

STOWUPLAND HIGH SCHOOL



Policy on Sex and Relationships

History:

Adoption/ Review	Committee	Lead Personnel	Review Date
Summer 09	Full Governors	F. Schmidt	Summer 11
Summer 11	Full Governors	F. Schmidt	Summer 13
Summer 2014	Full Governors		Summer 2015
Autumn 2015	Full Governors		Autumn 2017

Stowupland High School

Policy on Sex and Relationships Education

CONTENTS

1. Introduction
2. The context of Sex and Relationship Education.
3. Main Elements
4. Provision of Sex and Relationship education
5. Ground Rules
6. Additional advice
7. Delivery of Sex and Relationship education
8. Advice and confidentiality
9. Monitoring
10. Right to withdraw from Sex and Relationship education
11. Curricular content
12. Services provided by the school
13. Staff Training
14. Policy Review
15. Linked documents

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 All maintained secondary schools are required to provide sex education (including information about HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases) to all students as set out in section 352 of the **Education Act 1996** and the **Learning and Skills Act 2000**.
- 1.2 The school recognises that sex and relationship education is the right and responsibility of the parent. However, the school provides sex and relationship education to support parents in fulfilling their responsibility.

2. THE CONTEXT OF SEX AND RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION

- 2.1 Sex and relationship education is 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 is not about the promotion of sexual orientation or sexual activity – this would be inappropriate teaching.
- 2.2 Sex education forms part of a wider programme of health education, which is taught within the Personal, Social and Health Education programme. Aspects of sexual development and behaviour are taught in the context of a moral framework and with regard to the values of family life, marriage and stable and loving relationships. The need for self-restraint, dignity and respect for others is emphasised to both sexes and students are taught the emotional, moral and physical risks of promiscuous behaviour.
- 2.3 Occasionally during a lesson which is not part of the Personal Social and Health Education programme, issues relating to sexual conduct may arise from the subject matter being taught. Discussion arising on such an occasion will reflect the values endorsed in the school's policy statement but would not constitute 'sex education' as defined in law.

3. MAIN ELEMENTS

Sex and relationship education at Stowupland High school has three main elements:

3.1 Attitudes and values

1. learning the importance of values and individual conscience and moral considerations
2. learning the value of family life, marriage, and stable and loving relationships for the nurture of children
3. learning the value of respect, love and care
4. exploring, considering and understanding moral dilemmas; and developing critical thinking as part of decision-making

3.2 Personal and social skills

1. learning to manage emotions and relationships confidently and sensitively
2. developing self-respect and empathy for others
3. learning to make choices based on an understanding of difference and with an absence of prejudice
4. developing an appreciation of the consequences of choices made

5. managing conflict
6. learning how to recognise and avoid exploitation and abuse

3.3 **Knowledge and understanding**

1. learning and understanding physical development at appropriate stages
2. understanding human sexuality, reproduction, sexual health including HIV/Aids (and other sexually transmitted diseases), emotions and relationships
3. learning about contraception and the range of local and national sexual health advice, contraception and support services
4. learning the reasons for delaying sexual activity, and the benefits to be gained from such delay
5. the avoidance of unplanned pregnancy

4. **PROVISION OF SEX AND RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION.**

- 4.1 Sex and relationship education will be taught as a part of the Personal, Social and Health Education programme. Students will be taught in mixed ability form groups although there may be occasions when single sex groups are preferable.
- 4.2 A variety of mediums will be employed in the teaching of sex and relationship education. These will include: drama and role play, group and class discussions, a variety of media based resources including relevant and suitable documentaries as well as interactive and practical activities.

5. **GROUND RULES**

- 5.1 A set of ground rules will help teachers create a safe environment in which they and their students do not feel embarrassed or anxious about unintended or unexpected questions or comments from students.
 1. no one (teacher or student) will have to answer a personal question
 2. no one will be forced to take part in a discussion
 3. any lesson material will use only the correct names for body parts
 4. meanings of words will be explained in a sensible and factual way

6 **ADDITIONAL ADVICE**

1. Where a question from a student is too personal, the teacher should remind the student of the ground rules. If the student needs further support, the teacher can refer her or him to the appropriate person, such as a Progress Leader, school nurse, helpline, or an outside agency or service
2. If a teacher doesn't know the answer to a question, it is important to acknowledge this, and to suggest that the student or teacher or both together research the question later
3. If a question is too explicit, feels too old for a student, is inappropriate for the whole class, or raises concerns about sexual abuse, the teacher should acknowledge it and promise to attend to it later on an individual basis. In this way, the student will feel they have been treated with respect, but the rest of the class will not have to listen to personal experience or inappropriate information.
4. To maintain trust and respect the teacher must remember to talk with the student later.

If a teacher is concerned that a student is at risk of sexual abuse, they should follow the school's child protection procedures.

7. DELIVERY OF SEX AND RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION

The PSHE programme of sex and relationship education will normally be delivered by permanent members of the teaching staff. Student teachers and supply staff will not be involved in delivering the sex education programme unless accompanied by a permanent member of staff. Where outside speakers are used, they will normally be accompanied by the teacher(s) with whose classes they are going to work. Outside speakers may be Health Professionals or representatives of the Family Planning Association or product advisers from commercial interests. Occasionally, interactive theatre groups may be used. The decision to use such agencies or groups will take into account students' age and levels of maturity. Copies of the Sex Education Policy should be made available whenever outside agencies are used. There should be a clear understanding between the school and the agency, about the content to be covered.

In exceptional circumstances a member of staff may withdraw from teaching sex education. This will be agreed by the Headteacher.

8 ADVICE AND CONFIDENTIALITY

Staff may not offer students one-to-one advice on contraception or sexual behaviour. Neither may staff promise confidentiality to students since there are some issues e.g., child protection or unplanned pregnancy, which may have to be referred to other people.

In cases of special needs, students may require alternative and more appropriate provision. In such circumstances help from the Learning Support Team or outside agencies may be sought.

9. MONITORING

The Curriculum Leader for PSHE will be responsible for the day-to-day implementation of the policy in relation to the preparation and delivery of sex education within the curriculum. Representatives from the curriculum committee of the Governing Body will monitor sex education issues on a regular basis to enable the appropriate implementation of the Policy.

10. THE RIGHT TO WITHDRAW FROM SEX AND RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION.

Section 241 of the Education Act 1993 gives parents the right to withdraw their child from any or all parts of the sex education programme other than those parts which form part of the Science Curriculum. Parents who wish to exercise this right should contact the Headteacher.

Students who are withdrawn from the sex education programme shall be provided with alternative work by their PSHE teachers: such work will be relevant to the programme's overall aims.

11. CURRICULAR CONTENT

A great many of the resources used in the teaching of Sex and relationship education are media related. With this in mind it is not practical to keep a copy of teaching resources

available in the school office to view on request. However, parents may wish to make an appointment with the PSHE co-coordinator to discuss the programme and to gain an overview of those resources to be used.

12. SERVICES TO YOUNG PEOPLE PROVIDED BY THE SCHOOL

The school provides services for its young people. These services are provided by health and other professionals attached to the school. It is clear from government guidelines that when not in a classroom context these professionals are covered by their own professional codes of conduct:

Health professionals

Outside the teaching situation, health professionals such as school nurses can:

- Give one to one advice or information to a student on a health related matter including contraception; and
- Exercise their own professional judgment as to whether a young person has the maturity to consent to medical treatment including contraceptive treatment.
- (The criteria for making such a decision are based on the 'Fraser guidelines' and can be found in the guidance issued jointly by the Health Education Authority, the British Medical Association, Brook Advisory Centres and others. Any young person, regardless of age, can independently seek medical advice and give valid consent to treatment.)

13. STAFF TRAINING

We shall seek to provide training opportunities for those teachers who are involved in the sex education programme in order to provide them with the requisite skills and knowledge. We shall also ensure that colleagues who are engaged in the programme are kept up-to-date with DfE and Suffolk education authority regulations and guidelines.

14. POLICY REVIEW

The schools governing body forms the Sex and Relationship Education Policy and it will review this policy annually.

15. LINKED DOCUMENTS.

- Education Act 1996
- Learning and Skills Act 2000
- Section 241 of the Education Act 1993
- Guidance issued jointly by the Health Education Authority, the British Medical Association, Brook Advisory Centres and others

Linked Policies:

PD02 Attendance
 PD05 Learning and Teaching
 PD04 Behaviour for learning
 PD10 Single Equality Scheme

PD14 Anti-bullying
 PD21 Use of Force & Restraint
 PD25 Safe Recruitment