

FRIARS ACADEMY
SEX EDUCATION POLICY

This policy should be read in conjunction with the PSHE Policy.

Friars Academy believes that sex education is part of the educational entitlement of all pupils. 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 pupils' overall development, confidence and self-esteem.

The law now says that a compulsory programme of sex education including teaching about HIV and AIDS and other STIs must be provided for all pupils of secondary age (11+), whatever type of school they attend. This law also gives parents 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 at Friars Academy has been carefully planned to take account of pupils' age, maturity and physical development. It will develop slowly throughout the time young people are in school, using well-proven methods which allow time for repetition, practice of relevant skills and reflection. It will be fully and constantly evaluated.

Areas covered in year 7/8 will be:

- self awareness – Who am I? What can I do?
- identifying and naming body parts.
- gender – I am a girl; I am a boy.
- family and friends – Who do I know?
- skills: choosing, making decisions, saying yes and no.

The areas covered in the year 9 will continue to be reinforced, and other areas will be added as pupils are able to take them in, such as:

- private body parts; identification and correct names
- body changes; growing up; puberty
- privacy changes; growing up; puberty
- skills; choosing, decision making, assertiveness
- menstruation and masturbation; coping with changes
- friendships; same sex, opposite sex

For older pupils in key stage 4 appropriate work will continue according to their needs and competencies through Aim courses:

- sexual intimacy
- sexual relationships
- safer sex
- sexually transmitted infections, including AIDS
- pregnancy, birth and contraception

Who will teach it?

The programme will be taught by a variety of teachers, sometimes working together, and with support staff. Pupils will sometimes be taught in separate gender groups, or in small groups according to their maturity and understanding.

Pupils with severe learning difficulties will take part in the programme which will be adapted according to their ability. Work will largely focus on self awareness, gender awareness, and body parts recognition.

We shall work closely with parents who are welcome to come to school at any time to discuss any matters relating to the sex education programme.

Specific Issues

If disclosure takes place during a lesson, or to a member of staff:

- teachers should not promise confidentiality
- only the Headteacher can instruct a teacher to break confidentiality

At Friars we hope that any disclosure will be treated in a calm and supportive manner without causing any further anxiety and distress.

Appropriate methods for sex education use activities which 'distance' the subject matters from the pupils by using pictures, stories and models which encourage discussion about what the fictional characters do, say and feel. This lessens the scope for pupil responses like "do/did/would do" and also serves to protect staff from personal questions.

Contraceptive Advice

Pupils will be taught, in the context of sexual intimacy and safer sex, that intercourse always involves using a condom. Questions about contraception will be answered accurately and honestly within the pupil's ability to understand. If pupils need further personal advice about contraception, counselling and support will be sought from appropriate agencies.

The School Nurse offers a weekly drop-in clinic at lunch-time for Key Stage 3 & 4 pupils.