

# Sex and Relationships Policy

July 2014



<b>Springwest Academy</b>	
Person(s) Responsible:	Principal
Status:	Non-Statutory
Date Approved:	July 2014
Date of Review:	As and when required

## Introduction

We recognise that Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) is lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about the importance of stable and loving relationships including marriage for family life, as well as other relationships such as civil partnerships. SRE is about respect, love and care. SRE provides pupils with factual knowledge and an understanding of the influences on young people, encouraging them to be aware of the options open to them and to take charge of decisions about their own behaviour. It encourages the development of personal and interpersonal skills, the awareness and respect of self and others and encourages reflection and responsibility. It is a driver for ensuring that pupils behave safely in their attitudes and actions regarding sex and relationships.

## The Programme

Our programme provides knowledge about the processes of reproduction and human growth as part of the National Curriculum in science. All pupils must follow this programme.

The PSHE programme which is delivered through both Culture and Society lessons and flexible learning days at KS3, and in Religious Education at KS4; deals with the nature of sexuality and relationships. It encourages the acquisition of skills and attitudes that allow pupils to manage their relationships in a responsible and healthy manner and provides them with parenting skills for later in life. The programme is carefully structured and shows continuity between the years. The programme is delivered within a moral framework. This framework is our school ethos and values which explicitly states that our pupils are active and responsible citizens. The curriculum also takes into account pressures that exist within the local community on our pupils. To this end SRE is linked to wider teaching on issues related to peer pressure and risk-taking behaviour such as drug and alcohol consumption. As well as knowledge and information, pupils are encouraged to consider the importance of the following values, which are derived from the school's own ethos and values.

We aim to develop attitudes and values through:

- Promoting **equality** through a value, love and care of themselves and others including respect for individual and cultural differences. Pupils are taught to develop understanding and sensitivity towards the needs and views of others and to model appropriate behaviours.
- discussing moral issues including concepts associated with right and wrong; encouraging responsibility for their own actions and promoting positive self-images.

- showing **courage and determination** to behave appropriately towards others and exploring responsibility to the school, their family and the wider community, even when this is challenging
- instilling a sense of **excellence** and pride so that pupils' self-esteem is good and empowers them to act in a safe and purposeful manner

We aim to develop personal and social skills through:

- encouraging **friendship** by learning how to share and cooperate with others
- experiencing being part of a community within the class, the school and the wider community, enjoying the benefits, and learning to accept the responsibilities this brings.
- enabling pupils to express preferences, communicate needs, make decisions, choose options that other people act upon and respect
- teaching about the importance of being stimulated through **inspiration** so that the right choices can be made
- supporting pupils in learning to understand appropriate and inappropriate behaviours and manage their own behaviour and emotions.
- enabling pupils to make choices and deal with the consequences that these may bring
- enabling pupils to make choices based on an understanding/acceptance of differences and absence of prejudice.
- developing self-respect and empathy for others
- developing skills to manage potential conflict and upset
- learning how to assert oneself appropriately and so avoid abusive exploitation.

We aim to develop knowledge and understanding through:

- developing body awareness and physical control
- developing an understanding of their ability to influence the environment
- developing a knowledge of gender, growth and development
- learning when privacy is appropriate and how to protect one's own privacy
- promoting a positive attitude to body changes around puberty and developing the skills needed to cope with them
- developing an understanding of physical feelings, including physiological responses to touch
- developing an understanding of own and others sexuality, sex health, emotions and relationships
- learning about healthy lifestyles

As part of our sex education programme issues of contraception, HIV/AIDS, sexuality, unwanted pregnancies and abortion will be addressed. Facts are presented in an objective and balanced way, with pupils being encouraged to consider their attitudes and values. They will be made aware of the differences between fact, opinion, and cultural and religious beliefs.

### **Methods of Teaching and Learning**

Our methods of teaching are wide ranging. They are responsive to pupils' needs and include film clips, presentations and small group discussion, visiting speakers, the use of worksheets and textbooks. Often pupils are encouraged to present information in innovative ways e.g. Guide to safe sex or chat show style drama on teenage pregnancies.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

The member of SLT with responsibility for the Humanities Faculty (within which the Culture and Society and RE departments sit) to ensure that staff have had sufficient training to undertake this programme. Pupil and parent surveys may be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the programme from the pupils and parents' points of view. In addition the regular cycle of Teaching and Learning Reviews checks that the curriculum is meeting need and legislation.

### **Pupil Withdrawal**

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from this part of the Culture and Society programme and alternative arrangements will be made for their child's supervision. The request to withdraw must be made in writing to the Principal.