
Sex Education Policy

Sex Education is, at The Grey Coat Hospital, part of a balanced, cross-curricular Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education programme supported by the Christian foundation and ethos of The Hospital.

We intend this programme to complement parental responsibilities, and we see it as an integral part of each individual student's emergence into adulthood.

Aims and Objectives

We affirm in our teaching traditional Christian values and seek to promote a Christian understanding of marriage and family life. At the same time we recognise the diverse religious and social conditions to be found in a twenty first century pluralist society. We believe that sex education should be set within a broader base of self-esteem and responsibility for the consequences of one's actions.

This policy is a working document which provides guidance and information on all aspects of SRE in the school for staff, parents/carers and governors.

Our aims are:

- To offer students information, as fully and broadly as possible with the benefit of an enlightened Christian background.
- To allow students to grow into independence of choice and judgement.
- To enable students to understand the relationships they are forming in terms of personal growth and commitment.
- To develop a thoughtful concern for others and a sympathetic awareness of ethical choice.
- To build upon a knowledge of Christian values as they affect our understanding of marriage, family life and personal relationships
- To encourage a respect for diversity of culture and religious conviction.
- To encourage an understanding of the responsibility they have for their own actions.
- To encourage an understanding of the responsibility of their family, friends, school and wider community.

We will promote respect for self and others, countering ignorance and prejudice and the pressures of exploitation by:

- encouraging the development of self esteem and the valuing of each other.
- creating a positive and secure environment for open discussion and constructive critical thinking.
- offering opportunities to share and explore feelings, attitudes and values.
- developing and practising interpersonal skills.
- providing relevant information.

Our SRE programme over key stages 3 and 4 will teach our students to:

- Understand physical development during puberty.
- Understand human sexuality, reproduction, sexual health, emotions and relationships.
- Understand about contraception and the range of local and national sexual health advice and support services.
- Identify and understand reasons for delaying sexual activity, and the benefits to be gained from such delay.
- Understand the avoidance of unplanned pregnancy.
- Understand the moral, religious and legal issues surrounding sexual activity.

Sex Education will be provided in a coherent programme over Key Stages 3 and 4:

- The Assistant Head with responsibility for PSHCE will review the policy regularly, and will oversee the SRE programme.
- Heads of Year will work with the Assistant Head to develop the SRE programme for their year group.
- Form tutors will deliver SRE in PSHCE lessons, together with input from the School Nurse and other healthcare professionals as appropriate.
- Heads of Year and the Assistant Head will work with other departments, such as Science and RE to ensure that students have SRE in different contexts that enable them to understand both the technicalities and the moral issues surrounding the subject.
- Heads of Year will inform parents by letter about SRE provision for their year group before the SRE provision for their students begins.

Equal Opportunities statement

The school is committed to the provision of SRE to all its pupils. Our programme aims to respond to the diversity of children's cultures, faiths and family backgrounds. Equal time and provision is allocated for all groups but there may be occasions where pupils with Special Educational Needs are given extra support from SEN staff.

Confidentiality

If a member of staff believes that a child is at risk or in danger as a result of a conversation with that child, she/he talks to the named child protection coordinator who may confer with the headteacher before any decision is made. The child concerned will be informed that confidentiality is being breached and reasons why. The child will be supported throughout the process. However, if there is no risk or danger involved, a child's confidentiality is maintained by the teacher or member of staff concerned.

Sex Education will be monitored and evaluated regularly throughout the year:

- The Assistant Head responsible will evaluate the programme for each stage with Heads of Year in the summer term
- Students will complete feedback evaluation sheets which will feed in to the review process

The SRE policy and programme of study will be reviewed regularly in the light of DCSF guidance.

We will provide a programme of study which is both accurate and appropriate for each year group. In line with DCSF guidance, parents have the right to withdraw students from SRE, except for what is on the National Curriculum. As our whole programme will follow National Curriculum guidelines, it is expected that all students will participate in SRE lessons.