

## **New Hope Christian School (NHCS) Sexuality Personal Development Policy Statement**

### **Rationale**

As a school we recognise the responsibility to provide our children with, accurate information about health related matters. We must understand that children must have the opportunity to acquire the knowledge needed to follow a healthy Christian lifestyle. The children will do this within a personal, spiritual and moral framework, in relation to the ethos of the school. Parents are continually informed as to the nature of this programme and have, to date, wholeheartedly supported the handling of this curricular initiative.

### **Aims and Objectives**

To offer all pupils a planned programme of education about human development, relationships, sexuality and family life, which is developmental and appropriate to the age and maturity of the child.

At NHCS we believe that education for sexuality should be presented within a moral framework which emphasizes stable relationships and family life.

- To encourage pupils to develop a positive attitude to all body functions
- To help children understand that they have rights over their bodies
- To help pupils recognise peer social pressure and raise self esteem

Sex education in this school contributes to the requirement of the Education Reform Act 1988 in that school curriculum should be one which - "promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society," and "prepares such pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life."

### **Morals and Values**

Within NHCS we acknowledge the importance of self-respect and the respect for others in relationships. It is also important that children recognise that they must learn to take responsibility for their own actions. The children should be encouraged to show responsibility towards their families, friends and wider community.

The school will teach that adult sexual relationships should be within the context of a life long loving commitment, while respecting and being sensitive to those for whom this is not a personal experience.

### **Equal Opportunities**

In line with our Equal Opportunities Policy, we are committed to working towards equality of opportunity in all aspects of school life. School sex education should be relevant and accessible to all children.

### **Sex Education Programme and Organisation**

The delivery of this programme must be centre around the teaching of the bible and delivered through topics, planned aspects of science, through class discussions or circle time, addressed within assemblies

### **Assessment.**

Assessment of sex education will take place formally in the science curriculum.

### **Working with Parents**

This school is strongly committed to working with parents. We see the school's programme as complementing the role of parents as educators. Under the 1993 Education Act pupils may be withdrawn by their parents from part of Sex Education that is outside compulsory elements of sex education in the science curriculum. Parents who wish to exercise this right are invited to speak with the school's Head Teacher. The school will be sensitive to parents' convictions and views.

**Confidentiality**

As a teaching staff we will endeavour to respect a child's confidence, unless we consider the child to 'be at risk'. Where confidentiality has to be breached, reasons should be given. Teachers should not promise a child that they will 'keep a secret'.

**Head Teacher**

The responsibilities are found within a legal framework, the Education Act (no 2) 1986, granting Head Teacher a particular role (revised 1988, 1993). Having taken the decision to place sex education within the curriculum, the Head Teacher has a duty to produce a policy, which outlines the rationale and organisation of this programme..

**Specific Issues****Child sexual abuse.**

The Head Teacher is the named Child Protection Officer and any identification of child sexual abuse should be reported immediately.

**Answering Difficult Questions.**

Teachers will handle with sensitivity any explicit or difficult questions. They need not be answered directly and can be answered individually later.

**Reference to other policies**

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following:

Health and Safety Policy

Equal Opportunities Policy

Science Policy

PSHE and Citizenship Policy

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