

SEX EDUCATION AND RELATIONSHIPS POLICY

At Hasmonean, students are taught to love and cherish their religion and culture, to explore its rich depths and to be enriched by them; and that living an ethical life is a privilege rather than a burden. They are also taught to respect people of other faiths (or no faith), those who come from different cultures and those who choose to lead different lifestyles.

The area of the curriculum pertaining to sex education and relationships of is handled in a very sensitive manner in the context of the school ethos which reflects the Orthodox Jewish point of view based on the Torah and Talmud. Sex education is covered through the following three routes:

1. **THE JEWISH STUDIES CURRICULUM** - Relevant Biblical and Talmudic texts are used by experienced Jewish Studies teachers to discuss the Torah attitude to many aspects of sexual morality.
2. **INPUT BY THE JEWISH STUDIES DEPARTMENT INTO THE BIOLOGY CURRICULUM** - The Jewish Studies Department has devised a lecture/discussion to be delivered by experienced Jewish Studies teachers to Biology groups as an introduction to the subject of procreation. This approach sets the religious, moral and family contexts for the teaching of the Biology Department which follows.
3. **THE BIOLOGY CURRICULUM** - The National Curriculum sets out the sex education topics which must be taught to all pupils. These topics are taught by the Biology Department.

In addition, the school works with a number of outside agencies such as JWA (Jewish Women's Aid) who provide programmes on issues of self-esteem and healthy relationships.

Students are able to approach the School Welfare Officer (girls) or Mashgiach (boys) in confidence should they wish to discuss any matters pertaining to sexual matters or relationships. Where a student is a minor and there is a concern for their welfare, safeguarding procedures are in place. Should such issues arise in the event of older students, they are handled confidentially in order to protect both the student and the ethos of the school in accordance with the school's safeguarding policy. Staff cannot promise confidentiality and any decision about informing parents will be made in consultation with the Headteacher who will take advice if necessary.

Hasmonean teaches the importance of marriage for family life and bringing up children as being central to the Orthodox Jewish Ethos of the school. In addition, the school seeks to stress the significance of marriage and stable relationships as key building blocks of community and society whilst ensuring that there is no stigmatisation of children based on their home circumstances nor of other members of society who chose to enter into other types of relationships that are acceptable under UK law.

The school is committed to teaching children that Female Genital Mutilation is forbidden by British and Torah law, and takes steps to ensure that all children are aware that it is an illegal practice.

Parental Involvement

The School will keep parents informed about the policy and consult informally with parents on any change to the substance of the policy.

Parental right to withdraw children

In accordance with Section 405 of the Education Act 1996, this policy acknowledges the right of a parent to withdraw their children from any or all parts of the school's programme of sex education other than those elements which are required by the National Curriculum. Parents wishing to do so are requested to write to the relevant Headteacher.

The following areas of sex education fall within the National Curriculum: the teaching of Reproduction in Science at all Key Stages.

Advice from staff

In accordance with the school's Safeguarding Policy, staff may not advise students on personal matters but must refer a student to the school counsellors.

Complaints

Any complaints be made in accordance with the school's usual complaints procedure.

**Reviewed & approved by Stone King:
Checked by Maxine Zeltser – Parent Governor
Ratified by Full Governing Body April 2016
Next Review April 2021**