

SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION POLICY

JANUARY 2017

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CONTENTS

1. Definition	3
2. Background Information	3
3. Aims and Objectives of Sex and Relationship Education	3
4. Content of the Sex and Relationship Education Programme	4
5. Delivery of Sex and Relationship Programme	4
6. Specific Issues	4
7. Monitoring and Evaluation	4
8. Dissemination of the policy	4

1. DEFINITION

Sex and Relationship Education is a term which refers to the physical emotional intellectual spiritual moral social and cultural aspects of the students developments, taking into account personal relationships culture beliefs and value systems, responsible attitudes and appropriate behaviour. The process of SRE is a combination of the sharing of information and exploration issues and attitudes.

In addition we ensure that it complies with and incorporates:

- The regulations set out in the Education Act 1966 Section 351[6]
- Sex and relationship guidance July 2000
- Revised National Curriculum guidance 1999 [reference the Personal, Health and Social Education [PSHE] framework]

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The SRE policy is developed through consultation with governors, teachers, parents and the wider community. It includes how SRE will be taught through the relevant National Curriculum Science topics and as part of the PHSE and Citizenship programme. The policy is inclusive of all pupils.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF SEX AND RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION

SRE is lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It involves teaching about sex, sexual health, sexuality and the importance of loving and stable relationships and the importance of family life. It is not about the promotion of any particular sexual orientation or of sexual activity. It has 3 main elements:

1. Attitudes and Values
2. Personal and Social Skills
3. Knowledge and Understanding

New Horizons Federation believes that SRE should be delivered in an objective, balanced and sensitive manner, set within a clear framework of values and an awareness of the law with regard to sexual behaviour. It will also reflect on the services equal opportunities and race relations policy.

It will encourage:

- personal responsibilities in all forms of behaviour
- self esteem
- respect tolerance and consideration for others
- support and information for the pupils and their parents/carers

We believe that effective SRE can make a significant contribution to the personal development needed by students in order to establish and maintain healthy relationships. It also enables young people to make responsible and informed decisions about their health and well-being.

Where appropriate external agencies will be invited to contribute to the SRE programme.

4. CONTENT OF THE SEX AND RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION PROGRAMME

SRE provides the knowledge and encourages the acquisition of skills and attitudes, which will allow pupils to manage their lives in a responsible and healthy way.

The SRE programme is covered by the delivery through the National Curriculum Science programmes and the PHSE programme.

5. DELIVERY OF SEX AND RELATIONSHIP PROGRAMME

The programmes of study will be delivered in the following ways:

- Discreet lessons by Science or PHSE teachers
- Specific topics delivered by tutors trained in these areas
- Visiting speakers from external agencies including the School Nurse
- Members of staff approached by individual students for help and advice (see Safeguarding Policy for additional guidance)
- The use of approved resources and materials
- Pupils attending courses run by external agencies

6. SPECIFIC ISSUES

The areas of puberty, menstruation, contraception, abortion, safer sex HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections [STI's] will be addressed through the PHSE programme. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from any elements of these topics but not from areas set out as part of the National Curriculum Science programme. [Annex 1]

Teachers or other members of staff cannot offer or guarantee pupils unconditional confidentiality.

If sexual abuse is suspected teachers or other staff members will inform the identified Safeguarding Officer on site.

External health visitors are bound by their professional codes of conduct in a one to one situation but must follow the services confidentiality code in group or teaching situations.

7. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The programmes of study will be monitored in the following ways:

- Science department and PHSE reviews
- Pupil feedback
- Staff feedback
- Visitors to the school
- Zero pupil pregnancies

8. DISSEMINATION OF THE POLICY

The policy will be made available to all staff and parents on each of the Federation school sites. Copies of all policies are held by the School Office and can be accessed by staff or parents / carers on request. Parents / carers will be informed of the curriculum delivery of SRE on admission through the initial meeting before the pupil accesses the school.

Questions or concerns about the policy should be raised initially with the Centre Manager / Head of School. If these are not answered satisfactorily they should be taken up with the Executive Head Teacher of New Horizons Federation.

DOCUMENT REVISION

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