

Sex and Relationship Education

Policy document

Ratified by the Governing Body – December 2016

It is the policy of the Governing Body at The Wey Valley School that Sex and Relationships Education is taught as part of a Health Education Programme within the Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) curriculum, in Science lessons and in other areas of the curriculum. We feel that this is a vital element of the 'Every Child Matters' agenda in school.

Aims of the Sex and Relationships Education Programme

The programme aims to:

- Teach students the correct facts about human reproduction, contraception and sexually transmitted diseases and how the law relates to these.
- Explore values and moral issues associated with sexuality and personal relationships.
- Foster self-esteem, self-awareness and a sense of moral responsibility in young people.
- Encourage young adults to avoid and resist unwanted sexual experiences, and delay sexual activity.
- Inform students where they can receive help and advice when needed.
- Help students develop skills and understanding to live confident, healthy and economically independent lives.
- Promote values of stable and loving relationships for the development of well-being and the nurture of children, and the role of family life within society.
- Further to this to promote tolerance and respect for those who are different and to reject all forms of discrimination.
- To teach students the skills of good parenting

Co-ordination

The Sex and Relationships Programme is co-ordinated by the PSHE co-ordinator after discussion with the PSHE team, the Head of Science and other members of staff through the Year Team structure. Sex Education is taught in the early years with basic biological facts, and with deeper moral and ethical issues being discussed as the student progresses through the programme. The programme is monitored by the PSHE co-ordinator, Curriculum Deputies the Principal and the Governors' Teaching and Learning Committee.

The school has a Scheme of Work for Sex Education.

Methodology

The Wey Valley School believes that sex education cannot satisfactorily be taught as a body of knowledge. A variety of teaching methods is used, such as films, videos, lectures, games and discussion. Time is given so that students can discuss their fears and misunderstandings, and they are encouraged to challenge and question the sexual norms of their own peer group. Whilst the PSHE teachers and Science

department will normally be involved in teaching Sex Education, the school will actively seek appropriate training for staff engaged in its planning and delivery. The school will on occasions use outside agencies such as:

- The school nurse
- Local doctors
- The Family Planning Association (FPA) or other similar bodies
- Medical advisors from Genito-urinary Medicine (GUM) clinics
- Advisors and other informed outside bodies where appropriate
- Theatre in education when available
- Dorset Healthworks
- Peer Led Education Projects

We firmly believe that Sex and Relationships Education should not be taught in a vacuum, but should relate to young people's own experiences and expectations of sex, sexuality, and wider moral issues affecting their lives. The emphasis in PSHE lessons is always upon relationships, responsibilities and consequences, and to equip our youngsters with basic self-esteem and the ability to say "no" to unwanted sexual experiences. We believe that students should learn the significance of marriage and stable relationships as key building blocks of community and society. We appreciate that questions about sex and relationships may well arise in other areas of the curriculum and teachers will respond as and when necessary.

Content

- Details of human development and reproduction, contraception and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)
- Social as well as biological aspects of sex and sexuality, e.g. sexual identity, historical, social and cultural differences in sexual norms and practices.
- Potential consequences of unprotected sex, e.g. HIV/AIDS, STI's, unwanted pregnancies.
- Positive and negative consequences of sexual practice.
- Information which aims to educate against prejudice.

Child Protection

In the course of the delivery of Sex and Relations Education concerns and issues raised will be acted upon in accordance with the school's Child Protection Policy.

Parental Co-operation and Support

The school recognises the right of parents / carers to withdraw students from sex education lessons and teaching materials are available on request.

The governing body will regularly review the Sex Education Policy.