



Queen's Croft High School

SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION POLICY

Prepared by:
Checked by:
Adopted by Governors:
Review Date:

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Introduction

Sex and Relationships Education is an area of great importance for all young people. This is particularly the case for children in a special school who have additional vulnerabilities and need a high level of support to understand the complexities and difficulties around this area of life.

The teaching of Sex and Relationships Education at Queen's Croft High School is therefore an important aspect of pupils' education. Sex and Relationship Education includes supporting young people in developing self-confidence in preparing for physical and emotional changes into adulthood. We believe that the teaching of Sex and Relationship Education should be shared with parents and be mutually supportive and complementary. It promotes an understanding of the range of family types and other people who contribute to providing children with the care, love and support they need to grow and develop.

In this document, Sex and Relationships Education relates to learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about understanding the importance of family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care and promoting the British value of tolerance. We do not use Sex and Relationships Education as a means of promoting any form of sexual orientation.

The policy has been developed to ensure that staff and parents or carers are clear about the statutory requirements regarding Sex and Relationships Education, and that the pupils receive their educational entitlement. Through implementation of this policy, the school will meet specific aspects of the legal and statutory requirements.

Every child is entitled to receive Sex and Relationships Education. It is our intention that all children have the opportunity to experience a programme of Sex and Relationships Education at a level which is appropriate for their age and physical development with differentiated provision if required.

This policy will seek to support students in developing the confidence to be effective communicators who value themselves and others. It will encourage enquiring minds in the students enabling them to reach their full potential. It seeks to provide children with an education appropriate to the world beyond the classroom in which they will live within the community displaying tolerance and sensitivity. The policy also seeks to develop in students a sense of moral responsibility and self-discipline.

Legal Framework

The *Children and Social Work Act 2017* recognised the need for Sex and Relationships Education to be made compulsory for all secondary aged students. The legal requirement comes into force from September 2020. The most up to date guidance from the DfE is found in the document *Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education, and Health Education in England: Government Consultation Response* (February 2019).

Aims of the Policy

- To meet the new requirements of the DfE guidance on SRE

- To ensure that Sex and Relationships Education is approached in a manner that supports and recognises the individual needs of students in an a school environment where students have many and varied needs
- To help and support students through their physical, emotional and moral development
- To develop in children the skills and understanding to have the confidence to approach their relationships in a positive way
- To enable children to move with confidence from childhood through adolescence to adulthood
- To live confident and healthy lives
- To understand the changes that occur to the human body during puberty
- To understand how a baby is conceived and born
- To ensure children are aware of personal space and their right to privacy

Responsibilities

The Governing Board sets the policy framework in which Sex and Relationships Education is taught in school. Governors will be regularly updated on the implementation of the policy by the Headteacher and other senior leaders.

The headteacher is responsible for the implementation of the policy in school. He will ensure that is delivered effectively in a manner that upholds the values and aims of the policy.

The Assistant Headteacher has operational responsibility in school for the implementation of this policy.

Form teachers are responsible for the delivery of the content of the SRE programme. In some circumstances specialists from outside school, including the special school nursing service, may be used to support the delivery.

The Moral and Values Framework

Sex and Relationships Education is required to be taught within a moral framework. Children will learn about moral values through all aspects of school life and in all curriculum areas, not just in Sex and Relationships Education. We aim to:

- Help pupils develop sensitivity and respect for themselves and others
- Provide a friendly and caring environment in which children are able to ask questions and further their understanding
- Support pupils in taking responsibility for their actions and the consequences of their actions
- Provide equality of opportunity for all children in a caring community in which each individual is encouraged to make a valuable contribution.

Aims of Sex and Relationship Education

Taking account of the age, maturity and needs of the pupils, Sex and Relationships Education aims to

- Provide the knowledge and information to which all students are entitled
- Help students to develop feelings of self-respect, self-esteem, self-confidence, sympathy and empathy
- Provide the confidence to be participating members of society and to value themselves and others
- Prepare students for puberty, adolescence and adulthood, encouraging them to take responsibility for their own actions
- Give students an understanding of consent and how to say no to unwanted advances
- Give them an understanding of reproduction and sexual development
- Give them an understanding of the importance of health and hygiene
- Develop and use communication skills and assertiveness skills to cope with the influences of their peers and the media
- Respect and care for their bodies
- Answer students' questions honestly and sensitively – referring them to parents where appropriate
- Give them information on where they can get help and support

Context

We teach Sex and Relationships Education in the context of the school's values. Whilst Sex and Relationships Education in our school means that we give students information about sexual behaviour, we do this with an awareness of the moral code and values which underpin all work in school. In particular, we teach Sex and Relationships Education with the beliefs that:

- SRE should be taught in the context of loving relationships and family life
- SRE is part of a wider personal, social, spiritual and moral education process
- Children and young people should be taught to have respect for their own bodies
- Students should learn about their responsibilities to others, and be aware of the consequences of sexual activity
- It is important to build positive relationships with others, involving trust and respect
- Children need to learn the importance of self-control.

Teaching and Learning including Delivery of the Curriculum

We teach Sex and Relationships Education discretely. However, some relationship aspects are covered through our PSHE curriculum, and some of the biological aspects are covered in Science. There are also links with R.E.

The Role of Parents

The school is well aware that the primary role in children and young people's Sex and Relationships Education lies with parents and carers. We wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents of children at our school through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation. In promoting this objective we will:

- Inform parents about the school's Sex and Relationships Education policy and practice
- Answer any questions that parents may have about the Sex and Relationships Education of their child
- Take seriously any issue that parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy or the arrangements for Sex and Relationships Education in the school

The new SRE responsibility on schools allows parents to withdraw their children from SRE education up to and including Year 10. In Year 11 it is compulsory for all students to have access to Sex and Relationships Education. At Queen's Croft High School we will apply this in a way that recognises the emotional and cognitive abilities and needs of individual students.

Confidentiality

Teachers conduct Sex and Relationships Education lessons in a sensitive manner and in confidence. However, if a child makes a reference to being involved, or likely to be involved in sexual activity, or indicates that they may have been a victim of abuse, this will be dealt with in line with our child protection policy.

Answering Difficult Questions

If a child asks an explicit or difficult question, the staff will use their professional judgement in deciding the best way to answer it. This may be through individual work or discussion with the child. If the staff member is concerned, they can refer to the headteacher who can discuss the matter with the parent, or follow other appropriate procedures.