



THE BISHOPS' BLUE COAT CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION POLICY

Is this policy statutory?	Yes
Review period	3 Years
Date of approval	September 2019

The governors and staff of The Bishops' High School believe that effective sex and relationships education is vital in helping young people to grow up as loving, fulfilled and responsible adults. In keeping with its Christian ethos the school seeks to provide a setting in which young people can be offered effective and appropriate teaching about sex and relationships education. We seek to help young people prepare for adult life by supporting them through their physical, emotional, moral and spiritual development. It is our aim to help young people within the school to understand themselves, respect others and form healthy relationships.

What is Sex and Relationships Education?

"It is lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about understanding the importance of marriage for family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality and sexual health. It is not about the promotion of sexual orientation or sexual activity – this would be inappropriate teaching.¹"

The school recognises the particular emphasis of the Christian faith on love, faithfulness and responsibility within marriage and family life and seeks to enable its young people to adopt such qualities in their own lives. This emphasis is in harmony with the required elements of sex and relationship education.

Policy Formation and Consultation Process

This policy has been compiled in consultation with the Education Act 1996², the Learning and Skills Act 2000³ along with the Sex and Relationships Guidance (DfEE 2000), the Sex and Relationships Guidance⁴ (OfSTED 2002) and SRE for the 21st Century (PSHE Association, Brook, SRE Forum 2014)⁵ It has been produced by the Head of PSHCE, in consultation with parents, governors, the head teacher and senior leadership within the school. The draft policy has been disseminated amongst the staff for consultation. Comment and opinion has been sought from pupil members of the school council. Following this consultation a final draft policy was submitted to the governing body for approval and implementation.

Aims and Objectives

The school aims to provide opportunities to develop their skills, knowledge and understanding for adult life, helping our pupils become confident, independent, effective citizens making valued contributions to the wider society.

We seek to teach information on sex and relationships through an understanding, factual and accepting approach. Lessons and materials used in sex and relationships education will be age-appropriate. Parents will have access to policy information and teaching materials on request. Provision of opportunities for 'Personal Learning and Thinking Skills', and 'Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning' are planned for in the curriculum.

¹ Sex and Relationships Education Guidance, ref DfEE 0116/2000, Crown Copyright 2000

² Education Act 1996, Crown Copyright 1996

³ Learning and Skills Act 2000, Crown Copyright 2000

⁴ Sex and Relationships Education Guidance, Office of Standards in Education, Crown Copyright 2002

⁵ SRE for the 21st Century PSHE Association, Brook, SRE Forum Copyright 2014

Sex and relationships education within the school focuses on three core areas of learning:

Attitudes and Values:

The values of family life and stable relationships.

The values of love, care and respect; both for self and others.

The use of moral dilemmas to develop understanding through empathy and enquiry.

The development of *critical thinking* as part of decision-making processes.

Christian teaching and perspectives.

Personal and Social Skills:

The development of *Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning*.

The management of relationships in a range of contexts with confidence and sensitivity.

The development of skills to recognise and manage personal emotions.

Challenging all forms of prejudice and encouraging learners to make choices based on an understanding of diversity and acceptance.

The development of young peoples' ability to understand the consequences of their own personal decisions and actions.

The provision of skills and strategies to manage and resolve conflict.

The provision of essential skills needed to build positive, enjoyable, respectful and non – exploitative relationships

Knowledge and Understanding:

The provision of information about healthier and safer lifestyles.

The provision of information about a range of human relationships.

A clear understanding of the process of reproduction.

A clear understanding on physical, emotional and spiritual developments and how each aspect of development affects the individual.

The provision of information about sexually transmitted infections including the human immunodeficiency virus and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome.

The provision of information about risks associated with sex

The provision of information about how to stay safe both on and offline

Cross-curricular contributions

Some elements of sex and relationships education are taught across the schools' curriculum. Science fulfils its National Curriculum requirements through the topics of reproduction and puberty. Religious Studies consider the aspects of medical ethics, abortion, fertility treatment, prejudice and discrimination, relationships, marriage, and family. ICT considers e safety and teaches how to stay safe online. Such cross-curricular links are developed and reviewed regularly.

Assessment and Monitoring

The Head of PSHCE is responsible for co-ordinating the policy and curriculum content, and is accountable to the Deputy Head and the Head Teacher accordingly. The teaching of sex and relationships education will be assessed, monitored and evaluated through regular classroom observations, ongoing Assessment for Learning strategies and the review of lesson plans and schemes of work annually. The contributions of external agencies and speakers will be supervised and monitored on a regular basis by qualified teaching staff.

This policy will be reviewed before the commencement of each academic year by the Head of PSHCE and reviewed by the Governors every three years. The Office for Standards in Education are required to assess the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils during inspections. This includes the sex and relationships provision and policies.

Teachers will seek to answer pupil questions appropriately and using their professional judgement, in line with this policy. There is no expectation that any teacher teaching sex and relationships education will automatically answer pupil questions, as this may infringe personal boundaries. Teaching staff will encourage pupils to be independent learners and guide them to appropriate sources of information, advice and support.

Sex and Relationships Education Teaching

Sex and relationships education is taught in a programme designed to build on understanding throughout a young persons' education. Arrangements for teaching the course will vary from time to time. In the academic year 2014 – 2015 the arrangements are as follows.

In Year 7 and Year 8 this is taught in Lessons for Life through mixed-gender and ability form groups. These lessons are taught in partnership with staff from Chester Schools Christian Workers (CSCW) an external agency which specialises in SRE lessons contributes to lessons in year 7 and year 8. They are also supported by teachers from the RE department and are monitored by the Head of PSHCE and others in line with school policies. The lessons are classroom based with clearly established ground rules. Topics covered include puberty, risk and relationships, pregnancy and contraception.

In Year 9 and Year 10 sex and relationships education is taught in mixed-gender classes, set by ability, through RS lessons. These lessons are taught in partnership with staff from CSCW and are supported by teachers in the RE department. Topics covered include issues of condom use, STIs, HIV and AIDS, sexting and distortions of sex in the media.

In Year 11 a collapsed curriculum day focussed on risk involves workshops led by CSCW staff. This acts as a review of sex and relationships education across all key stages and gives pupils more of an opportunity to reflect on these issues and ask further questions. These workshops are taught in single gender classes.

External Agencies

Sexual health nurses and the school nurse, along with other agencies such as Chester Support Christian Workers, may be invited on occasion to support the teaching of the sex and relationship curriculum. In such cases all agencies will be made aware of this policy and how their contribution relates to the teaching of sex and relationship education in the school, including confidentiality issues and evaluation of their contributions afterwards. No visitor will work with pupils in any situation without a qualified teacher present.

Parental rights to withdraw children

Under the Education Act 1996, parents have the right to withdraw their children from sex and relationships education with the exception of the compulsory elements within the National Curriculum, for example, human reproduction. Any parents expressing concerns will be invited into the school to discuss any issues, topics and resources. Should they still feel the need to exercise the right to remove their child from part or all of the sex and relationships curriculum, provision will be made for their child to study other areas of PSHE and Citizenship within the Pupil Support Centre during sex and relationship lessons. Parents will also be advised of their obligation to provide such education at home and supporting resources will be made available.

This policy document will be made available to parents on request and updated regularly.