

Sex Education Policy

Introduction

The staff and governors of Chichester Nursery School acknowledge that the government has provided regulations which will make the subjects of Relationship Education (for all primary pupils) and Relationships and Sex Education (for all secondary pupils) and Health Education (for all pupils in state-funded schools) mandatory from 2020. These do not apply to us as a Nursery School, but we recognise the importance of these subjects and cover them in an age appropriate manner. Although we believe that a formal programme of sex education is inappropriate for children of Nursery age, we do believe in supporting children in developing certain skills, attitudes and knowledge which will help to lay the foundation for more detailed and age appropriate sex education as they move through their school career.

To this end we aim to:

- Develop children’s knowledge and understanding about growth, development and reproduction. Through supporting:
 - Understanding of human development from babyhood to old age and death, that bodies change as we get older, and about different generations within families
 - Building knowledge of the correct names of different parts of the body (as appropriate to the age and developmental level of the child)
 - Understanding the differences between boys and girls
 - Looking at life cycles of a range of animals and insects such as frogs and butterflies

- Foster self-esteem, self- awareness and a sense of moral responsibility. Through:
 - Creating a climate of positivity within the Nursery School
 - Praising and encouraging children’s achievements and willingness to “Have a go”

- Supporting children to know that it is important to look after their bodies by eating and drinking healthily, carrying out appropriate hygiene practices, wearing appropriate clothing etc
 - Fostering children's understanding of differences and similarities, in relation to themselves, family units etc
 - Encouraging children's ability to assess risk and to evaluate the effect of their actions on others
 - Enforcing behavioural expectations in a clear, consistent and supportive way
 - Encouraging children to carry out collaborative tasks such as tidying up, recycling paper etc
- Develop communication and decision making skills that will support children in making wise choices and being able to say No if they feel threatened or unsafe by:
 - Empowering children to make choices
 - Supporting them to acknowledge and discuss their feelings and emotions
 - Encouraging children to be reflective and ask for help when necessary
 - Supporting children to value the opinions and ideas of others, but to be nicely assertive when they feel something is wrong

Questions

Young children are naturally curious and may well ask questions related to sex education. Staff will answer these in a straight forward, factual way using correct terminology appropriate to the situation and the child's level of understanding and development. Staff are also mindful of the need to involve parents, especially if questions are of a particularly probing nature. For instance an adult might say, "I think that that is a question that you would need to ask Mummy or Daddy", should they deem that to be the appropriate response. Staff will always communicate with parents if questions of this nature are being asked at Nursery school so that parents are aware of the interest and curiosity of the child and a joint approach can be identified

Resources

The Nursery has developmentally appropriate books on sexual education which, owing to their more sensitive nature, are kept in a cupboard in the Headteacher's office. These books can be used by staff (with parental permission) or lent to parents for use at home. In addition, the Nursery has boy and girl dolls which display the correct genitalia.