



Sex and Relationship Education Policy

Policy Statement

This policy is designed to ensure that this school complies with the sex education provisions of the Learning and Skills Act 2000. The governors, in consultation with the Headteacher, will ensure that the provision of sex and relationship education in this school is carried out in such a way that it encourages pupils to give due consideration to morality and the values of family life.

The school programme for sex and relationship education has been developed after full consultation with the parents of those pupils who were registered with the school at the time.

The policy is available for scrutiny by new parents on request.

The Aims of the Policy

The aim of the sex and relationship education policy is:

- to endorse the entitlement of all pupils in this school to sex and relationship education
- to confirm the coverage and scope of sex and relationship education in this school
- to develop positive values and a moral framework that will guide pupils' decisions, judgements and behaviour; have the confidence and self-esteem to value themselves and others and respect for individual conscience and the skills to judge what kind of relationship they want
- for all pupils to understand the consequences of their actions and behave responsibly within sexual and pastoral relationships
- for all pupils to avoid being exploited or exploiting others or being pressured into unwanted or unprotected sex
- for all pupils to communicate effectively by developing appropriate terminology for sex and relationship issues
- for all pupils to develop awareness of their sexuality and understand human sexuality; challenge sexism and prejudice and promote equality and diversity
- for all pupils to understand the arguments for delaying sexual activity and the reasons for not having unprotected sex.
- for all pupils to have sufficient information and skills to protect themselves and, where they have one, their partner from uninvited/unwanted conceptions and sexually transmitted infections including HIV
- for all pupils to be aware of the sources of help and to acquire the skills and confidence to access confidential health advice, support and treatment if necessary
- for all pupils to know how the law applies to sexual relationships
- to ensure that appropriate training is available for the staff that will deliver the programme of sex and relationship education in this school
- to confirm the school's policy of consulting with parents on the content and delivery of the sex and relationship education programme in this school
- to specify the rights of parents to withdraw their children from all or part of sex and relationship education.

Equal Opportunities Statement

We will strive to ensure that all pupils are treated fairly and that there is no discrimination or bullying on the grounds of gender, race, religious, colour, language, culture, social circumstances, appearance, sexuality, ability or disability etc.

Procedure

Entitlement

All pupils in this school will be entitled to sex and relationship education. This school will provide a coherent, well-balanced programme of sex and relationship education that:

- reflects the age and maturity of the pupils
- meets the particular needs of both boys and girls.

Coverage and Scope of Sex and Relationship Education

Sex and relationship education at this school will include learning about physical, moral and emotional development.

In learning about sex, sexuality and sexual health, the school will aim to ensure that pupils develop an understanding of the importance of marriage for family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care.

The sex and relationship programme taught in this school will cover three main elements:

- attitudes and values
- personal and social skills
- knowledge and understanding.

Attitudes and Values

Attitudes and values will include:

- learning the importance of values, individual conscience and moral choices
- learning the value of family life, marriage, and stable 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
- challenging myths, misconceptions and false assumptions about normal behaviour.

Personal and Social Skills

Personal and social skills will include:

- learning to manage emotions and relationships confidently and sensitively
- developing self-respect and empathy for others
- learning to make choices based on understanding of differences 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
- empowering students with the skills to be able to avoid inappropriate pressures or advances, both as exploited or exploiter.

Knowledge and Understanding

Knowledge and understanding will include:

- 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 (including education about HIV and AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases)
- learning the reasons for delaying sexual activity, and the benefits to be gained from such delay
- the avoidance of unplanned pregnancy.

Staff Training

All form tutors will be expected to make some contribution to the programme of sex and relationship education offered in this school due to the fact that their pastoral role will make them natural recipients of pupils' questions.

Similarly support staff concerned with pupil welfare may be involved through the conversations they have with the pupils they support.

The main sex and relationship education programme will, wherever possible, be delivered by staff with specialist subject knowledge supported by specialist external staff drawn from the local area health services.

The governors will ensure that all members of staff receive regular training to the level of expertise appropriate to their role in the delivery and support of the sex and relationship education programme.

The delivery of the programme will also be dependent on the wider context provided through personal, social and health education and links to other National Curriculum areas, e.g. Science, Religious Studies and ICT

Consultation with Parents

Parents will be fully included in the consultation process and invited to make their contribution to:

- the development of the programme
- the teaching of sex and relationship education.

Prior to the commencement of the sex and relationship programme, wherever possible, parents will be informed of the nature and content of the programme that will be delivered to their children. The aim of this is:

- to enable parents to support what is being taught and encourage them to talk to their child about the topic
- to ensure that any parent considering withdrawing their child from sex and relationship education will only do so knowing what it involves.

Parents' Right of Withdrawal

Parents will have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of any sex and relationship education provided except for those parts included in the statutory National Curriculum (i.e. in Science lessons).

Where parents choose to exercise this right the school will undertake to ensure that they are informed as to when sex and relationship education is being provided for other pupils in their children's classes or year groups and what aspects are being covered. This is so that they can be prepared for the questions that their children may ask as a result of informal peer group discussion outside the classroom.

Parents are encouraged to discuss their decisions with staff at the earliest opportunity and are welcome to review any of the SRE resources school uses.

Confidentiality, Controversial and Sensitive Issues

Teachers cannot offer unconditional confidentiality. Any disclosure must be referred immediately to the Designated Lead for Child Protection (Mr. J Hardy). In a case where the teacher learns from a student under the age of 16 years old that they are having or contemplating sexual intercourse:

- The young person will be encouraged, wherever possible, to talk to their parent/carer (s) and if necessary seek medical advice
- Child Protection issues will be considered, and referred if necessary to the teacher responsible for Child Protection under the school's procedures
- The young person will be properly counselled about contraception, including precise information about where young people can access contraception and advice services.

In any case where child protection procedures are followed, the teacher will ensure that the young person understands that if confidentiality has to be broken, they will be informed first.

Health professionals in school are bound by their codes of conduct in a one-to-one situation with an individual student.

Review of the Policy

This policy will be reviewed annually.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Policy review date: _____