



## **SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION (SRE) POLICY 2017**

### **RATIONALE**

All maintained Secondary Schools are required under Section 2 of the Education Act 1993 Sex Education in Schools to offer a curriculum which:

- a. Promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of the students at the school and of society and
- b. Prepares such students for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

It is recognised that parents bear the primary responsibility for ensuring that their children have an understanding of all moral, emotional and physical aspects of sexual maturity. The approach adopted by the school is sensitive to the wide range of views held by parents on this matter. It is stressed throughout the Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) programme that teachers are not in a position to offer advice, but will give factual information and allow discussion so that pupils will be in a position to make reasonably informed decisions. If staff are approached by an individual for advice every encouragement will be given to the pupil to seek parental support and help. The SRE programme will develop children's personal and emotional development and children's knowledge and understanding. SRE is learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about understanding the importance of family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. It is about the teaching of sex, sexuality, sexual health including contraception and signposted to appropriate confidential advice and support. Secondary school pupils should learn to understand human sexuality and sexual relationships, learn the reasons for delaying sexual intercourse and the benefits to be gained from such a delay, and learn about obtaining appropriate advice on sexual health.

### **AIMS OF SRE**

SRE is one aspect of our PSHCE and NICE Day programme. It is important that it is not over emphasised, isolated or left to chance. Learning will focus on the responsibility of the individual and positive attitudes. Respect for self and others is an integral parts of personal education and also of sex education. We aim to support the personal and social development of students in order that they can understand, accept and cope with the changes that take place in their own development and those around them. The overall aim of the SRE programme is to:

- a. equip students with knowledge and understanding, personal and inter-personal skills, attitudes, values and beliefs at an appropriate level for each student's development
- b. to encourage young people to have due regard for moral considerations, and for the value of family life and a stable, faithful relationship
- c. to promote reasonable behaviour and respect for oneself and other people
- d. to develop the ability to make informed and responsible decisions
- e. to combat ignorance and increase understanding by providing information about physical, emotional and social aspects of human sexual development for conception to old age, including the nature of love, personal relationships and family life
- f. to provide a suitable vocabulary for discussing sex and enable this to be used in a group, class or clinic situation without embarrassment
- g. to combat exploitation and create awareness of the misuse of sex
- h. to reduce unnecessary feelings of guilt and anxiety
- i. to encourage understanding of the breadth of human sexual attitudes and behaviour

## **OBJECTIVES OF SRE**

The objective of SRE is lifelong learning about physical, emotional and moral development. A successful programme is embedded within the framework for PSHCE, NICE Day and the National Curriculum for Science. This programme aims to help students learn to respect themselves and others by acquiring accurate information, developing skills and forming positive beliefs, values and attitudes. SRE is about the understanding of the importance of stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality and sexual health. SRE is an integral part of the curriculum in that it involves consideration of different types of relationships at different levels.

## **DELIVERY OF SRE**

The delivery of SRE at Nidderdale High School:

- a. Caters for students' needs and is sensitive to individuals and groups.
- b. Assists students to understand their personal responsibilities for their own bodies.
- c. Encourages the acceptance of sexual matters without embarrassment.
- d. Enables students to accept variations in rates of growth and development, physical, social and emotional.
- e. Creates an atmosphere where questions and discussions can take place without embarrassment.
- f. Provides reassurance that change is part of the life cycle and enables students to develop strategies for coping with change.
- g. Involves extended service providers who specialise in sex and relationship education as part of the PSHCE programme, enrichment and NICE Days.
- h. Enables students to communicate about any unwanted invasion of personal body space and or their body.
- i. Raises awareness of sources of help and enables students to acquire the skills and confidence to use them – provides drop in sessions ie. with the School Nurse through the Pastoral team.
- j. The school's Pastoral system and nurses will refer students for external advice and liaise with parents to secure students welfare if necessary.

## **MORALS AND VALUES FRAMEWORK**

Morality is an essential part of sexuality and relationships. The SRE programme will work towards promoting the values that are common to all societies that respect human dignity these include:

- a. Value of family life
- b. Respect for individual and human rights
- c. Respect for human dignity
- d. Freedom from exploitation
- e. The acceptance of minority groups without persecution

We will aim to:

- a. Teach and present facts in an objective and balanced way
- b. Teach and present topics relating to sex education with due regard to the sensitive nature of some of the issues raised eg. abortion, contraception
- c. Ensure students know what is legal and the UK laws relating to sexual activity
- d. Enable students to consider their own attitudes
- e. Provide information to enable students to make reasoned and informed decisions about attitudes they adopt now and in adulthood

- f. Provide information to help to prevent the spread of diseases eg. HIV, AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases
- g. Present sex education as part of the core or enriched curriculum for all students.

## **SEX EDUCATION PROGRAMME**

The programme which is delivered through PSHCE, in tutor time or as part of the NICE Day programme will address issues of:

- Self esteem
- Human growth and development
- Knowledge of body
- Relationships
- Personal and social education skills
- Safety
- Families and responsibilities
  
- Rights
- Responsibilities
- Risks
- Respect

## **EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY**

The school regards access to a coherent programme of SRE as a fundamental right for all students. We will aim to give appropriate courses for all students. The programme is structured to stress the individual students' responsibility for the health of their own body.

All aspects of SRE are taught within a moral framework and with due regard to religious traditions.

Students will usually be taught in mixed gender groups.

## **GUIDELINES FOR PARENTS**

All parents have a legal right to withdraw their child from the SRE programme. A minority of parents may wish to do so, and in this event, they should contact the Headteacher. The school will discuss individual cases with the family concerned and take the necessary action for alternative provision.

Full Governing Body approved 23 November 2015, reapproved 6 November 2017