



Sex and relationships Policy

Policy Formation and Consultation Process

When developing the policy, the school considered the 1993 Education Act, Sex Education in Schools - Circular Number 5/94 and the DfEE Guidance July 2000 (DfEE 0116/2000). The Act states that

'Special Schools have a particularly sensitive role to play. Children with learning difficulties are entitled to the same opportunity as other children to benefit from sex education. They may need more help than others in coping with the physical and emotional aspects of growing up; they may also need more help in learning what sorts of behaviour are and are not acceptable, and in being warned and prepared against unacceptable behaviour by adults. Schools should bear in mind that some parents may find it difficult to come to terms with the idea that their children will one day become sexually active'.

The school supports the 1993 Education Act and subsequent guidance that the programme should be set within a moral and culturally diverse framework. Our school community, and the society we belong to is diverse in belief and practice; we actively encourage a respect for different lifestyles and as with other areas of the curriculum, examine a range of religious, cultural and moral approaches to relevant issues. We encourage our pupils to understand and respect that diversity.

Aims and Objectives of the School Sex and Relationships Education Policy

Our aim is to provide a curriculum which is supportive of the whole school aims. Sex and Relationships Education will:

- Promote the spiritual, cultural, mental and social well-being of all students.
- Prepare students for the responsibilities of adult life.
- Develop students' awareness and understanding about the importance of strong relationships and being able to differentiate between different types of relationship

Our objectives are:

- To present information in a sensitive, balanced and objective manner.
- To present information in an accessible, visual, practical and suitably differentiated way.
- To help students make well informed decisions as they develop physically, emotionally and socially.
- To promote and develop self-esteem.
- To encourage the development of appropriate behaviour within their family and society.
- To teach within the legal framework of the Education Act 1993.

Organisation of School Sex and Relationships Education Policy

Sex and Relationships Education should be accessible to all pupils, irrespective of gender, ethnic background, physical and cognitive ability (see Equal Opportunities Policy). There may be issues of age, readiness and appropriateness as pupils move through the school. Although all pupils will follow a PSHE curriculum, Sex and Relationships Education will be focussed in the Senior and Further Education Departments. Coordination of the sex and relationship aspects of PSHE will be the responsibility of the respective Heads of Department. There is more detailed information in each department's schemes of work (National Curriculum) or Programmes of Study (Further Education).

Professional Development

Staff will have access to discussion sessions with the School Nurse, Head of Department and Personal development Coordinator who will identify relevant courses, either to attend or recommend to staff.

Specific Classroom Organisation

The pupils may be divided into small groups or be given individual sessions for Personal Social and Health Education sessions. All pupils work on understanding or experiencing the way their bodies function, looking after our bodies, safety and relationships (people in our lives). During Key Stage 3, pupils will start work on aspects of sex and relationships education and this will be continued in a more detailed PSHE programme in the Further Education Department. Parents will be notified when pupils are starting this area of work.

Assessment, Recording and Reporting

The staff will review progress and evaluate the work at the end of each scheme of work or mid-term plan. This will follow the same pattern as in other curriculum policy documents. Evidence of the pupils' attainment and progress will be identified on IEP's, school generated assessments, reviews and reports to parents.

Resources

The resources used will be selected to support our aims for Sex and Relationships Education and Equal Opportunities policies. Resources will be appropriate to age, maturity and special learning needs of our pupils. Resource funding will be accessed from the Personal, Social Education budget heading.

Parents will be invited to attend workshops at school and be referred to the nurse for specific medical or sexual health support.

The school has a selection of resources relating to teaching aspects such as periods, body parts as well as an assessment tool relating to sexual knowledge and understanding. Due to the nature of these resources they are stored in the Head's office and must be returned after each lesson.

Specific and Sensitive Issues

Any pupil requiring advice regarding contraception should be referred to the school nurse. Their wishes for confidentiality should be respected. The school would support pupils or staff infected or affected by HIV or other related conditions in consultation with the LA, Primary Care Trust and the School Nurse.

At Risk Issues

Students need to know that there are some issues which cannot remain confidential. The teacher would assess whether the young person is at risk follow the LA Guidelines on Child or Adult Protection Issues.

Inappropriate Questions / Behaviour / Responses

The pupils at Greenside School have severe or profound learning difficulties and may ask inappropriate questions or behave in an inappropriate manner. The teacher would assess the context of the behaviour and deal with it accordingly. This may involve individual sessions for the pupil outside the group. The teacher would need to be sensitive to the student's individual learning difficulty and communication problems.

We would ensure that any visiting teacher is aware of the school's Sex and Relationship Education Policy document and teaches within that framework.

Working with Parents

A summary of the laws relating to sex and relationships education is available for parents at their request. We feel that successful sex and relationships education takes place when we work in partnership with parents. Parents may wish to remove their daughter or son from all or part of the programme.

Legal Obligations

Greenside School has decided to provide sex and relationships education where this is deemed appropriate, within the Personal Development Education for primary aged pupils and to fulfil our mandatory obligation to provide it for our senior and further education pupils. We are aware of the new arrangements for Sex Education in Section 241 (2) of the Education Act 1993 and the revised guidance (DfEE 0116/2000). We are aware of our responsibility to provide any parent with a copy of the Sex and Relationships Education Policy when requested. We will provide details of the content and organisation of the personal and Social Education curriculum for all ages. This will meet the requirements of the Education (School Information) regulations.

Monitoring and Evaluating Policy

This policy will be reviewed within the timescale of the curriculum review timetable, as identified in the School Development Plan.