



NORTH NORFOLK ACADEMY TRUST

Sex & Relationships Policy

Review frequency: Every three years
Last reviewed: 2015



Sex Education and Relationships policy

THE CONTEXT

Sheringham High School (SHS) is a co-educational comprehensive school for students aged 11-18 whose aims:

- ensure that all students are accorded equal regard and equality of opportunity;
- help all students to acquire respect for religious and moral values and an unprejudiced view of other ethnic groups, religions and ways of life;
- encourage the personal, social and moral development of every student including the nurturing of self-discipline, self respect a respect for others and the human and natural environment;
- create a caring community, exercising concern and respect for the safety and welfare of others;
- promote student and staff well being;
- enable all students to fulfil their educational potential and to pursue excellence in preparation for work and leisure;
- position the school at the heart of the community.

Our policy on Behaviour, Discipline and Inclusion highlights our intention to preserve an environment within the school where students may work purposefully and feel secure, happy and confident, and where relationships between staff and students, and between students themselves, are based on mutual respect and tolerance.

Governors intend that the Sex and Relationships Education (SRE Policy) contributes to these aims and aspirations.

The starting point for SRE at SHS is the liaison with feeder schools managed by a Senior Teacher. We view SRE as part of progression in students' own understanding and personal development.

AIMS

In line with Norfolk Local Authority, the school takes the view that honest, sensitive and morally responsible SRE is relevant and necessary for young people. SRE ought to be an educational entitlement of all students and an integral part of each student's emergence into adulthood.

In considering the content and methodology of our sex education programme we aim to:

- encourage personal responsibility in all forms of behaviour;
- encourage self-esteem;
- encourage respect and consideration for others;
- provide support and information for young people and their parents or carers.

The school teaches SRE within a whole school context that insists on the importance of personal self-respect and mutual respect for others. We aim to develop students' values, attitudes and personal skills to enable them to make sensible decisions. Homophobic attitudes will be challenged along with derogatory comments and unacceptable language.

The aim of SRE is to provide balanced factual information about human reproduction, together with consideration of the broader emotional, ethical, religious, and moral dimensions of sexual health. Our SRE programme aims to prepare students for an adult life in which they can:

- develop positive values and a moral framework that will guide their decisions, judgements and behaviour; have the confidence and self esteem to value themselves and others and respect for individual conscience and the skills to judge what kind of relationship they want;
- understand the consequences of their actions and behave responsibly within sexual and pastoral relationships;
- avoid being exploited or exploiting others or being pressured into unwanted or unprotected sex;
- communicate effectively by developing appropriate terminology for sex and relationship issues;
- develop awareness of their sexuality and understand human sexuality; challenge sexism and prejudice, and promote equality and diversity;
- understand the arguments for delaying sexual activity;
- understand the reasons for having protected sex;
- have sufficient information and skills to protect themselves and, where they have one, their partner from uninvited/unwanted conceptions and sexually transmitted infections including HIV;
- be aware of sources of help and acquire the skills and confidence to access confidential health advice, support and treatment if necessary;
- know how the law applies to sexual relationships.

CONTENT

The school's SRE programme is designed to provide knowledge and information and to encourage the acquisition of skills and attitudes, which will allow students to manage their lives in a responsible and healthy way.

Knowledge and information

In Years 7 to 11 these topics will be covered in the Philosophy & Ethics course. (Personal Safety, contraception, HIV/Aids will be delivered through a bespoke programme).

Puberty; personal safety; friendship and love; family life and relationships; conception and birth; contraception; HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases; helping agencies; sex and the law; life stages; birth processes; abortion; genetic inheritance; parenthood; sexuality and sexual lifestyles.

Students are provided with materials in the form of appropriate government leaflets that they are given to take home and read. They are encouraged to discuss related issues with their parents or carers.

Values and beliefs

As well as acquiring knowledge and information, students will be encouraged to consider the importance of these particular values, which are derived from the school's Aims as set out in its Annual Prospectus:

- Respecting and valuing themselves and others;
- Understanding and sensitivity towards the needs and views of others;
- Responsibility for their own actions;
- Responsibility to the school, their family and the wider community.

Skills and Abilities

Students will be helped to develop the following social and personal skills:

- The making and keeping of positive relationships;
- The ability to say 'no' and the ability to accept rebuttal;
- The ability to examine an issue and make a balanced judgement;
- Recognising and using opportunities to develop a healthy lifestyle.

ORGANISATION

Co-ordination

SRE is taught as part of the Philosophy & Ethics course and on bespoke SRE days. SRE is therefore taught in a context that holistically extends to the development of a student's values, attitudes and personal skills. The learning outcomes for each year group are clearly identified in the scheme of work. It is co-ordinated by a specialist team of teachers who are responsible for the overall planning, implementation and review of the programme.

Delivery

Delivery is through specially planned SRE lessons within the planned schemes of work. The programme is further enriched by those aspects of Sex Education taught in the Science Curriculum.

Deployment of staff

Training will be available for those teachers involved in delivery of SRE.

Teaching Approaches

A variety of approaches will be used to give students relevant information; to enable moral issues to be explored through discussion, and to help students to acquire appropriate skills and attitudes. Use is made of examples from teenage magazines and the wider media, as important sources of information that are considered to have a significant impact on shaping attitudes.

Student Groupings

Students will be taught within their normal Philosophy & Ethics group or form groups. The schemes of work and lessons are designed to be relevant to the needs of both boys and girls. The importance of parenting skills for both genders is also considered.

Resources

The team of teachers will draw upon materials from a wide range of agencies: all materials will be approved before use by the Head of Philosophy & Ethics. Materials used in Philosophy & Ethics and in Science lessons will be in accord with the programmes of study and schemes of work in those subjects.

Assessment

Teacher assessment is provided using a variety of classroom indicators. Peer assessment and self-assessment is used to assess the student's own performance and students are asked to individually evaluate the usefulness of their lessons. This is a valuable source of feedback for the teaching team and is used to help revise schemes of work and lesson plans.

Inclusion

Ethnic and Cultural Groups: We intend our policy to be sensitive to the needs of different ethnic groups. For some young people it is not culturally appropriate for them to be taught particular items in mixed groups. We will respond to parental requests and concerns.

Students with Special Needs: We will ensure that all young people receive sex and relationship education, and we will offer provision appropriate to the particular needs of all our students, taking specialist advice where necessary.

Sexual Identity and Sexual Orientation: We aim to deal sensitively and honestly with issues of sexual orientation, answer appropriate question and offer support. Young people, whatever their developing sexuality need to feel that sex and relationship education is relevant to them.

SPECIFIC ISSUES CONCERNING SRE

Confidentiality

If certain disclosures are made, students will be made aware that some information cannot be held confidentially and they will be made to understand that certain actions will necessarily follow. (Our Child Protection Policy elaborates on this). At the same time, students will be offered sensitive and appropriate support.

Disclosure or suspicion of possible child abuse

The school's Child Protection Policy and procedure will be invoked.

Disclosure of pregnancy

If a member of staff is told of a pregnancy, the student should be advised to tell her parent/carer. If parents/carers are made aware, subsequent responsibility lies with them. Staff may wish to offer help to the student in communicating with parents or carers. In any event, knowledge of a student pregnancy should be treated sensitively and support offered the student. If a student does not wish to tell her parent/carer, the member of staff should refer to a health professional. In all cases, the Assistant Headteacher (Student Support & Guidance) should be informed. A record of student pregnancies will be kept for inclusion monitoring purposes.

Notification to parents or carers

The schemes of work for SRE can be inspected together with lesson based materials by appointment. Parents or carers have the right in law to withdraw their children from such lessons. Written notification will always be given to parents prior to a child being involved in an SRE lesson.

Family values

The value of family life is an important topic which will be approached largely through a consideration of the quality of relationships between individuals with an emphasis on stability, respect, caring and support. The wide variety of types of families that offer this quality will be reflected. Such variety includes separated families, extended families, fostering and public care.

Opportunities are provided at school Open Evenings and Progress Review sessions for parents or carers to examine the materials studied in SRE lessons and information is available for parents or carers providing information about recommended books and other useful sources literature that might help them to talk about the issues with their sons or daughters.

Controversial issues

The SRE programme will seek to give students information on matters such as contraception and sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV and AIDS. Teachers will aim to present factual information in an objective and balanced way, with students being encouraged to consider their attitudes and values within a structured moral framework.

Complaints Procedure

Any complaints about the sex education programme will be directed in the first instance to the Head of Philosophy & Ethics. Beyond this, the school's normal complaints procedure should be followed. Details of this are published in the Annual Prospectus.

Parental Rights

Under the Education Act 1993, parents or carers have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the SRE programme. Parents or carers wishing to exercise that right will be asked to inform the Headteacher in writing. Once a child has been withdrawn from the SRE programme at

the instigation of parents or carers, he or she will not be able to take part in further lessons without written permission.

Monitoring and review

All aspects of sex education within the school will be monitored by senior teaching staff and the Head of Philosophy & Ethics.

The Governors' Curriculum Committee will assume responsibility for the review of the programme and will report to the Full Governing Body annually.

Dissemination of the policy

Parents or carers will be notified of the availability of the policy which may be obtained from the school on request. A summary of this policy is published within the statement on Citizenship, RE and Health Education in the Annual Prospectus.