

Sex and Relationship Education Policy

Introduction

Sex and Relationship Education contributes to the requirement of the 1988 Education Act that states that the school curriculum should

‘promote the spiritual, moral and cultural, mental and physical developments of pupils at school and of society’ and
‘prepare such pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.’

National Curriculum 2000 expects the curriculum to:

‘enable pupils to respond positively to opportunities, challenges and responsibilities, to manage risk and to cope with change and adversity. It should prepare pupils for the next steps in their education and equip them to informed choices at school and throughout their lives.’

Sex and Relationship Education is lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development.

Aims and objectives of the policy

The aim of this policy is to clearly communicate to staff, parents, visitors and students the manner in which sex and relationship education will be delivered in the Blue Coat School. We aim to:

- Provide the opportunity for students to learn about sexual attitudes and behaviour in a familiar and understanding atmosphere which will enable them to make reasoned and informed choices. It will, as set out in the Department for Education and Families, Sex and Relationship Education, school responsibilities, help and support young people through their physical, emotional and moral development.
- Provide a framework for teachers to teach a programme of sex and relationships education and to enable them to support the pastoral and welfare needs of all students.
- Provide informed, balanced information to students by using relevant, up to date and thought provoking resources.
- Provide students with a caring environment which allows them to feel comfortable to discuss sensitive and potentially embarrassing topics by setting clear ground rules on confidentiality and personal privacy.
- Encourage students to realise they have the right not to be sexually active by providing clear and realistic examples from source material.
- Promote the ability of students to make informed decisions and to enable them to determine their own values within a moral framework. Therefore the programme will reflect the school ethos and demonstrate and encourage
 1. respect for self and others
 2. right to accurate information and access to confidential services
 3. the right to hold own views
 4. acceptance of responsibility for own behaviour
 5. difference and diversity
 6. understanding and care for others

- Provide information that is relevant and appropriate to the age, maturity and ability of the student which develops social skills and encourages students to explore different values and attitudes.

Points of note

The curriculum is developmental and is mostly taught as part of the PSHE programme. Some elements may be included in other subjects, for example Science. The Governors have the responsibility to ensure that the school follows Liverpool LA guidelines on Child Protection.

Equal opportunities

The sex and relationship programme is an entitlement of all students. The programme will reflect and include values held by the variety of religious and racial communities with an emphasis on those held within the school. The programme will avoid sexism and other forms of stereotyping.

The Sex Education Procedure

Responsibilities - Parents

Parents play an essential and important role in the sex and relationship education of their children and the school is committed to working in partnership with them. It is recognised that the ideal place for sex education is in the home and the policy clearly acknowledges this. Documentation informs parents of their entitlement to withdraw their children from the course except those areas covered in the National Curriculum Science and PSHE which include puberty, personal safety, friendship and love, family life and relationships, gender issues, conception and birth, contraception, HIV/AIDS, safer sex, support organisations, sex and the law and life stages in Key Stage 3.

In Key Stage 4 birth processes, abortion, fostering and adoption, genetic inheritance, early parenting, sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS. In addition, sexual lifestyles, support organisations, prejudice and stereotyping, different faith and cultures are covered.

Responsibilities - Teaching Staff

- Sex and relationship education will be taught as part of PSHE by specialist staff in Key Stages 3 and 4. There may be occasions when others take the lessons eg. An outside speaker such as a health professional.
- The scheme of work will be provided by and coordinated between the Head of PSHE and the Head of Science where relevant. The programme is developmental according to the age of the students and will provide a foundation for their future learning.
- Training will be provided by attendance at courses (LA and others) and by pastoral staff at form tutor meetings. External contacts may be used.

- With regard to sex and relationship education it is important that staff feel comfortable with the subject matter. Only appropriately trained staff will be involved and will be supported through an in-service training programme. All staff are requested to teach within the school's value framework as outlined and not allow their personal beliefs and attitudes to influence the teaching of Sex and Relationships Education within the PSHE framework.
- Clear ground rules will be set to ensure personal privacy is respected.
- Respect for the views of others is essential if discussion of potentially sensitive issues is to be constructive.
- Teaching methods will ensure sensitive participation in order to support self-esteem of students. The work will start by establishing the students existing understanding.
- Discussions will frequently take place in pairs or small groups.
- Students will be reminded that confidentiality about some matters (eg child protection) cannot be guaranteed.

Assessment

Sex and relationship education is assessed formally when it is part of the National Curriculum in Science. Students are encouraged to assess their own learning as part of the end of topic review process.

Answering Children's Questions

Children's questions will be answered as in every other lesson, in an honest and sensitive manner appropriate to the age of the child and in keeping with their religious and cultural background. Question boxes may be used in lessons to enable teachers to answer children's questions appropriately.

Disclosure of pregnancy or advice on contraception to under 16s.

It is hoped that the following procedure will ensure that students who are in difficulty know that they can talk to an adult in the school and that they will be supported.

Information and guidance will be sought from a health professional. 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 headteacher who will consult with the health professional and Deputy Head (Children's Services) about informing the parent(s).

Using Visitors

Visitors may be invited into school in order to supplement or complement the programme. Outside agencies may be used to complement the curriculum. All materials used will be viewed prior to the visit and a member of staff will remain in the class with the speaker. All outside agencies will be made aware of the school's SRE policy

Withdrawing Pupils

Under the Education Act 1993 parents can withdraw their child from any part of the Sex and relationship programme which is not part of the National Curriculum. Parents wishing to exercise this right are invited to discuss their concerns and arrangements for their child with the Deputy Headteacher with responsibility for pastoral care or the Headteacher.

HIV/AIDS

HIV/AIDS will be covered as part of the sex and relationships programme. The school is aware that it does not need to be informed if any member of the school community is infected or affected by the HIV virus. If they are made aware, this information will be kept strictly confidential. The school already operates health and safety procedures to reduce the risk of transmission of HIV and other diseases. Students will learn these as part of the day to day running of the school.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The policy will be reviewed bi-annually by the Headteacher and appropriate staff. A report with any recommendations will be given to the Governors. Parents, teachers and students will be involved in the evaluation and review process. Teachers will review the policy in terms of teaching sex and relationship education and being able to respond effectively to any pastoral or welfare issue that have arisen.

Quick Guide to the Sex and Relationship Education Policy

Parents will be offered the right to withdraw their children from those areas not taught as part of the National Curriculum Science via documentation.

Staff training is provided by LA, others and at form tutor meetings

Sex and relationship education will be taught as part of PSHE following a schedule of work provided by the Head of PSHE and in other subjects such as Science. Outside providers (such as a health professional) may deliver lessons on occasions.

Staff and students alike are to assess learning.

The answering of student's questions will be honestly and in an appropriate manner in keeping with their religious and cultural background. Question boxes may be used in lessons to enable teachers to assist with this process.

Staff will always encourage students to talk to their parent(s) regarding pregnancy or advice on contraception for under 16s and if this occurs then responsibility lies with the parent(s). If the student refuses staff should refer the student to a health professional and report the incident to the Headteacher.