

THE SIR BERNARD LOVELL SCHOOL

SEX AND RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION POLICY

Rationale

This policy has been written to provide guidance for students, parents and staff on how the school will interpret relevant aspects of the National Curriculum and the Framework for PSHE published in 1999.

The DCSF define sex and relationship education as :

“.....life long learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of marriage for family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality and sexual health. It is not about the promotion of sexual orientation or sexual activity – this would be inappropriate teaching.”

(DCSF Sex and Relationship Education Guidance. 0116/2000)

Aims

We aim to prepare young people for an adult life in which they can :

- develop positive values and a moral framework that will guide their decisions, judgements and behaviour;
- learn the value of family life, marriage, and stable and loving relationships for the nurture of children;
- 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 within sexual and pastoral relationships;
- have the confidence and self-esteem to value themselves 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/unwanted conceptions, and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV;
- avoid being exploited or exploiting others;
- avoid being pressured into unwanted or unprotected sex;
- access confidential sexual health advice, support and if necessary treatment; and
- know how the law applies to sexual relationships.

Delivery

Sex and relationship education is delivered through the PSHE and Citizenship Framework and through National Curriculum science. The delivery is inclusive of all students.

PSHE is delivered as an integral part of The Personal Development Curriculum where appropriate. Specialist teams eg the school nurse team are involved to deal with sensitive issues in the delivery of sex and relationship education. It is essential that we help students to develop confidence in talking, listening and thinking about sex and relationships. The following teaching strategies are encouraged to help staff and students feel comfortable and able students to learn effectively so that they have accurate information and can then make informed decisions.

- establishing ground rules with pupils;
- using techniques that distance discussion from individuals;
- knowing how to deal with unexpected questions or comments from pupils;
- using discussion and project learning methods and appropriate materials, and
- encouraging reflection.

Working with Parents

The Sir Bernard Lovell School will seek to work in partnership with parents. This is essential to effective sex and relationship education. We will endeavour to help parents who find it difficult to talk to their children about sex and relationships, and support them in their role as sex educators. We will aim to inform parents of the content of sex education being undertaken by students. This will enable parents to exercise the right to withdraw their children from all or part of sex and relationship education if they so wish after discussing the matter with the Headteacher.

Confidentiality

When counseling individual students, staff should follow the Confidentiality Guidelines in the Appendix to this policy.

Monitoring and review

We will monitor and review the Sex and Relationship Education Programme as part of the ongoing process of curriculum review. The views of parents, specialist staff and teachers will be considered. (Member of staff responsible: Sue Squires).

Related policies: Child Protection
 Anti-Bullying
 Drugs Education

Adopted: Date:
Head

Adopted: Date:
Chair of Governors

Reviewed: Date:
Head

Reviewed: Date:
Chair of Governors

This policy will be reviewed bi-annually.

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CONFIDENTIALITY GUIDELINES

1. Students should be encouraged to talk to their parents about their relationships. If appropriate, they will be offered help in doing so.
2. Staff should encourage students who are having or contemplating having sex to seek guidance from a health professional.
3. Staff should always seek consent from a student for any disclosure unless there are child protection concerns.
4. In all cases where the young person is under the age of 13 there must be a formal recorded consultation with the Children & Young People (Social Care) Department who must make an enquiry to the Child Protection Register in all cases.
5. Young people under the age of 18 are still offered the protection of Child Protection Procedures under the Children Act 1989. Young people under the age of 18 are not deemed able to give consent if the sexual activity is with an adult in a position of trust/authority or a family member. Such cases will be dealt with under Child Protection procedures.
6. The Head or designated teacher is not obliged to inform parents of a pregnancy but will encourage the student to do so and will normally inform parents where a pregnancy of any student aged 11-18 has been confirmed.
7. With a student's consent the Lead for Under 16 pregnancies should be informed of all under 16 pregnancies.
8. The Head should continue to respect the student's right to confidentiality, ensuring a pregnancy is dealt with sensitively by teachers and students in school.
9. The confidentiality and needs of the father of the unborn child must be taken into account if the pregnant student has revealed his identity.
10. Staff should follow the South Glos "I think I might be pregnant" procedure when relevant. Staff who are "signposters" for the South Glos Teenage Pregnancy Partnership "No Worries" scheme, should observe the Fraser Guidelines set out below.

The Fraser Guidelines require the professional to be satisfied that

- The young person will understand the professional's advice;
- The young person cannot be persuaded to inform their parents;
- The young person is likely to begin, or to continue having, sexual intercourse with or without contraceptive treatment;
- Unless the young person receives contraceptive treatment, their physical or mental health, or both, are likely to suffer;
- The young person's best interests require them to receive contraceptive advice or treatment with or without parental consent.