



Sex and Relationships Education Policy

Principles

The aim of Sex and Relationship Education in Portchester Community school is to prepare students for an adult life in which they can:

- Develop positive values and a moral framework that will guide their decisions, judgements and behaviour
- Be aware of their sexuality and understand human sexuality
- Understand the arguments for delaying sexual activity
- Understand the reasons for having protected sex
- Understand the consequences of their actions and behave responsibly with relationships
- Have the confidence and self-esteem to value themselves and others, and to have respect for individual conscience and the skills to judge what kind of relationships they want
- Communicate effectively
- Have sufficient information and skills to protect themselves and, where they have one, their partner, from unintended and unwanted conceptions, and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV
- Understand what it means to be a parent and recognised the skills involved in good parenting
- Avoid being exploited or exploiting others
- Avoid being pressurised into having unwanted or unprotected sex
- Know how the law applies to sexual relationships

Practice

The Content of the Sex & Relationship Education Programme

Sex and Relationship Education is taught as a part of the Personal, Social and Health Education Programme. [PSHE] Areas covered in discrete Sex and Relationship Education lessons include sexual behaviour, contraception, HIV/Aids and other sexually transmitted infections. The PSHE programme as a whole also includes other topics that contribute to the personal development of students, for example 'Friendship' and 'Families'. Sex & Relationship Education may also be taught through a day 'event': for example a Year 7 day with the focus on coping with puberty.

Science also makes a contribution to students' knowledge and understanding of sex education through the Reproduction Module undertaken in Year 7. The purpose of the module is to teach the anatomical, biological aspects of reproduction and includes teaching about:

- Human reproductive organs
- Fertilisation
- Puberty
- Effects of hormones on the human body
- The menstrual cycle

Dealing with Sensitive Issues

Sex and Relationship Education involves questions of beliefs and values. It may therefore be controversial. Students will be presented with a balanced range of viewpoints on each issue so they will be able to assess the evidence and explore a range of ideas.

When learning about the physical aspects of sexual behaviour students are encouraged to consider the importance of respect for themselves and others, and are helped to recognise the physical, emotional and moral risks of casual sexual activity. Students will also be encouraged to understand the benefits and responsibilities of stable relationships.

Teaching

Sex and relationship education is normally taught in mixed ability tutor groups, which may be reorganised as single-sex classes. Student teachers and supply staff will not be involved in teaching sex and relationship education. Health professionals will be invited to assist with the delivery of the programme. These professionals may include Health Promotion Schools Nurses, Sex Sense workers, Family Planning and GU nurses and nurses employed by commercial organisations (e.g. Tambrands, Always). Copies of the Sex and Relationship Education policy will be made available to these outside agencies. A clear understanding between the school and the agency about the content to be covered and the style of delivery is an important factor in the programme's success.

Advice and Confidentiality

Staff may not offer students one-to-one advice on contraception or sexual matters. Neither may staff promise confidentiality to a student when child protection issues may be involved. In the event of a disclosure being made to a member of staff, the procedures set down in the Child Protection Policy should be followed.

In respect of students with special needs, alternative more appropriate provision of sex and relationship education may be required. In such circumstances help may be sought from outside agencies but always in consultation with the students and their parents.

Curricular Content

No professionally produced materials will be used in Sex and Relationship Education lessons without approval from the Subject Leader with responsibility for PSHE, who in turn will seek approval from the Governors' if appropriate.

Parental Rights

Parents may withdraw their child from any or all parts of the sex and relationships education programme other than from those parts that form part of National Curriculum Science. Parents who wish to exercise this right must contact the Headteacher in writing.

Students who are withdrawn from the sex and relationships education programme will be provided with alternative PSHE tasks and will work under the supervision of the Learning Support Department.

Staff Training

Teachers and tutors involved in the Sex and Relationships Education programme will receive appropriate training when necessary. All staff teaching the programme will be kept up to date with Department of Education and Science and Hampshire County Council regulations and guidelines.

Monitoring the Implementation of the Policy

The Subject Leader for PSHE will be responsible for the day to day implementation of the policy in relation to the preparation and delivery of the Sex and Relationship Education programme within the curriculum.

Representatives from the Teaching and Learning Curriculum Committee of the Governing Body will monitor sex and relationships education issues on a regular basis to enable the appropriate implementation of the policy.

This policy will be reviewed every two years or on the introduction of relevant new legislation. The review will be carried out by the Subject Leader for PSHE in consultation with the Governors of the school and appropriate outside agencies.

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