

MAGDALEN COLLEGE SCHOOL

POLICY ON SEX EDUCATION

Statutory policy – Biennial Review

GOVERNORS' EDUCATION & WELFARE COMMITTEE

Date next due for review by committee	Reviewed by committee	Any Changes YES/NO	Approved by Full Governors
	19 June 2007 (Curriculum Committee)	Yes	5 July 2007
Remit for policy moved to Student Home & Community Committee			
June 2008	Nov 2009	No	n/a
Nov 2010	Nov 2010	Yes	7 Dec 2010
Nov 2011	Nov 2011	No	6 Dec 2011
Nov 2012	Nov 2012	No	n/a
Nov 2013	12 th Nov 2013	No	n/a
Nov 2014	18 th Nov 2014	Minor amend	n/a
Policy assigned to the Education & Welfare Committee 26 th January 2016			
Nov 2015	26 Jan 2016	Minor amend	n/a
Jan 2018	17 April 2018	Minor amend	n/a
April 2020			

POLICY ON SEX EDUCATION

1. Aims of Sex Education

Magdalen College School believes that sex education is important and is an entitlement for each student. It is an integral part of each student's emergence into adulthood.

We aim:

- to encourage personal responsibility in all forms of behaviour;
- to encourage self-esteem;
- to encourage respect and consideration for others;
- to provide support and information for young people and their parents.

The purpose of this policy is to communicate clearly to staff, parents, visitors and students the manner in which sex education will be delivered in this school.

2. Content

Sex Education provides knowledge and encourages the acquisition of skills and attitudes which will allow students to manage their lives in a responsible and healthy way.

a) *Knowledge and information is responsive to local and national issues and includes:*

Key Stage 3: Puberty, personal safety, friendship and love, family life and relationships, conception and birth, contraception, HIV/AIDS, safer sex, teen parenting, abortion, helping agencies, sex and the law, life stages and cycles, homophobic bullying.

Key Stage 4: Birth processes, conception and birth, genetic inheritance, sexually transmitted diseases including HIV and AIDS, different sexual lifestyles, helping agencies, prejudice and stereotyping.

16-19: Not a statutory requirement but is discussed in PSHE (Personal Social and Health Education) sessions.

b) *Values and beliefs*

As well as knowledge and information students will be encouraged to consider the importance of the following values, which are derived from the school's aims:

- respect for and valuing of themselves and others;

- understanding for and sensitivity towards the needs and views of others;
- responsibility for their own actions;
- responsibility to the school, their family and the wider community.

c) *Skills and abilities*

Students will be helped to develop the following skills:

- communication including the making and keeping of relationships;
- assertiveness;
- decision-making;
- recognising and using opportunities to develop a healthy lifestyle.

1. **Organisation**

a) *Sex Education* is managed by the Leaders of PSHCE, Leaders of Learning, Head of Science and an external School Nurse.

b) *Delivery is through*

- planned aspects within the Science and PSHCE curricula;
- moral and ethical issues which may arise from apparently unrelated topics in all National Curriculum subjects including the difference between fact, opinion and religious belief.
- Year 7 tutor groups are spoken to in single sex tutor group sessions by an external School Nurse who discusses issues such as changes they will face during puberty and being body aware, medication, friendships, bullying and strategies for coping in school with various issues i.e. anger management, drugs.

c) *Teaching approaches*

The same variety of approaches is used as in other subject areas.

d) *Groupings*

Students are taught in mixed groups.

e) *Resources*

- Materials – A wide range of teaching resources is available to teachers. Parents are welcome to inspect the materials and discuss with the Head of Year.
- Staff – With regard to sex education it is important that staff feel comfortable with the subject matter. Support is offered through an in-service training programme.

f) *Time available*

Sex education forms a part of the curriculum in each year group from Years 7 to 11.

4. **Specific issues**

The following issues may occur as part of sex education. Staff, parents and students needs to understand the schools' procedures.

a) *Confidentiality and advice*

Students will be made aware that some information cannot be held confidential and made to understand, that if certain disclosures are made, certain actions will ensue. At the same time students will be offered sensitive and appropriate support. The following procedures will be adhered to by all staff:

- i) Disclosure of suspicion of possible abuse – the school's child protection procedures will be invoked in accordance with staff handbook.
- ii) Disclosure of pregnancy or advice on contraception – it is hoped that the following procedure will ensure that students who are in difficulty know that they can talk to a member of staff and they will be supported.

The school will always encourage students to talk with their parents first.

- Students will be encouraged to tell their parent(s) and will be offered help in doing so.
 - If a student is unable or unwilling to tell their parents, the member of staff should refer to the Headteacher who will inform the parent(s).
- iii) The Headteacher will always seek professional information and guidance from a health official when appropriate.

b) *Family life*

Family life is a vital theme of sex education. Therefore, the teaching will emphasis stability, respect, caring and support.

c) *Complaints Procedure*

Any complaints about the Sex Education curriculum should be made to the Headteacher, who will report to the Governors via the Link Governor.

d) *Parental partnership*

Under the Education Act 1993 parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the sex education programme. Parents wishing to exercise that right are asked to make an appointment to meet the appropriate Key Stage team member or head of science to discuss the issues. Once a child has been withdrawn he/she cannot take part in sex education without parental approval.

5. **Monitoring and review**

- a) Sex education will be monitored by the Curriculum Deputy Head with the Key Stage Teams and the Head of Science.
- b) An annual report will be made to governors.

6. Dissemination of the policy

A summary of this policy is in the school prospectus. The full policy is available on request to parents. Parents are informed by letter before especially sensitive items are to be discussed.