

Sex and Relationships Education Policy

RATIONALE

Sex and relationships education is a key element of PSHE and our commitment to lifelong learning. It is also supported in tutorial work and by particular subjects such as English, RE, Citizenship, PE and Science. It prepares students for the opportunities, experiences and responsibilities of adult life. Through sex and relationships education we seek to contribute to the emotional and moral development of students and support the outcomes of 'Every Child Matters'.

AIMS

- To provide appropriate sex education to each year group.
- To support parental responsibilities and to promote co operation between home, school and outside support agencies.
- To raise awareness of the latest up to date and relevant information and legislation.
- To promote healthy living and lifestyles and a responsible attitude to relationships.

ORGANISATION

Sex and relationships education is coordinated by the member of staff responsible for PSHE. Delivery is through regular timetabled PSHE lessons in the lower school, constructive tutorial work, taught elements in key subjects and presentations/activities by outside agencies. The published programme for PSHE activities and lessons shows where each element of the sex and relationship programme is covered. Students are grouped in mixed ability tutor groups in the lower school and in teaching groups in years 10 and 11. Where there are specific religious or faith needs notified to school arrangements will be made to teach the students concerned in appropriate groups.

The resources for the teaching of the programme are contained in a series of lesson plans on the school Departmental files (accessed by all teachers). If a member of staff feels unable to deliver a particular element of the course the teacher responsible for coordinating the PSHE programme will make arrangements to support the member of staff concerned.

Sex and relationships education is provided within the context of loving, stable, family relationships. The subject matter covers the nature of sexuality and the process of reproduction. Within the programme consideration is given to sexual health, sexually transmitted infections, HIV/AIDS and abortion. We seek to foster an understanding of healthy and responsible relationships. Teachers present the facts objectively and convey relevant legal details. Discussions are carried out in a sensitive manner with concern for individuals and their particular situations.

RIGHT OF WITHDRAWAL

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the sex and relationships education programme. Parents may not withdraw their children from any of the statutory elements of the course. As a school we have agreed that information about sexually transmitted infections, human immune virus and acquired immune deficiency syndrome will be covered in the Science curriculum and referred to when relevant in the PSHE programme.

Information on the parental right of withdrawal will be placed in the school prospectus.

Confidentiality and Advice

Students will be made aware that some information cannot be confidential, and made to understand that if certain disclosures are made certain actions will ensue. At the same time students will be offered sensitive and appropriate support. The following procedures will be adhered to by all adults.

- i) Disclosure or suspicion of possible sexual abuse – the school's child protection procedures will be invoked.
- ii) Disclosure of pregnancy or advice on contraception – It is hoped that the following procedure will ensure that students who are in difficulty know that they can talk to a sympathetic adult in school.

- The school will always encourage students to talk with their parents first.
- Students should be asked whether they can tell their parent(s) and whether they want help in doing so. If this takes place subsequent responsibility then lies with the parent(s). It will need to be checked.
- If students refuse to tell their parent(s) the adult should refer them to a health professional.
- The adult should report the incident to the Child Protection Officer who will consult with the health professional about informing the parent(s).

The school's Child Protection Officer is David Dwyer, Assistant Headteacher.

Professional information and guidance will always be sought from a health service professional.

Advice to Individual Students

A teacher's pastoral concerns should never trespass on parental rights and responsibilities. Therefore:

- contraceptive advice should not be given to students under 16 without parental consent;
- a student requesting advice on sexual behaviour should be encouraged to seek this advice from his/her parents and (if appropriate) from the relevant health service professional.

On all occasions a senior member of staff should be informed, who may also counsel the student. Whether Special Support Services or the LA Locality team should be involved will depend on the particular circumstances and the professional judgement of the staff.

MONITORING AND REVIEW

The sex education and relationships programme is monitored by the coordinator of PSHE. The policy is available for parents via the school website. The nominated Governor with responsibility for oversight is Dr. Iain Phillips. The policy is subject to review in line with the needs of the individual school community.

Reviewed and updated March 2010

DRAFT POLICY subject to ratification by the Governing Body