

SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION POLICY

Last update: January 2011

Rationale

The school fully recognises its responsibility to provide sex education that prepares students to lead safe, fulfilling and enjoyable lives and is in accordance with DfE guidelines.

Aims

- To encourage students to adopt healthy lifestyles in order to be physically, mentally and emotionally healthy
- To provide a safe environment for students and to support them to stay safe both inside and outside of school: safe from bullying and discrimination, and safe from crime and anti-social behaviour. The school will work with other agencies to ensure that children are well cared for
- To encourage personal responsibility in all forms of behaviour
- To develop self esteem
- To emphasis respect and consideration for others
- To provide support and information for young people and their parents/carers
- To provide a basic knowledge about sexual health and human development together with an opportunity to consider the values and attitudes around sexual health issues
- To ensure opportunities are available for young people to develop the social skills to enable them to make informed choices
- To build on the knowledge gained at Key Stage 2
- To acknowledge the role that the parent/guardian may play and to work in partnership with them
- To encourage students to seek advice and guidance from the School Nurse

Content and delivery

The teaching of Sex and Relationship Education

Sex and Relationship Education is primarily delivered through the PSHE programme of study. In addition to this, aspects of SRE are included in the schemes of work for other subjects such as Science, English and Drama. In each year group, PSHE is delivered by the PSHE teaching team and also staff who have expressed an interest and have expertise in delivering the programme. Training is provided for teachers as necessary to support them and to ensure content and methodology are in line with current guidelines and best practice. Overall responsibility for the PSHE programme is taken by an Assistant Headteacher. Coordination of Programmes of Study, assessment and aspects of monitoring are undertaken by the PSHE coordinator.

Details of the PSHE elements of SRE will be published on the school's website so that parents can access course content. Booklets issued to parents after information evenings also summarise the content of the PSHE course.

Sex education has three main elements.

Attitudes and values:

- learning the importance of values and individual conscience and moral considerations;
- learning the value of family life and stable and loving relationships for the nurture of children;
- learning the value of respect, love and care;
- exploring, considering and understanding moral dilemmas;
- developing critical thinking as part of decision-making.

Personal and social skills:

- learning to manage emotions and relationships confidently and sensitively;
- developing self-respect and empathy for others;
- learning to make choices based on an understanding of difference and with an absence of prejudice;
- developing an appreciation of the consequences of choices made;
- managing conflict;
- learning how to recognise and avoid exploitation and abuse.

Knowledge and understanding:

- learning and understanding physical development at appropriate stages;
- understanding human sexuality, reproduction, sexual health, emotions and relationships;
- learning about contraception and the range of local and national sexual health advice, contraception and support services;
- learning the reasons for avoiding sexual activity which is beyond the individual's stage of maturity or the law;
- the avoidance of unplanned pregnancy;
- genetic inheritance
- fostering and adoption

Confidentiality

The school's work in Sex and Relationship Education will result in sensitive issues being discussed, either with groups of pupils or with individuals. We will:

- reassure pupils that their best interests will be maintained;
- encourage pupils to talk to their parents/carers and provide support in this if necessary;
- ensure that pupils are aware that teachers cannot offer unconditional confidentiality;
- inform pupils that if an external agency needs to be informed, they will be told first and supported appropriately;
- pursue the Child Protection guidelines and procedures if there is any possibility of abuse;
- ensure that pupils are informed of sources of confidential help.

The use of outside visiting speakers and health professionals

Visitors will only take part in sex education lessons with the agreement of the SMT line manager of sex education.

Visitors are made fully aware of the School's Sex Education Policy.

All visitors are subject to the school's safeguarding policy.

The right of parents to withdraw their child from Sex Education

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from sex education except from those elements that are in the National Curriculum for science. Requests should be made, in writing, to the Headteacher. Parents are not obliged to give their reasons for wishing to withdraw their child, but are encouraged to discuss the matter with a senior member of staff.

Links to other policies:

Safeguarding
Child Protection
Confidentiality
Anti-Bullying
E-Safety

For approval by full governors: 9 March 2011

Next review: Spring 2013