

Sex & Relationships Education Policy



Sandwell Home and Hospital Tuition Service

Signed by Chair of Governors:

M. Scellios 

Date ratified by Governing Body: 25.09.2019

Date of Review: 25.09.2021



Sex Education – The Law

Section 46 of the 1986 Education Act requires that the LEA, the Governing Body and the Head teacher, “*shall take such steps as are reasonably practicable to secure that where Sex Education is given to any registered pupils at the school, it is given in such a manner as to encourage pupils to have due regard to moral considerations and the value of family life.*”

This policy is in line with the Learning and Skills Act 2000 and circular “Sex and Relationship Education Guidance, DFEE0116/2000” which states “*Mainstream Schools and special schools have a duty to ensure that children with special educational needs and learning difficulties are properly included in sex and relationship education*” (para. 1.26).

Sex and Relationships Education

We believe that, for our pupils, learning about their own sexual development, together with an awareness of their relationships with others, can greatly enhance the pupil’s ability to lead their lives competently and with fulfilment.

Implementation

The SRE curriculum is co-ordinated to ensure a balanced, sensitive and progressive programme of Sex and Relationships Education.

SRE is delivered via the Personal Social Health and Citizenship curriculum supported by Science (for factual biological aspects of sexual function). In addition to this the “APAUSE” initiative (Added Power and Understanding in Sex Education) provides a series of workshops delivered by a trained school nurse to all pupils, tailored to specific year groups. “

SRE is delivered to mixed-gender groups unless it is appropriate to have separate gender groups

The Centre’s SRE Programme Aims to Ensure that Pupils

- Recognise the influences and pressures around sexual behaviour, to respond appropriately, and confidently seek professional health advice
- Make informed choices about the pattern of their lifestyle in order to promote well being
- Understand what rights and responsibilities mean in relationships
- Are aware of cultural diversity and differences
- Acquire knowledge relating to personal health and self-preservation, and non-exploitative human relationships
- Accept their own and others’ sexuality
- Acquire actual biological knowledge related to reproductive systems, growth and development
- Acquire knowledge about protection from sexually transmitted disease, including AIDS

Curriculum Entitlement

All pupils are entitled to be offered access to Sex and Relationship Education however parents are entitled to withdraw a child from the programme, if they wish.

Working with Parents/Carers

It is acknowledged that parents and carers are the key figures in helping their children to cope with emotional and physical aspects of growing up and for preparing them for the challenges and responsibilities of adult life. The teaching offered aims to be complementary and supportive to the role of the parents. Parents will therefore be informed and consulted about content.

Sexual Abuse

We are aware that some of our pupils may have experienced abuse. We do not accept that this is a reason for avoiding education about sex and relationships. Indeed, it is more essential; such teaching, as part of the Centre's PSHE programme may help pupils avoid some abusive situations. However, when it is known that a pupil has experienced abuse their wishes and needs must be taken into account before placing them in a potentially vulnerable situation.

If disclosure (of sexual abuse) takes place during a lesson, or to a member of staff, Sandwell's Child Protection Procedure will be implemented. Disclosure will be dealt with in a calm and supportive manner without causing further anxiety and distress. Please see the Child Protection Policy.

Contraceptive Information/Advice to under 16's

No member of staff shall give direct advice to individuals or groups of pupils under 16 years old. There will be information about types of contraception, but at no time will advice be offered, even though in Health Education there will be some in-depth discussion about contraception.