



PLYMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

POLICY: RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION POLICY

SLT LINK MEMBER:

Mary Utton

GOVERNORS SUB COMMITTEE:

Teaching & Learning

This policy was adopted/updated:

Updated January 2016

This policy will be reviewed:

January 2017

Statutory Policy:

Yes

Source:

In-house

PLYMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Relationships & Sex Education Policy

Staff Responsible: Head of PSHE & Citizenship, Head Teacher

Rationale

It is the policy of School Governors that all students will follow a programme of relationships and sex education. The governors feel that the school must help young people come to terms with the problems of growing up, by giving them the facts unambiguously, in a relaxed and secure environment in which they can confidently ask questions and be assured of answers. Relationships and Sex Education should be an integral part of the students' PSHE programme but calls for sensitive teaching as it is a sensitive issue with strong moral, legal, religious and cultural considerations. This involves acknowledging that relationships and sex education should not only give information and increase understanding, but that it should promote sensible behaviour, combat abuse and cultivate the ability to make informed decisions and develop educational skills for future parents and carers.

We believe the work we do on relationships and sex education allows young people to examine their own and others attitudes and make informed decisions about their lives. It enables young people to mature, build up their confidence and self esteem and understand the reasons for delaying sexual activity until they are ready and seek help, support and guidance when in situations.

This policy has been developed in accordance with the principles established by the following Legislation and Guidance:

Legislation

- Children Act 1989
- Children Act 2004
- Safeguarding vulnerable groups Act 2006
- Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
- Children and Families Act 2014
- Education Act 2002
- Adoption and Children Act 2002
- Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Children and Adoption Act 2006
- Children and Young Persons Act 2008
- Border, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009
- Apprenticeship, Skills Children and Learning Act 2009
- Education Act 2011

Policy and Guidance

- Working Together to safeguard children 2015
- Keeping Children Safe in education 2015
- Plymouth Safeguarding Children Board – Policies and Guidance:
- <http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/localsafeguardingchildrenboard/>

Aims

To have a programme of Relationships and Sex Education which:

- Reinforces the school aims by promoting the spiritual, moral, cultural, social, mental and physical development of students at PHSG
- Discusses matters wholly within the context of loving and caring relationships, while being sensitive to the fact that some children in our care are from a variety of home backgrounds and may have limited experience of such relationships
- Educates for responsible parenthood and adolescence in such a way that encourages all pupils to have due regard for the value of a stable family and secure home environment including marriage.
- Meets the needs of all individuals, and includes awareness of differing moral, cultural and religious values.
- Endeavours to involve parents and all other interested parties in relationships and sex education issues, whilst complementing and supporting the role of parents who are key figures in helping children with physical and emotional aspects of growing up
- Promotes health and hygiene
- Creates an environment in school within which trust and confidence are assured
- Has suitable material and resources appropriate to the age, maturity and background of pupils to support staff in their teaching

Objectives

We will deliver a programme of Relationships and Sex Education which will:

- Provide information which will help individuals to develop a moral framework from which to make rational, mature and informed decisions
- Provide knowledge and understanding of the physical aspects of sexual behaviour and human reproduction in an objective and balanced manner
- Help pupils to be aware of the consequences of their actions and attitudes
- Help pupils to understand their own emotional development
- Help young people promote loving and caring relationships and the idea of mutual responsibility within these relationships
- Ensure that young people understand the implications and responsibilities of parenthood and the value of family life and explore strategies for achieving a stable family.

Content

Year 7

- Menstruation and Puberty (Sexual Development, conception and pregnancy – through the science programme of study), understanding peer pressure and its effects, the influence of the media and dispelling myths
- Foetal Development and Pregnancy (Science)

Year 8

- Reproduction (Science)
- Understanding Peer Pressure
- Personal Safety

- Emotional Development and relationships. Decision Making and Birth Control. Building self esteem

Year 9

- Attitudes and Values, Sexual Relationships, Contraception, Sexually Acquired Infections. Early yr 9 – strategies for delaying early sexual relationships (delay resource). How and where to access services

Year 10

- Marriage, Divorce and the Family (through the Religious Education programme of study)
- Parenting
- Gender and sexuality
- Sexually Acquired Infections.
- Conception, foetal development and pregnancy (through the science programme of study)
- How and where to access services

Year 11

- Women's health issues
- Men's health issues

Year 12/13

- Responsible Parenting, Sexually Transmitted Infections, Gender and Sexuality

Organisation

The programme is co-ordinated by the Head of PSHE & Citizenship in conjunction with the Head Teacher.

The programme is delivered by a specialist team of teachers

A range of outside agencies provide training and advice, such as Devon Curriculum Advice and Family Planning Association. Where visitors contribute to the programme guidelines of "Involving visitors in PSHEE guidance 2007" are followed.

Except in Years 12 and 13, classes are taught in single sex tutor groupings. The curriculum entitlement for Sex Education is met through the PSHE programme, the National Curriculum Science programme and the Religious Education programme which run concurrently.

The school nurse holds a weekly confidential drop-in clinic. The school can provide further details of the service provided by the clinic

The effectiveness of the programme is reviewed through group evaluation by the students as part of the course provision, school evaluation through both the Pastoral Meetings and Heads of Key Stage meetings in addition to the annual governor review.

Assessment - pupils carry out a self-assessment for PSHE twice per year.

Collapsed SRE days are also assessed through a drama activity.

Handling of confidential information is dealt with in the Staff Handbook. Information for parents is contained in the prospectus of the school and details about the policy will be included in the Annual Report to parents.

Parents have a right to withdraw pupils from non statutory elements of the SRE curriculum