



Sexual Health and Relationships

Reviewed: January 2017

Next review date: January 2019

LeAF Studio

Sex Education Policy

This policy statement outlines the commitment of the staff and Governors of LeAF Studio to ensure that Sex Education is available to all students through a PSHE and curriculum based programme.

The aims of the policy are:

- to present facts in an objective and balanced manner to enable students to be aware of the range of sexual attitudes and behaviour in present day and society;
- to enable students to consider their own attitudes and make informed, reasoned and responsible decisions about the attitudes they will adopt while they are at LeAF Studio and as adults;
- to teach about the physical aspects of sexual behaviour within a clear moral framework in which students are encouraged to consider the importance of self restraint, respect for themselves and others, and are helped to recognise the physical, emotional and moral risk of casual and promiscuous sexual behaviour;
- to foster a recognition that both sexes should behave responsibly in sexual matters;
- Parents/carers will be informed of forthcoming sex education lessons. Parents/carers have a right to withdraw their children from sex education lessons where they do not form part of the National Curriculum up until Year 11 whereby it is now compulsory that they receive sex and relationship education.

All young people, whatever their ability, develop physically and emotionally, and need to be helped to understand their bodies and their feelings. Sex education helps our students' overall development, confidence and self-esteem.

Legislation now says that a compulsory programme of sex education, including teaching about HIV and AIDS and other STDs, must be provided for all students of secondary age (11+), whatever type of educational facility they attend. This law also gives parents/carers the right to withdraw their children from sex education at any age, except those parts which are in the National Curriculum Science syllabus.

The sex education programme we offer has been carefully planned to take account of students' age, maturity and physical development. It will develop slowly throughout the time young people are at the academy, using well-proven methods that allows time for repetition, practice of relevant skills, and reflection. It will be fully and consistently evaluated.

For Year 9/10/11 Students and Sixth Form age appropriate work will continue according to their needs and competencies; sexual intimacy; sexual relations; safer sex; sexually transmitted diseases, including AIDS; pregnancy, birth and contraception.

Who will teach it? The programme will be delivered sensitively by specialists from outside agencies and health professionals, together with subject specialist staff and support staff. Students will sometimes be taught in separate gender groups according to their maturity and understanding. The Federation's nurse also provides very valuable input to this area of work.

In year 9 we cover the following.

- To know the different forms of contraception available
- To know where to go for help and advice
- To know how to keep healthy in a sexual relationship
- To know that unprotected sex can lead to sexually transmitted infections
- To learn the different sexually transmitted infections
- To learn the signs and symptoms of sexually transmitted infections
- To learn the treatments of the different sexually transmitted diseases.

In year 10, we cover the following.

- Learn what IVF is, and some of the ethical issues connected with this.
- Know that instructions for our characteristics are carried on genes, and where these are in a cell.
- Know that genes carry the instructions for making proteins.
- Explain the difference between sexual and asexual reproduction.
- Understand that organisms produced by asexual reproduction are clones, which are genetically identical to their parent and to each other.
- Understand that the gender of a baby depends on which sex chromosomes it has.
- Know that human egg cells always have an X sex chromosome, but sperm cells can have an X or a Y chromosome.
- Describe how some cells are specialised, and how unspecialised cells could be used.
- Know how the sex organs are formed.

Year 11 cover

Exactly what year 11 students will cover is dependent on which of the Science courses they follow as Triple Science cover more detail than Applied / Additional Science, however, all will continue to study:

- that asexual reproduction is producing offspring from one parent.
- that sexual reproduction is producing offspring from two parents/carers.
- that asexual reproduction is faster than sexual reproduction.
- that sexual reproduction produces variety.
- how and why body cells divide by mitosis.
- that gametes transfer genetic information from parents to offspring.
- how gametes produce a fertilised egg cell.
- how the sex of a child is determined.
- how gametes are formed by meiosis.
- that the hormone FSH from the pituitary gland causes an egg cell to mature in an ovary.
- that FSH also causes the ovaries to produce hormones including oestrogen.
- that oestrogen causes the womb lining to thicken.
- that oestrogen inhibits further production of FSH and stimulates the pituitary gland to produce LH.
- that LH causes the release of an egg cell each month.
- that fertility drugs contain FSH and cause more egg cells to be released.
- that oral contraceptives contain oestrogen and stop egg cells being released.
- that fertility drugs and oral contraceptives can cause problems.