sex education provided, but careful consultation with parents about the content and presentation of sex education may minimise the number of parents who will wish to exercise their right of withdrawal. Consideration will also have to be given to the needs of pupils from different cultural, religious and ethnic groups.

## **Monitoring and evaluating**

The pupils will be asked to evaluate the session but these will remain anonymous. Staff will meet both before and after the session to discuss issues.