



<b>Policy Name: Sex and Relationship Education</b>	
<b>Policy Code:</b>	<b>ED 14</b>
<b>Approved in:</b>	February 2013
<b>Next Review in:</b>	February 2016
<b>Cross References:</b>	
This policy should be cross-referenced with the following:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• National Policy for Teaching and Learning</li><li>• Guidance on developing a sex and relationship policy for schools</li><li>• A Model School sex and relationship education policy</li><li>• Handbook for Evaluation of Educational Provision – ESAU (2008)</li><li>• National Curriculum subject documents (2008)</li><li>• National Curriculum overview (2007)</li><li>• SEN Code of Practice (2010)</li></ul>	

## **INTRODUCTION:**

The purpose of this policy is to define the expectations of the Ministry on how Government schools should develop, implement, monitor and evaluate policies on the teaching of sex and relationship education. These expectations reflect international best practice and are based on standards agreed by the Ministry. Schools and other educational establishments can use the policy guidance to develop their own policy, which can be implemented with confidence. It will also ensure that staff have the necessary advice and support to work firmly and fairly within the law.

## **AIMS:**

This policy aims to

- Specify the educational entitlement of all students to be taught about sex and relationships
- Specify the expectations for appropriate teaching and learning in sex and relationship education in the Cayman Islands

## **POLICY STATEMENT:**

- Sex education is not included in the primary school curriculum. Students will learn about the physical and emotional changes during puberty in Year 6 as required by the national curriculum for science. Primary School students will learn about appropriate relationships and contact, and about keeping safe as part of the Personal, Social and Moral learning curriculum.
- All government secondary schools must provide sex and relationship education (including education about HIV and AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases) and must teach human growth and reproduction as set out in the national curriculum.



- All government secondary schools must have a written statement of whatever policy they adopt on sex education and make it available free to parents. The statement must be drawn up in consultation with the Department of Education Services. The principal must ensure that any sex education is provided in a way that encourages students to consider morals and the value of family life. Schools must inform parents prior to scheduled programmes of sex and relationship education.
- Parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of any sex education provided, but not from teaching the biological aspects of human growth and reproduction necessary under national curriculum for science.
- Secondary schools' sex education policies must include how they will teach the relevant science national curriculum topics, and how they will provide sex and relationship education as part of the Personal, Social and Moral learning curriculum.
- Policies should be inclusive of all pupils.
- Schools have a duty to ensure that students are protected from teaching and materials which are inappropriate, having regard to the age, religion and cultural background of the students concerned. Schools should also ensure that, within the context of talking about relationships, students should be taught about the nature of marriage and its value and importance for family life. Their sex education policy should contain a statement that a parent may request that a student is withdrawn from sex education.

## **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

### **The Ministry of Education will**

- Develop educational policy and supporting guidance documents.
- Support the implementation and maintenance of individual school policies on sex and relationship educations.

### **The Education Standards and Assessment Unit will**

- Evaluate the effectiveness of teaching and learning in sex and relationship education, using the criteria set out in the *Handbook for the Evaluation of Educational Provision*.
- Make recommendations for improvement.
- Provide accurate and timely information to the Ministry on the effectiveness and quality of sex and relationship education in order to inform policy decisions.

### **The Department of Education Services (School Improvement Officers) will**

- Provide required support to enable schools to meet improvement targets.
- Support school leadership teams in evaluating statistics surrounding issues pertaining to sex and relationship education and, so that priorities for improvement can be identified.



### **School leaders will**

- Facilitate the development of their individual school's sex and relationship education policy.
- Ensure the effective implementation of the school sex and relationship education policy and all other national educational policies.
- Monitor and review provision and practice in their schools.

### **School staff will**

- Effectively implement the school's sex and relationship education policy.
- Use the *Handbook for Evaluation of Educational Provision* and the Ministry's supporting guidance documents to assist their planning and practice.

## **SCHOOL POLICIES ON SEX AND RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION**

### **These must**

- Be based on the National Policy and the Ministry's supporting guidance documents.
- Be developed collaboratively.
- Take into account the indicators of good practice within the ESAU Handbook and the Ministry's supporting guidance documents.
- Be approved by the Department of Education Services / School Improvement before implementation.