

SANDY UPPER SCHOOL



RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION POLICY

Effective Date: November 2015

Last Reviewed: November 2017

Reviewed by: Liz McLure

Next Review Date: November 2018

Introduction

This policy covers the delivery of SRE in Form Time, within Science and PE lessons and through specific focus days and activities. It was produced following consultation with staff, utilising the guidance available from the Local Authority. It will be reviewed annually. The policy will be made available to parents on request.

Rationale

- To provide all students with an understanding concerning all issues relating to sex education in accordance with both the guidelines laid down by the DFCS (2000) and the Fraser guidelines (1985).
- To ensure that through the process of learning, development of the whole individual is enhanced and the acceptance of their responsibilities and an appreciation of the attitudes and values of today's society is encouraged.

Purposes

1. To teach the physical aspects of sexual behaviour within a moral and ethical framework.
2. To promote the importance of stable and lasting relationships as a context in which sexual relationships may follow.
3. To promote family life and the responsibilities of parenthood.
4. To provide factual information concerning the legal aspects of sexual activity
5. To provide all students with the awareness and knowledge to cope with peer pressure so they can take a positive stance.
6. To provide information to all students about sexually transmitted infections, including HIV and AIDS.
7. To place sexual issues in a broader emotional and ethical dimension addressing sensitive issues such as contraception, abortion and homosexuality.
8. To foster attitudes that will help students to manage their relationships in a responsible and healthy manner.
9. To provide a policy, in consultation with stakeholders, that is fully supported and backed by the Principal and Governors.
10. To arrange, where requested, for parents to exercise their right to withdraw their son/daughter from sex and relationship education lessons that are outside the science curriculum.

How this is provided

SRE is delivered largely through Form Time sessions, with some aspects also covered in Science and PE and there is a clear link between SRE and E-Safety. Within Form Time sessions, a working agreement is developed with students which fosters a learning environment where sensitive issues can be discussed in a safe and supportive environment.

SRE in these lessons is delivered by staff who are both competent and confident to do so. Where appropriate, students are taught in single sex and/or single year groups e.g. for a "drop down day" covering contraception. A scheme of work and detailed lesson plans are provided based on materials provided by a range of professional bodies, including the PSHE Association. Students are encouraged to ask questions in a safe learning environment and may do so anonymously if they wish. Staff are aware that, just as with any other curriculum subject, student's level of knowledge and understanding may be very different and the sessions are structured to ensure that individual needs are met. Schemes of work can be requested from the school and parents should contact the school if they have any concerns. An overview of content for each year group is provided at the end of this policy.

How this is monitored, evaluated and reviewed

The member of the Senior Leadership Team responsible for the Form Time programme, monitors this delivery through lesson observations and work samples. The scheme of work is reviewed annually by staff and governors and, as a result, may be amended in the light of the needs of the school community.

How to withdraw your child from Sex and Relationships Education

Parents have a right to withdraw their child from these lessons, other than those in the science curriculum. The time of delivery for these lessons will be stated, in advance, so that any concerns from parents can be discussed and they can review resources beforehand if needed. Parents wishing to withdraw their child should write to the Principal to request this in the first instance.

Related aspects of SRE

Contraceptive Advice and Guidance:

As a school we work in accordance with the Fraser Guidance. This means that if a young person asks for contraceptive advice, they will be referred to their House Team. They will then be given the advice they require. Although the school will recommend that the student speak with parents, or a trusted family member, the decision is ultimately left with the student and the information will remain confidential between the student and staff member(s).

Pregnancy:

If a student discloses a confirmed, or unconfirmed, pregnancy, the staff member will refer the student to their House Team. The student will receive the appropriate advice, support and information and referral where necessary to the relevant health professionals and this will include the recommendation that they inform their parent/carers with the support of the school. However, the decision is ultimately with the student in accordance with the Fraser guidance. If the student is not pregnant, then they will be offered contraceptive advice and information regarding local clinics that can provide further support. If it is confirmed that the student is pregnant, appropriate support for continuing education and completing examinations will be provided. Students may remain in school as long as it is considered safe for both the mother and child's health. The school reserves the right to make this decision on available medical information in full consultation with the student. Where the student's health is likely to be compromised or where the student does not want to remain in school, alternative arrangements for their education are made. The local authority offers excellent provision for this in a special unit. It is our experience that students do eventually inform their parents and that this is usually in the early stages of pregnancy.