



Sex and Relationships Education Policy

Aims:

Provision for 'sex and relationships education' within the school aims to give students the opportunity to develop attitudes and values relating to relationships within a loving, stable environment, as well as knowledge and understanding about sexuality and sexual health.

Objectives:

- To develop students' confidence, self-respect and self-esteem
- To develop students' knowledge about healthy and safe lifestyles, in order that they can make informed decisions.
- To provide students with appropriate, balanced information about human reproduction and the physical, social and emotional aspects of human sexual behaviour
- To help students understand the developmental stages of adolescence and to prepare them for their future life as adults and parents
- To provide opportunities for young people to consider the advantages of effective, fulfilling relationships
- To enhance pupils' communication and decision-making skills with regard to relationships
- To provide opportunities for young people to develop an understanding of and respect for difference and a respect for the human rights of individuals
- To enable young people to develop the skills necessary to protect themselves from exploitation and personal risk
- To provide young people with the opportunity to develop a greater understanding of the consequences of their decisions and actions
- To develop pupils' awareness about services that are available to provide advice and support relating to issues around sexual health and relationships

Moral and Values Framework

The sex and relationships education programme reflects the school ethos and demonstrates and encourages the following values:

- Respect for self and others
- Respect for difference, eg cultural, racial, religious
- Responsibility for own actions
- Regard for family life, friends and the wider community
- The rights of the individual
- Equality

Organisation and Delivery

Discrete elements of the 'sex and relationships education' curriculum are delivered through the science curriculum, and also in Ethics lessons (RE/PHSCE). Relationships may also be discussed as part of form time work/foci.

Working with Parents

The school is committed to working with parents and acknowledges the right of parents to withdraw their children wholly or partially for sex education, except in so far as those aspects that are included in the Science National Curriculum. However, the school believes that the sex and relationships education programme is of the utmost importance for all students. Parents who wish to exercise the right of withdrawal are asked to contact the Headteacher, who will discuss the implications of such a decision.

Child Protection

Disclosures on matters relating to child sexual abuse are covered in the School's 'Child Protection Policy'.

Difficult or controversial topics

Teachers approached by individual students for specific advice on contraception or other sexual behaviour will advise the young person to consult parents and, if appropriate, to seek help from a health care professional (such as the school nurse). Contraceptive information is only given in general terms. Teachers are not permitted to provide individual contraceptive advice.

Teachers should establish a set of ground rules so that young people are aware of the parameters.

For example:

- Students are not asked or expected to refer to their own behaviour or attitudes (nor of their family), as part of any discussion, although their own personal views on matters may be acceptable and helpful where these are offered voluntarily and without prejudicing the privacy of anyone else
- If a question is too personal, the teacher should remind the young person about the ground rules
- If the young person needs further support, the teacher should refer him/her to the school nurse, helpline or outside agency or service
- If a question is felt to be too explicit, the teacher should acknowledge it but indicate that it is inappropriate to discuss the matter further in the context of the lesson. The young person may be advised to consult the School Nurse
- Any concern about sexual abuse must be followed up under the Child Protection procedures and staff must contact the Child Protection Co-ordinator as a matter of urgency. Please refer to the school's Child Protection Policy for further information.

The use of visitors

Any visitors used to help in the delivery of the Sex and Relationships Education programme will be clear about the boundaries of their input and will be aware of the Sex and Relationships Education curriculum and the policy that underpins it. Their work and contribution will be planned and agreed in advance and a member of the school staff will be present during such sessions.