



SEX AND RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION POLICY

Sex and relationship education aids students' physical, moral and emotional development. It enables students to understand the importance of marriage and stable, loving relationships for family life, and promotes the values of respect, love and care.

The three main elements are the development of students' attitudes and values, personal and social skills, and knowledge and understanding, in line with Government Guidance ("Sex and Relationship Education Guidance").

AIMS

- 1 To promote the development of healthy, happy lifestyles with regard to sexuality.
- 2 To promote an understanding of the bodily changes incurred by the onset of adolescence and puberty.
- 3 To present sex education in the context of a stable, loving relationship.
- 4 To give students a knowledge and understanding of conception, pregnancy, birth and parenthood, and good child rearing practices.
- 5 To give students knowledge of local and national sexual health advice and support services.
- 6 To explore, consider and understand moral dilemmas.
- 7 To learn to manage emotions and relationships confidently and sensitively.
- 8 To develop self-respect and empathy for others.
- 9 To learn to make choices based on an understanding of difference and with an absence of prejudice.
- 10 To learn how to recognise and avoid exploitation and abuse.
- 11 To learn and understand physical development at appropriate stages.
- 12 To learn the reasons for delaying sexual activity and the benefits to be gained from such delay, and to avoid unplanned pregnancy.
- 13 To make students aware of sexually transmitted disease, prevention methods, and birth control methods.
- 14 To create an awareness of sensitivity towards the effects of sexually transmitted diseases.
- 15 To give up-to-date information on the HIV/AIDS problem, both in the local and wider environment.

STRUCTURE

Sex education is dealt with primarily in three departments; Science, Humanities (RE), and Personal Social Health and Economic Education throughout Years 7-11. It is carefully structured according to the age of the students and is progressive throughout these years. Different aspects are addressed in each year, along with previous topics being built upon. As part of the school's pastoral aims, students will be encouraged to develop the self-esteem and confidence to make appropriate choices.

Students have also been consulted about the SRE and their views taken into consideration when planning schemes of work at KS3 and KS4. This means that student's thoughts are acted upon and the lessons are directed towards what they want to know, alongside what they need to know.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Staff will occasionally be asked for advice or get personal disclosures from students. As far as possible students will be forewarned that teachers cannot offer unconditional confidentiality.

Disclosures will be dealt with sensitively and supportively and students will be encouraged to talk to their parents or carers and given support to do so. It is only in the most exceptional circumstances that school would handle information without parental knowledge.

If confidentiality has to be broken, students will be informed first and supported.

Students will be informed of sources of confidential help and given access to them where appropriate e.g. school nurse, counsellor, youth service.

In the case of child protection issues, child protection procedures would be followed.

LIAISON WITH OTHER PROFESSIONALS

There is regular contact with other Professionals, for example the school nurses and school counsellors.

There is a school drop-in session weekly, run by the school nurse who also contributes to the school's sex education programme in both Key Stages.

Health professionals can give pupils confidential support and advice.

LIAISON WITH PARENTS

The school is committed to working in partnership with parents, and complementing and supporting their role as parents. Parental views will be sought via parent representatives on the governing body and this policy will be made available on request to parents.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of sex and relationship education and will be informed of this as part of the initial information received when their child joins school. Parents who wish to withdraw their children from these lessons would need to inform the Headteacher in writing. The DfES have now produced a pack for those parents who withdraw their children and it is expected in these cases that SRE issues are covered within the home.

We would positively encourage all parents to allow their children to participate in the sex and relationship education programme.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

FGM (also known as female circumcision) is a form of child abuse and is an act of violence against women and girls. It should therefore be dealt with as part of existing child and adult protection structures, policies and procedures. It is an extreme form of domestic abuse. The term FGM is used to refer to the removal of part or all of the female genitalia for cultural or other non-therapeutic reasons. This is extremely painful and has serious consequences for physical and mental health. It can also result in death.

It is illegal to practice FGM in the UK. It is also illegal to take a child abroad for FGM even if legal in that country. It is crucial that prevention is the focus of interventions in cases of FGM and Child Protection procedures should be adhered to in all cases where FGM is suspected.

During sex and relationship education lessons awareness of FGM is focussed on, so students have an understanding of the law, the consequences and where to go if they need help or advice.

Peer on Peer Abuse:

Additionally during sex and relationship education lessons awareness of peer on peer abuse is focussed on, so students have an understanding of the law, the consequences and where to go if they need help or advice, the following definitions are used when teaching about peer on peer abuse.

Child-on-child sexual abuse: when a child (anyone under the age of 18) commits an act of sexual violence or harassment against another child

Sexual violence: rape, assault by penetration, or sexual assault (intentional sexual touching)

Sexual harassment: unwanted conduct of a sexual nature – such as sexual comments, sexual jokes or taunting, physical behaviour like interfering with clothes, or online harassment such as sexting

Sexual activity is an offence if:

- Person B (the victim) does not consent
- Person A (the perpetrator) does not reasonably believe that Person B consents

Someone consents if they:

- Agree by choice
- Have the freedom and capacity to choose

STAFF GUIDELINES

If a student asks for advice relating to sexual matters, he/she should be referred on to a health professional eg the school nurse.

Students should be told at the earliest opportunity that teachers cannot offer unconditional confidentiality and be informed of sources of confidential help e.g. the school nurse, local family planning clinics, Brook Advisory service.

The school nurse can be contacted on 01942 775499. She also offers a drop-in session on Monday lunchtimes called 'Clinic in a Box'.

Mr Kearns and the Heads of Year also have details of sources of confidential help.

If a student makes a disclosure to a member of staff relating to sexual activity or suspected pregnancy, this should be referred to the relevant Head of Year in the first instance who will liaise with the Child Protection Co-ordinator.

If it is believed that there is a child protection issue, this should be referred to the child protection co-ordinator immediately.

REVIEW AND EVALUATION

Policy is to be reviewed every two years via the Governors' Pupil Welfare Committee.

Date to be reviewed (September 20)

Adopted by the Board of Governors and recorded in the Minutes of the meeting held on: 26 September 2018	J Holland Chair of Governors
Review Date:	September 2020
Headteacher	