

SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION POLICY

Committee	Governors' Student and Community Committee
Approved by Governors	November 2011
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POLICY STATEMENT

SRE (Sex and Relationships Education) is a lifelong learning process of acquiring information, developing skills and forming positive beliefs and attitudes about sex, sexuality, relationships and feelings (Sex Education Forum 1999).

Effective SRE can make a significant contribution to the development of the personal skills needed by pupils if they are to establish and maintain relationships. It also enables young people to make responsible and informed decisions about their health and well-being.

The 1996 Education Act consolidates all relevant previous legislation and states that all secondary schools are required to provide an SRE programme that includes (as a minimum) information about sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS. The sex education elements contained in the National Curriculum Science Orders are also mandatory. All schools must provide an up to date policy that describes the content and organisation of SRE provided outside the National Curriculum Science Order. The DfEE Sex and Relationship Education Guidance (2000) supports this legislation and suggests that schools should set sex education within a broader base of self-esteem and responsibility for the consequences of one's actions.

Other policies that link with the SRE policy are safeguarding, SEN, behaviour, drugs and anti-bullying.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

This policy is a working document which provides guidance and information on all aspects of SRE in the College for staff, parents/carers and governors. To be accessible to all of these groups the document needs to be available on request and presented in a way that is easy to understand.

MORALS AND VALUES FRAMEWORK

The SRE programme at Westbourne Sports College reflects the college ethos and demonstrates and encourages the following values:

- Respect for self;
- Respect for others;
- Responsibility for their own actions;
- Responsibility for their family, friends, schools and wider community.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES STATEMENT

The College is committed to the provision of SRE. 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.

CONTENT

Pupils learn how good relationships can promote mental well-being, how to manage their feelings positively and how to manage changing relationships. They learn the law relating to sexual behaviour, how to develop skills of assertiveness

in order to resist peer pressure and stereotyping, sources of advice and support and when and where to get help. They learn how sexually transmitted infections affect the body, how different forms of contraception work, the risks of early sexual activity and the link with the use of alcohol. Arguments around moral issues such as abortion, contraception and the age of consent are also considered.

The range of materials used is available to parents/carers and a more detailed scheme of work is available on request.

ORGANISATION

SRE/Safeguarding is delivered as part of the PSHE programme to the mixed ability/ gender form groups. Learning methods which involve children's full participation are used.

Appropriate and suitably experienced/knowledgeable visitors from outside the College are often invited in to contribute to the delivery of SRE. The following code of practice is always followed:

- Visitors are invited in because of their particular expertise or contribution they can make;
- All visitors are familiar with and understand the college's SRE and Safeguarding policy and work within it;
- All input is part of a planned programme and negotiated and agreed with staff in advance;
- All visitors are supervised/supported by a member of staff at all times;
- The input of visitors is monitored and evaluated by staff and pupils. This evaluation informs future planning.

Evaluation of the SRE programme outside the science curriculum is conducted using a variety of activities which have been built into the programme. Teachers are required to evaluate each lesson and students evaluate at the end of the block of work.

Westbourne Sports College believes in the importance of skills training for staff delivering SRE. Staff are encouraged to gain skills that will support them deliver effective SRE.

SPECIFIC ISSUES WITHIN SRE

WITHDRAWAL

Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the sex and relationships education provided at college except for those parts included in statutory National Curriculum. Those parents/carers wishing to exercise this right are invited in to see the Headteacher, who will explore any concerns and discuss the impact that withdrawal may have on the child. Once a child has been withdrawn they cannot take part in the SRE programme until the request for withdrawal has been removed.

CONFIDENTIALITY

As a general rule a child's confidentiality is maintained by the teacher or member of staff concerned. If this person believes that the child is at risk or in danger, he/she will talk to the designated teacher for safeguarding, 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 this process.

SAFEGUARDING

The college has a separate Safeguarding Policy. Effective SRE may bring about disclosures related to safeguarding, staff should be aware of the procedures for reporting their concerns.

DISCLOSURES

If a member of staff learns that an under 16 year old is sexually active or contemplating sexual activity the college will ensure that:

- The young person is encouraged to talk to their parents/carers;
- Safeguarding issues are addressed in line with the College's Safeguarding Policy.
- The young person receives adequate counselling and information;

CONTROVERSIAL AND SENSITIVE ISSUES

Staff are aware that views around SRE related issues are varied. However, while personal views are respected, all SRE issues are taught without bias. Topics are presented using a variety of views and beliefs so that pupils are able to form their own, informed opinions but also respect others that may have different opinions.

DEALING WITH QUESTIONS

Both formal and informal SRE arising from pupils' questions are answered according to the age and maturity of the pupil concerned. Questions do not have to be answered directly, and can be addressed individually later. The college believes that individual teachers must use their skill and discretion in this area and refer to the designated teacher for safeguarding if they are concerned.

SEXUAL IDENTITY AND SEXUAL ORIENTATION

Westbourne Sports College believes that SRE should meet the needs of all pupils regardless of their developing sexuality and be able to deal honestly and sensitively with sexual orientation, answer appropriate questions and offer support. Homophobic bullying is dealt with strongly yet sensitively within the College's Anti-Bullying Policy.