



LAURUS

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Sex and Relationships Policy for Laurus Primary Schools

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Introduction

The Head of School takes overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation, for liaison with the Local Governing Body, Parents/Carers, and appropriate outside agencies and for the appointment within the school of a PSHE Subject Leader, who will have responsibility for handling the daily implementation of this policy. The PSHE Leader will liaise with the link Governor for Sex and Relationships Education. The Head of School will ensure that all staff dealing with sex and relationship issues are adequately supported and trained.

What is Sex and Relationships Education?

Sex and Relationship education within Laurus Trust Primary Schools aims to provide opportunities for pupils to develop the skills, knowledge and understanding they need to lead confident, healthy, independent lives and become informed and active citizens. The work aims to be delivered in an accepting and honest way, which enables young people to contribute.

Principles

- To develop pupils' confidence and self esteem.
- To develop pupils' knowledge about healthier and safer lifestyles in order that they are able to make informed decisions.
- To develop pupils' knowledge and understanding about the services available.
- To provide opportunities for young people to develop effective, fulfilling relationships.
- To provide opportunities for young people to develop an understanding of, and respect for, difference.
- To enable young people to develop the skills necessary to protect themselves from exploitation.
- To enable young people to develop the ability to understand the consequences of their decisions and actions.

Practice

Sex and Relationships education will be delivered through a planned programme of activities and there will be inter-disciplinary links with the Science Curriculum. Training will be provided for staff where necessary and they will receive support from appropriate outside agencies if applicable. Sex and Relationship Education will be delivered in both mixed and single gender groups, using a variety of whole class and group teaching.

Answering Difficult Questions

Teachers should establish with pupils, a set of ground rules, which set the parameters for discussion and aim:

- To recognise the need to offer 1 to 1 support if necessary
- To acknowledge questions that are too explicit which may need to be answered at a parent/carer's discretion by the parent or carer
- To recognise that answers to some questions are not known by the staff
- To recognise when there is a concern about sexual abuse and to follow Safeguarding Procedures

Use of Visitors

There may be occasions when the use of an outside speakers may be deemed appropriate as part of a planned programme of work. In this instance the following strategies may be used:

- Encourage pupils to be involved and to play a key role in the visit e.g. prepare questions.
- Ensure that the visiting speaker is clear about what is expected of them in advance and that they are comfortable in providing input.

It is essential that the visit is followed up in an appropriate manner as part of a planned programme of activity.

Scheme of Work

Laurus Trust Primary Schools follow guidance from the National PSHE Association and the Christopher Winter SRE Scheme of Work.

Role of PSHE Leader

- To review and plan the content and delivery of the programme of study for Sex and Relationships Education.
- To monitor teaching and learning and provide support as needed.
- To review resources and renew as appropriate.
- To update training in line with national guidelines.

Inclusion

Laurus Trust Primary Schools are committed to providing a curriculum of equal opportunity to educate the 'whole' child regardless of their ability, ethnicity, gender or social circumstances.

We are committed to working with parents towards being a healthy school. Under section 405 of the Education Act 1996, parents may opt to withdraw their children from Sex and Relationships Education lessons:

*“If any parent of any pupil...requests that s/he may be wholly or partly excused from receiving sex education at the school, the pupils shall, **except** in so far as the education is comprised in The National Curriculum, be so excused accordingly until the request is withdrawn.”*

Parents/carers wanting to exercise this right are invited to see the Head of School, who will explore their concerns and discuss any impact that such action may have on the child – including the possible negative feelings or experiences that might result.

Confidentiality

It is the responsibility of each Laurus Trust Primary School to support its pupils but no individual should guarantee a child absolute confidentiality.

Staff will use their discretion to inform the Head of School and share ‘confidences’ if they are seen as a concern for the safety and welfare of the child. Under the children Act 1989, adults “*may do what is reasonable in all the circumstances of the case for the purpose of safeguarding or promoting the child’s welfare*”.