



## **RELATIONSHIPS /SEX EDUCATION POLICY**

**DATE OF POLICY**                      SEPTEMBER 1999

**REVIEWED**                              SEPTEMBER 2004 / 06/ 08  
    JANUARY 2011/ JANUARY 2013 / JANUARY 2015

**TO BE REVIEWED**                      January 2017

**PERSON RESPONSIBLE:**    Stephanie Nagy

Sex education is an important area of the curriculum for pupils with Special Needs. For this reason, planning and implementation must involve sensitivity and discretion.

Special Needs pupils grow, develop and have wishes, needs and desires. They develop sexually as well as socially, emotionally, physically and mentally. How our pupils cope with these developments can be enhanced through their learning experiences.

Sex education refers to acquiring knowledge and developing skills and techniques which enable them to handle adolescence, relationships and their own sexual development and on this basis to make appropriate judgements, choices and decisions.

Children receive sex education from infancy – they learn such things as; gender, which toilets to use out of the home environment and the need for privacy. As the pupils approach adolescence they need to understand the changes that are happening to their bodies and to their emotions.

The sex education programme at Springwater School is incorporated in the Personal and Social Education Programmes and is closely allied to self awareness, moral education, relationships and family life.

The sex education programme is carefully structured and yet is still able to be adapted to meet individual pupil's needs.

The areas that are covered in the sex education programme include: -

- Changes from birth to adulthood
- Personal development
- Physical development
- Relationships
- Family life
- Decision making
- Reproduction
- Sexually transmitted diseases

The teaching of sex education takes place in small groups according to; age, maturity or gender as appropriate. Some pupils need individual counselling by a member of staff with whom they feel comfortable and time is allocated to meet this need as and when necessary. Other professionals may contribute to these teaching programmes school nurse etc.

As pupils approach puberty, they should know that there is always someone with whom they feel comfortable, available to listen, help and advise them.

Parents should be and are consulted about this area of the curriculum and are advised of their right to withdraw their children.

Approved by Governors February 2013, march 2015