

**Parkstone Grammar School**



**SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS  
EDUCATION  
POLICY**



# SEX EDUCATION POLICY

## DEFINITION OF SEX AND RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION

We have based our school's Sex Education policy on the DfE guidance document 'Sex and Relationship Education Guidance' (ref DCSF 0116/2000). In this document, Sex Education is defined as "... lifelong 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 involves acquiring information, developing skills and forming positive beliefs, values and attitudes. It is not the promotion of sexual orientation or sexual activity." We use Sex Education to inform young people about sexual issues; we do this with regards to matters of morality and individual responsibility, and in a way that allows young people to ask and explore moral questions.

## AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Our policy fits within the framework of the whole school aims:

- To help students to develop personal moral values, respect for religious values and tolerance of other races, nationalities, religions and ways of life
- To help students to understand the world in which they live and the interdependence of individuals, groups and nations
- To provide a caring, sensitive and happy environment within which each individual feels confident and valued
- To establish and develop links between the school and the wider community: governors, parents, friends, employers and other educational establishments

The policy follows the guidance as set out by DfE and it aims specifically to ensure all students receive an effective Sex and Relationships Education by:

- Teaching about relationships, love and care and the responsibilities of parenthood as well as sex
- Focussing on the feelings that boys may have as much as girls
- Developing self-esteem and body confidence
- Teaching the importance of acting responsibly and the consequences of one's actions in relation to sexual activity and parenthood
- Providing young people with information about different types of contraception, safe sex and how they can access local sources of further advice and treatment
- Discussing issues such as healthy and unhealthy relationships, equality, respect, abuse, sexuality and gender identity
- Giving young people a clear understanding of the arguments for delaying sexual activity and resisting pressure
- Linking sex and relationship education with issues of peer pressure and other risk-taking behaviour, such as drugs, smoking and alcohol, on line safety
- Ensuring young people understand how the law applies to sexual relationships such as consent and confidentiality



The objective of Sex and Relationship Education is to help and support young people through their physical, emotional and moral development.

## **MORALS AND VALUES FRAMEWORK**

At secondary school level, Sex and Relationship Education should 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
- 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 others and respect for individual conscience 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 and Aids
- Avoid being exploited or exploiting others
- Avoid being pressured into unwanted or unprotected sex
- Access confidential sexual health advice, support and if necessary treatment
- Know how the law applies to sexual relationships

## **CONTENT HEADINGS FOR SCHOOL SEX EDUCATION PROGRAMME**

Please refer to schemes of work for KS3 and KS4, RMP Science and PSHE.

## **EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES**

All opportunities are available to all students.

## **ORGANISATION AND DELIVERY OF SCHOOL SEX EDUCATION**

The delivery of Sex and Relationship Education is through a variety of curriculum areas including PSHE, Science, tutor time and Religion and Philosophy and detailed information about content can be found in the relevant schemes of work for these areas.

The PSHE Co-ordinator is responsible for planning the programme in conjunction with other subject staff.

The biological areas of Sex Education are taught by specialist staff while tutors deliver the PSHE programme along with a team of Health Professionals. The PSHE Co-ordinators provides resources and are available to support and assist form tutors.

A wide range of teaching methods are employed. Knowledge and information is imparted through presentations. However, more participatory methods are used to examine more sensitive issues. Health care specialists are also invited to provide access to detailed knowledge on specialised areas such as contraception and sexually transmitted infections. Some questions from students may need to be redirected to an alternative, appropriate source. Peer education is also encouraged as part of the programme, especially at KS3.



The effectiveness of the programme will be reviewed through student and staff evaluation. From analysis of the results of the evaluations the programme can be adjusted to meet changing needs.

A wide variety of current resources are used such as:

- DVDs
- work sheets
- models

## **SPECIFIC ISSUES**

The Health Authority's Sexual Health Team provide information about puberty to Year 8, contraceptive information to students in Year 9, information on sexually transmitted infections in Year 10 and on women's health issues in Year 11, Cervical Smear information and Relationships Education is provided to Year 12 during PSHE lessons. In Year 13 abusive relationships and sexual violence is discussed using a charity called 'Keeping Safe'.

Issues around abusive relationships are raised in Year 11 with the SAFE DATE organisation and RAPE CRISIS in Year 12.

Risky online behaviours are dealt with and revisited in each year of the PSHE programme through Think You Know in Year 7, Sexting in Year 8, Cyberbullying in Year 9 and internet and the law in Year 10.

Every talk is preceded by a statement of law. Students are encouraged to discuss all issues with their parents or guardians, who are informed about the talks before they take place.

Confidentiality will be respected within the context of current professional practice.

We follow the LA Guidelines with respect to Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures.

Currently, any student may be withdrawn from any area of Sex Education not within the National Curriculum upon the receipt of a letter from parents, in accordance with the Education Act 1993.

Due consideration should be given to the possibility of supporting members of the school community infected or affected by HIV. An information chain would be provided for deliverers where appropriate.

## **MONITORING AND EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT**

The subject leader for PSHE monitor the delivery of the programme by:

- Lesson observations/team teaching/Learning Walks
- Discussions with students
- Scrutiny of work/displays
- Student feedback via the VLE

## **WORKING WITH PARENTS**

Whilst acknowledging our responsibility to include Sex and Relationship Education within the curriculum, we must recognise the fact that parents should be the 'key figures' in educating their children about sexual matters (DES Circular 11-87). Our teaching, therefore, is seen as complementary and supportive to the role of parents. Parents may contact the school for further information at any time.



## **DISSEMINATION OF THE POLICY**

The policy is included in the Staff Handbook and is on the J-drive and so is available for all staff.

Information about the policy is included in the school prospectus and the policy is available to all parents from the school website.

Member of staff responsible for Policy:

- Mr Bob Hardwick

## **LINKS TO OTHER POLICIES:**

Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and procedures

Special Educational Needs Policy

Safer Working Practices Policy

Anti-Bullying Policy