



Sex Education and Relationships Policy

February 2017

All school policies are reviewed by Governors annually

Rationale

The school fully recognises its responsibility to provide sex and relationship education that prepares students to lead safe, fulfilling and enjoyable lives and is in accordance with DfE guidelines.

Aims

- To provide knowledge and to develop the skills needed to make important choices in relation to sex and relationships.
- to encourage self-esteem
- to encourage personal responsibility and risk awareness in all forms of behaviour, especially in relationships with others
- to help students to understand their sexual feelings and behaviour
- to teach students about the nature of marriage and the importance of stable relationships
- to make students aware of where and how to obtain health information and help in emergencies

Organisation

- The programme of Sex Education is delivered at times appropriate to children's needs and levels of development.
- Students are taught in mixed gender groups, within, mixed ability groups at KS3 and setted groups in KS4.
- Some aspects are repeated as the student moves up the school in order to check and develop knowledge, deepen understanding and consider more complex issues.
- The core content is delivered through the science and PSCHEE (Personal, Social, Citizenship, Health and Economic Well-being Education) programmes of study, but related issues may be discussed in other lessons if they arise from literature being studied or from a student's question. PSCHEE lessons appear on student timetables as 'Social Education' (SE - Years 7 to 9 and 12) and PSE/RE (PSRE - Years 10-11).
- Teachers establish a safe classroom environment in which no personal information is shared and no intrusive questions are asked of students or staff. Students are expected to show respect for the views and opinions of others.

Content

- The National Curriculum topic 'Reproduction' is covered in Year 7 science.
- The Year 8 and 9 PSCHEE programmes looks at dating behaviour and associated responsibilities and risks.

- The Year 8 PSCHEE programme incorporates a visit from an external theatre company, in partnership with the Gloucestershire Children Safeguarding Board focusing on Child Sexual Exploitation and the risks of unhealthy relationships.
- The Year 9 'Medical Biology' science topic revises reproduction and deals with the different methods of contraception.
- The Year 9 PSCHEE programme looks at the different sexually transmitted diseases (STIs) including HIV/AIDs and at the impact on families of high risk sexual behaviour. Sexuality is also covered in Year 9 PSE lessons, with an emphasis on mutual respect and tolerance. Contraception is covered together with the consequences and responsibilities of unplanned pregnancies.
- The Year 10/11 PSCHEE programme checks knowledge on all aspects of sex education and considers myths and worries about sex. It looks at high risk behaviour in adolescence and at changing values over time. Students re-visit issues around relationships including domestic violence and abuse in teen relationships.
- In Year 10 science students learn about the science of *in vitro* fertilization; in Year 11 science they learn about genetic disorders.
- All Year 12 students listen to talks delivered by health professionals on the topics of STIs, chlamydia and personal safety in relation to health.

Advice for Individual Students

Sex Education lessons make students aware of how to access confidential advice and medical treatment. The Gloucestershire Health Authority School Nurse offers a weekly 'drop-in' service on all health-related matters and provides confidential advice on request. Students are provided with contact information for sources of help and advice.

Resources

Resources will be checked and approved by the Head of Science, the Head of PSCHEE and Senior Leadership Team (SLT) line manager of sex education to ensure that:

- students are protected from inappropriate materials
- there is no stereotyping, bias or prejudice

The use of outside visiting speakers and health professionals

- Visitors will only take part in sex education lessons with the agreement of the SLT line manager of sex education.
- Visiting speakers are made fully aware of the School's Sex Education and Relationships
- Policy.
- All visitors are subject to the school's safeguarding policy.

The right of parents to withdraw their child from Sex Education

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from sex education except from those elements that are in the National Curriculum for other subjects. Requests should be made, in writing, to the Headteacher. Parents are not obliged to give their reasons for wishing to withdraw their child, but are encouraged to discuss the matter with a senior member of staff.

Consultation and Publication

- The draft policy was discussed with the school's student council.
- The agreed policy will be published on the school website. Paper copies will be available from the school on request.
- The prospectus informs parents of their right to withdraw their child from sex education lessons.

Links to other policies

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies:

- Anti-Bullying
- Child Protection and Safeguarding
- Confidentiality