

What do you think should be taught and at what age ?

Dear Parents

On the next few pages are questions that children often want to know about relationships and particularly relate to the Relationships and Sex part of education.

In Science we teach the 'mechanics' of how things work but this is not set within how we feel, what is acceptable and not acceptable and what children have questions about.

We are developing our relationships education to include sex education too and want to ensure that it is pitched correctly and allows our children to be well educated not ill-educated. Children have many sources of information now, particularly through social media and we want to support children and families with what they need to know and at what age.

Please consider the chronology of the sheets and complete the last sheet to enable us to pull together a first draft of the education we will provide.

We expect many of you will have some things that you feel 'absolutely not!' about, as this does go to entry to secondary school where our primary children meet children who are far more aware of sex and sexual behaviours. However we still felt it was important to allow you to consider the 'next bits'.

We would be very grateful if you use the final page to make any comments or suggestions. Remembering that at primary school you do have the right to withdraw your child from sex education following discussion with the Headteacher.

What do you think should be taught and at what age ?

Age ?????

At this age children are interested in the differences between boys and girls, naming body parts, where babies come from, and friends and family. What areas of the body are private and should not be touched and who they can talk to if they are worried are also important.

Questions to help you understand what children want to learn about are listed in themes below.

Relationships

- Who is in my family?
- How are other families similar or different to mine?
- What does my family do for me?
- What do I like about my friend?
- What does my friend like about me?
- What can other people do to make me feel good?
- Who do I look after?
- Why shouldn't I tease other people?

My body

- Why are girls' and boys' bodies different?
- What do we call the different parts of girls' and boys' bodies?

Life cycles

- Where do babies come from?
- How much have I changed since I was a baby?
- How are other children similar and different to me?

Keeping safe & looking after myself

- Which parts of my body are private?
- When is it OK to let someone touch me?
- How can I say 'no' if I don't want someone to touch me?
- Who should I tell if someone wants to touch my private parts?

People who help me

- Who can I ask if I need to know something?
- Who can I go to if I am worried about something?

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Age???

At this age children are interested in the changing nature of friendships, the emotional and physical changes of growing up, similarities and differences between boys and girls, coping with strong emotions and how babies are made from eggs and sperm. How to look after our bodies and how to be safe and healthy are also important.

Questions to help you understand what children want to learn about are listed in themes below.

Relationships

How have my relationships changed as I have grown up?

Why do friendships change?

How can I be a good friend?

Why can it be fun to have a friend who is different to me? What are some of the bad ways people can behave towards one another?

How do I know when I am being bullied?

What do I do if I am being bullied?

How can I make up with my friend when we have fallen out?

Why are some parents married and some not?

My body

How has my body changed since I was a baby?

Why is my body changing?

Why are some children growing quicker than others? Why are some girls in my class taller than the boys? How do girls and boys grow differently?

Why are we all different? Is it ok to be different?

What are similarities and differences between boys and girls?

Should boys and girls behave differently?

Feelings

What makes me feel good?

What makes me feel bad?

How do I know how other people are feeling?

Why are my feelings changing as I get older?

How do I feel about growing up and changing?

How can I cope with strong feelings?

Keeping safe & looking after myself

What are good habits for looking after my growing body? What do I do if someone wants me to do something dangerous, wrong or makes me feel uncomfortable?

When is it good or bad to keep secrets?

Life cycles

Why does having a baby need a male and a female?

What are eggs and sperm?

How do different animals have babies?

How do different animals look after their babies before and after birth?

What happens when people get older?

People who help me

Who can I talk to if I feel anxious or unhappy?

Where can I find information about growing up?

What do you think should be taught and at what age ?

Age ????

At this age children are interested in knowing about love and the different kinds of families, they will be curious about puberty and sexual feelings and changing body image. They will want more details about conception, how babies develop and are born and why families are important for having babies. They will be interested in knowing about how people can get diseases including HIV, from sex and how they can be prevented. They will also want to know who they can talk to if they want help or advice and information about puberty and sex.

Relationships

What are the important relationships in my life now?
What is love? How do we show love to one another?
Can people of the same sex love one another? Is this ok?
What are the different kinds of families and partnerships?
What do the words 'lesbian' and 'gay' mean?
Why does calling someone 'gay' count as bullying?
What should I do if someone is being bullied or abused?
Are boys and girls expected to behave differently in relationships? Why?
Can some relationships be harmful?
Why are families important for having babies and bringing them up?

My body

What is puberty?
Does everyone go through it? At what age?
What body changes do boys and girls go through at puberty?
Why are some girls 'tomboys' and some boys a bit 'girly'?
Is my body normal? What is a 'normal' body?
How will my body change as I get older?

Feelings and attitudes

What kinds of feelings come with puberty?
What are sexual feelings?
What are wet dreams?
What is masturbation? Is it normal?
How can I cope with these different feelings and mood swings?
How can I say 'no' to someone without hurting their feelings?
What should I do if my family or friends don't see things the way I do?

What do families from other cultures and religions think about growing up?
Can I believe everything I see on the TV about perfect bodies/ relationship/girls and boys....to be true?

Lifecycles/ human reproduction

What is sex?
What is sexual intercourse?
How many sperm does a man produce?
How many eggs does a woman have?
How do sperm reach the egg to make a baby?
Does conception always occur or can it be prevented?
How do families with same-sex parents have babies?
How does the baby develop?
How is the baby born?
What does a new baby need to keep it happy and healthy?

Keeping safe & looking after myself

How can I look after my body now I am going through puberty?
How can girls manage periods (menstruation)?
How can people get diseases from sex and can they be prevented?
What is HIV, how do you get it and how can you protect yourself from it?

People who help me/getting help and advice

Who can I talk to if I want help or advice?
Where can I find information about puberty and sex?
How can I find reliable information about these things safely on the internet?

What do you think should be taught and at what age ?

Ages ????

At this age most young people will be entering puberty and will be interested in hormones, how they will be affected by them, the menstrual cycle, wet dreams, erections, fertility, pregnancy - how it can be avoided, and safer sex. They may also be wondering if their physical development is 'normal'. They will want to know about the difference between sexual attraction and love and whether it is normal to be attracted or in love with someone of the same gender. Young people will be asking questions about relationships, when is the right time to have sex, how to avoid pressure and where they can get more information if they need it, including the best websites, confidential services etc.

Questions to help you understand what young people want to learn about are listed in themes below.

Relationships

What makes a relationship happy or unhappy?
Why do relationships change during adolescence?
How can I cope with changing relationships with my family and friends?
Why do people get married or have a civil partnership?
What can I do about family and friendship break-up?
What are the qualities I should look for in a partner?
Should everyone have a boyfriend or girlfriend at my age?
At what age is it legal to have sex?
At what age is it legal to get married/ or have a civil partnership?
How do I know when I am ready to have sex/be intimate with my boyfriend/girlfriend?
Do males and females have different expectations in relationships?
What does it mean to be gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender?
What is the difference between transvestite and trans-sexual?
What is acceptable touching and behaviour amongst my peers?

My body

Am I normal? What is normal for my age? If I am a late developer, will I catch up?
Why do the media show so many pictures of thin/muscly/ perfect celebrities? Should we all look like this?
People say our hormones are raging during adolescence - what effect do they have on the body?
How do hormones affect boys and girls differently?
What is the menstrual cycle and how does it affect fertility?
Why do boys get erections?
What is the menopause, when does it happen in a woman's life and do men go through it too?
What is happening to my body when I get sexually excited?
What is an orgasm and how can I have one?
Do males and females experience orgasm in the same way?
What are normal bodily fluids secreted from penis and vagina?

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Feelings and attitudes


What is the difference between sexual attraction and love?
How will I know if I am in love?
Is it normal to be attracted or in love with someone of the same gender? Does this mean I am gay or lesbian?
Do you have to have sex to show someone you love them?
What should I do if I feel I am being pressured into having sex?
Is everybody doing it?
In my community being a teenage parent is acceptable- is this wrong?
My religion says that being gay or having sex before marriage is wrong, what should I think?

Keeping safe and looking after my sexual health

What is safer sex?
Should everyone who is sexually active carry condoms? What infections can be caught from having sex? What are the symptoms? What is the impact on your health?
What is HIV and AIDS, how do you get it? Is it always through sex?
How do women get pregnant and how does the baby develop?
Does sex always lead to pregnancy? How can conception be prevented?
Are there ways of enjoying sex that don't risk pregnancy or infection?
What are the different methods of contraception?
Are some easier to use than others?
When should emergency contraception be used?
Who should be responsible for contraception/safer sex in a relationship?
If someone is on the pill, why do they have to use a condom as well?
Does drinking alcohol or using drugs affect my decisions about behaviour?

People who can help me/Sources of help and advice

If I think I have a sexually transmitted infection, where can I get it treated?
If a woman gets pregnant, what choices does she have?
What are the best websites on sex and relationships for young people?
How can I find out about local contraception and sexual health services, and what should I expect from them?
Can I see a nurse or doctor in private?



Thank you very much for considering the questions.

Please indicate the age/ ages of your children in school

Age:

Please leave any comments below

I would like further clarification on:

I feel uncertain that my child should be taught about:

I would like to be further involved in the development of relationships education at school:

Please leave your name: