

Relationship and Sex Education Policy

Wavertree Church of England School

Aims of Relationship and Sex Education

Wavertree C. E. School believes that Relationship and Sex Education in this school will be developmental and a foundation for further development in the secondary school.

“Under the new coalition government the status of sex and relationship education has not changed at present. The government outlined their commitment to RSE in the Schools White Paper ‘The Importance of Teaching’ (Department of Education (DfE) [2010]).

The Paper states that children need high-quality sex and relationships education so they can make wise and informed choices and the government promises to work with teachers, parents, faith groups and campaign groups to improve SRE. Therefore the most up-to-date legislation relating to sex and relationships education (SRE) are contained within the Education Act (1996) and the Learning and Skills Act (2000).” (CURRENT status of Sex and Relationships Education March 2011. (Sex Education Forum))

Relationship and Sex education will contribute to the requirements of the current Education Act and the school curriculum should be one which:

- ‘promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society; and
- prepares pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life’

The school will work towards these aims in partnership with the parents. The aim of the Relationship and Sex Education policy is to clarify the content and manner in which Relationship and Sex Education will be delivered in this school.

Other school policies which have relevance to sex and relationship education are:

- PSHE/Citizenship
- Equal Opportunities
- Child Protection
- Safeguarding
- Behaviour/Anti-bullying
- Teaching and Learning
- Special Needs
- Drug Education

Moral and Values Framework

The Relationship and Sex Education programme will reflect the school’s over-arching aims and demonstrate and encourage the following values:

- respect for self
- respect for others
- responsibility for their own actions
- responsibility for their family, friends, school and wider community

Equal Opportunities

This school is committed to working towards equal opportunities in all aspects of school life. All resources used will support this commitment.

Equal Opportunities will be addressed within the teaching and learning of Relationship and Sex Education in accordance with the agreed whole school Policy for Equal Opportunities.

Content

The Relationship and Sex Education programme will:

- provide information that is relevant and appropriate to the age and developmental stage of the pupils
- develop skills of assertiveness, communication and effective dialogue in relationships
- encourage the exploration and clarification of values and attitudes
- foster self esteem, positive self-image and confidence

Topics and themes will be revisited from year to year taking account of the pupils' development and the spiral curriculum concept.

The content of the Relationship and Sex Education programme will be based on the recommended LEA Relationship and Sex Education curriculum programme using 'HeartSmart' as a framework.

Topics will include:

- feelings and relationships
- my healthy body
- lifestyles and culture
- growing up

Organisation

The Coordinator for Relationship and Sex Education will be the Coordinator for PSHE.

The Coordinator for PSHE will perform his/her duties as outlined in the agreed School Role of the Coordinator contained in the Staff Handbook and the job description of the Coordinator for PSHE.

Relationship and Sex Education will be delivered:

- through discrete PSHE lessons
- through Cross Curricular Aspects
- through planned aspects of science
- addressed occasionally in assembly time
- through planned visits from parents and younger and older siblings
- through pastoral time
- through story time

A range of active learning methods which involve pupils' full participation will be used.

Single sex groups will be used as and when deemed appropriate.

The resources used will be made available for parents to view if they choose. Individual parents can also view resources by contacting the coordinator directly. Wavertree C E School is committed to working towards equal opportunities in all aspects of school life. All resources and teaching methods used will support this commitment.

At present all members of staff are committed to delivering the sex and relationship education programme. They are supported by an in-service training programme.

Liaison procedures which facilitate the spiral curriculum development are already in place. Relationship and Sex education will now be included.

Specific Issues Statements

Working with parents and pupil withdrawal procedures

Wavertree C. E. School is committed to working with parents. Under the current Education Act Parents have a right to withdraw their children (until the age of 19) from any school RSE taught outside the Science Curriculum. Parents wishing to exercise this right are invited to contact the Head Teacher who will explore the concerns and the possibilities of adjusting the programme or approach. She will discuss the possible impact that withdrawal may have on the pupil and she will talk with the parents about the pupil's possible negative experiences or feelings that may result from exclusions and ways which these can be minimised. Once a pupil has been withdrawn they cannot participate in relationship and sex education until the request of withdrawal has been removed.

Disclosure or suspicion of possible abuse

Wavertree C. E. School has a Child Protection policy and procedure for dealing with child sexual abuse based on the LEA guidelines and recommendations. This policy is available on request.

Answering difficult questions

Sometimes an individual child will ask an explicit or difficult question in the classroom. Teachers have been informed that they do not have to answer questions of this nature directly; they can be addressed individually later. The governors support individual teachers in using their discretion and skill in these situations and can refer to the Head Teacher if they are concerned.

Outside Agencies

Outside agencies will be used to support and assist the teachers in the development of the classroom based work. On rare occasions outside agencies may be involved in classroom based work as part of the developmental programme following discussions and negotiation. They will be required to work within the school's moral framework outlined earlier. Any agency representative will need to have been CRB checked.

HIV/AIDS policy

The school follows the procedure outlined by the City Council with regard for supporting pupils or staff infected or affected by HIV/AIDS (see relevant document).

Dissemination of the Policy

All staff members and governors will receive a copy of this policy. Several copies are available for loan from the School Office on request. Parents will have the opportunity to view this policy in school or in the policy section of the school website.

Confidentiality

Pupils will be made aware that some information cannot be held confidential, and made to understand that if certain disclosures are made certain action will ensue.

Evaluation, Monitoring and Review

The monitoring and review of this policy will be in accordance with the School Development Plan and the agreed Role of a Coordinator contained in the Staff Handbook. This policy will be reviewed annually by the governing body and the school staff.

Reviewed: April 2020

Review date: September 2020