

Policy adopted on: 1st September 2013

Date of review: November 2017

Responsible person: Principal

Sex Education Policy

Introduction

- The governors have a duty under the revised National Curriculum DfE 0116/2000 to ensure that there is an up-to-date policy on sex education and for this policy to be made accessible to parents.
- The policy will be inspected as part of the OFSTED evaluation of the school's provision of sex education as a broader programme of health education and part of the spiritual, moral and cultural development of students.
- It is a requirement of the law and good practice that sex education is taught with regard to moral considerations and the value of family life.
- It is required that information must be provided on HIV, Aids and Sexually transmitted diseases.
- Parents and those with parental responsibility have the right to withdraw their child from any part of the sex education programme except those parts included in the National Curriculum Science Orders. Parents must be informed of their right to withdraw their child from any part of the sex education programme, and that an appropriate letter is available in the public directory. [An appropriate letter should be sent at the relevant time]

Rationale

The Boulevard Academy supports the personal and social development of all students, ensuring they have the ability to accept their own and others sexuality, to express their sexuality in positive and appropriate ways, and to enjoy relationships based on mutual respect and responsibility. Students need to be given information and opportunities for discussion, which will enable them to be able to explore their own feelings and make informed choices as a result.

The Main Elements of Sex Relationship Education [DfE 0166/2000 p 5]

"If a teacher believes the conduct of the student is likely to place 'him' or 'her' self in moral danger; physical risk or breach of the law the teacher should ensure the student is aware of the implications and guide them towards advice from parents or health professionals. The Principal should be informed immediately as the school regards this conduct as a Child Protection issue."

Guidelines for Students who are sexually active

An effective sex and relationship education programme should enable and encourage young people to talk about sexual matters with a trusted adult. Ideally this should be a parent but in cases where this is not possible students should be given contact details of health professionals who can give them the advice.

Dealing with students in Key Stage 3:

In the case of a teacher who has learned that a young student is having sex or contemplating sexual intercourse the school must take steps to ensure that:

- Wherever possible the student is persuaded to talk to his/her parent
- Any child protection issues are referred to the designated Child Protection Officer in the school
- The student is adequately counselled and informed about contraception, including precise information about where young people can access contraception and advice services

It is only in exceptional circumstances that the school is allowed to handle sensitive issues without parental consent. Parents will be informed if students give their consent for this to take place. It would be a serious concern for the school if young students were involved. The school would see this conduct as a Child Protection issue and inform the Child Protection Officer (CPO).

For students aged 16, parents do not have to be informed unless the student requests the Child Protection Officer to do so.

Any student who wishes to attend a Family Planning clinic must do so after school hours. Students must not be allowed to leave the school site without permission of parents first.

Students who disclose that they may need the morning after pill must be referred to the Child Protection Officer.

Working with Parents

Under the DfE [0116/2000], parents have the right to withdraw their child from all or part of the sex and relationship programme provided by the school except those included in the statutory National Curriculum Science Orders.

In order to exercise this right and to make an informed decision about whether to withdraw their children, parent/guardians will be provided with a list of Sex Education topics covered in all areas of the curriculum in each year. This information will be provided in a newsletter to parents/guardians and the attached reply slip should ensure that teachers can check that this information has been seen.

Parents/guardians who wish to withdraw their child from any part of the Sex Education Programme should inform the Principal of their decision. In such a case an alternative programme of work will be available for the student. The situation will be handled sensitively in order to avoid embarrassment or comments from their peers.

Parents/guardians are very welcome to meet staff to discuss and view materials which they are concerned about.

Equal Opportunities

Sex Education should be accessible and relevant to all students and should be appropriately differentiated for students with additional needs [including ethnic minorities within the school].

Sex Education should be taught in a way that is sensitive to difference, gender, maturity, religious belief and sexuality.

Sensitive issues

Homosexuality

This is discussed objectively under topics such as sexual orientation and homophobic bullying. The GCSE RE paper 1 new specification taught to year 9 students now has Homosexuality as a topic. Discussion of this will include religious views.

Abortion

Any discussion of abortion will involve the views of religious faiths and both medical and ethical considerations.

HIV/AIDS

Informative discussions covering the transmission of the HIV virus will, by the very nature of the subject, include mention of asexual acts and practices. Teachers will deal sensitively and objectively with information of this kind, at the same time trying to avoid the development of bias and prejudice. Staff are also aware that they may be dealing with students who are HIV positive or who have close links with others who are.

It may also be the case that the teaching of apparently related topics will occasionally lead to a discussion of aspects of sexual behaviour. When such a discussion is relatively limited and set in the context of the other subject concerned, it will not necessarily contribute to a part of the programme of sex education. Teachers will endeavour to answer student's questions honestly and sensitively in such a way that takes the context into account.

Contraception Advice

Teachers MUST distinguish between sex education and advice to individual students and particular care must be shown in relation to contraceptive advice to students under 16.

TEACHERS MUST NOT GIVE CONTRACEPTIVE ADVICE TO AN INDIVIDUAL STUDENT WITHOUT PARENTAL KNOWLEDGE OR CONSENT.

To do so, would be an inappropriate exercise of a teacher's professional responsibilities and must NOT happen. If staff are asked for contraceptive advice they should direct students to the CPO.

What is Sex and Relationship Education?

It is lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is an understanding of the importance of marriage for family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. It is not about the promotion of sexual orientation or sexual activity – this would be inappropriate teaching.

It has three main elements:

- Attitudes and values
 - Learning the importance of values and individual conscience and moral considerations
 - Learning the values of family life, marriage and stable and loving relationships for the nurture of children
 - Learning the value of respect, love and care
 - Exploring, considering and understanding moral dilemmas
 - Developing critical thinking as part of decision making
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- Personal and Social Skills
 - Learning to manage emotions and relationships confidently and sensitively
 - Develop self-respect and empathy for others

- Learning to make choices, based on an understanding of difference and with the absence of prejudice
- Developing an appreciation of choices made
- Managing conflict
- Learning how to recognise and avoid exploitation and abuse

- Knowledge and Understanding
- Learning and understanding physical development at appropriate stages
- Understanding human sexuality; reproduction; sexual health; emotions and relationships
- Learning about contraception and the range of local and national sexual health advice, contraception and support services
- Learning the reasons for delaying sexual activity and the benefits to be gained from such delay
- The avoidance of unplanned pregnancy

The Sex and Relationship education programme at The Boulevard Academy aims to:

Promote attitudes and Values

There should be a shared understanding between staff, parents and students, as to the values that sex education should promote.

The framework for sex education should encourage the following values:

- Self-respect
- A respect for others
- Non exploitation in sexual relationships
- Honesty with self and others
- Moral considerations
- An exploration of the right, duties and responsibilities involved in sexual relationships
- An acknowledgment and understanding of diversity regarding religion, culture and sexual orientation.

Year 7 Study Units:

- Puberty – problems
- Anxieties and worries
- Feelings and thoughts

Year 8 Study Units:

- Legal age of sex
- Contraception – natural methods, advice
- Emergency contraception
- Sexual Rights and Responsibilities
- Sex myths
- Where to go for advice
- Aids

Year 9 Study Units:

- What is safer sex?
- STI's facts, where to go for advice/treatment if suspected
- Aids – facts, transmission
- Attitudes
- Sexual Abuse

Cross curricular topics with Religious Education include:

- Abortion [The law 1990 Abortion Act, medical and clinical abortions. Where people would go for advice]
- Marriage and the family unit
- Lone Parenting [Family Types. This explores the problems associated with lone parenting]
- Teenage Pregnancy [Including where they would go for advice support]
- Contraception
- Homosexuality

All Key Stage 3 students will study

- Attitudes, values, beliefs and morality associated with the study units.
- Moral and spiritual values of different cultures and groups.

Throughout Key Stage 3 personal and social skills of students will be developed.

PHSE Key Stage 4

Knowledge and Understanding, Attitudes and Values will be taught to Key Stage 4 students via timetabled Citizenship/General Studies lessons

Key Stage 4 Study Unit will include:

- Attitudes, values, beliefs and morality
- The law on sexual behaviour, age of consent
- Understanding the moral and spiritual values of different cultures and groups
- Stereotyping
- Awareness of the range of sexual activities and behaviour in society
- Parenthood and the needs of a baby, raising children
- The costs and benefits of a stable marriage
- The benefits of family life

Develop personal and social skills

- To develop understanding of themselves and sexual relationships
- To promote responsible attitudes and behaviour
- To reduce guilt and anxiety about sex
- To combat exploitation
- To develop the language and communication on sexual matters
- To develop skills for future parents
- To promote the ability to make informed decisions about relationships, health and contraception
- To promote an awareness of how/where students can go to seek further guidance
- To teach students how to seek professional advice confidentially

Cultivate Knowledge and Understanding

Curriculum Planning

The biological aspects of sex education covered by the National Curriculum Orders is taught in science and parents cannot withdraw their children from these lessons.

Key Stage 3 Science

Year 7 students are taught:

- Reproduction
- Organs
- Pregnancy
- Birth

Key Stage 4 Science

Year 10 are taught:

- Contraception
- IVF
- Fertility Treatment

Key Stage 4 Input via Option Subject - Health and Social Care

- Unprotected sex
- STI [symptoms, effects, and possible treatments]
- Contraception
- Pregnancy

The relationship aspect of sex education is taught as part of the Cross Curriculum programme within PHSE and Citizenship lessons.

PHSE Key Stage 3

Knowledge and Understanding, Attitudes and Values will be taught to Key Stage 3 students via timetabled lessons within the area of RE/Citizenship.

- Relationships and feeling
- How a baby changes a relationship
- Separation and divorce. The emotional/physical and social consequences of having a baby
- The emotional/physical and social consequences of abortion
- Issues and moral considerations of contraception and sterilisation
- Develop awareness of sexual identity
- To challenge sexism and prejudice in society
- Development of social skills and strategies to reduce the risk of exploitation, misunderstanding and abuse
- Teenage pregnancy. How to cope. How society gives support

Delivery

The Boulevard Academy believes that learning about sexuality and relationship is a lifelong process and that it will occur in both the school and home setting and in both formal and informal ways. However, sex education is much too important to be left to chance and therefore, it must be part of a well-planned, coherent and relevant Health Education

Programme. Students will be taught Sex Education in a mixed gender groups which are streamed. This enables teachers to select appropriate vocabulary and teaching strategies for different abilities.

Delivery will be via Science, PHSE, R.E and Citizenship. Specialist teachers within these subject areas will be responsible for the delivery of sex and relationship education.

Assessment

Evidence that an appropriate combination of:

Knowledge and Understanding - Attitudes and values have been delivered to students will be recorded on student's record sheets. Teachers will report to parents making a comment upon student's progress relating to the PHSE topics studied.

Personal and Social Skills - These will be assessed by monitoring student's behaviour.

Outside Agencies

The Academy recognises that links with outside agencies have a vital role to play in delivering up to date information to young people/ it therefore, will be a priority to maintain good working links with such agencies.

Teaching and Learning

A major focus of teaching and learning is creating a social norm amongst peers where unwanted pressure to become sexually involved is unacceptable