

The Roundhill Academy

Sex and Relationship Education Policy (SRE)

This policy was developed in response to Sex and Relationship Education Guidance DfES 2000, the National Teenage Pregnancy Strategy and National Healthy Schools Programme.

What Is Sex and Relationship Education?

At The Roundhill Academy SRE has been developed across the curriculum and is delivered by teaching staff. SRE is lifelong learning about physical, sexual, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care, for family life. It involves acquiring information, developing skills and forming positive beliefs, values and attitudes.

Principles and Values

In addition the school believes that SRE should:

- Be an integral part of the lifelong learning process, beginning in early childhood and continuing into adult life.
- Be an entitlement for all young people.
- Encourage every student to contribute to make our community and aims to support each individual as they grow and learn.
- Be set within this wider school context and supports family commitment and love, respect and affection, knowledge and openness. Family is a broad concept; not just one model, e.g. nuclear family. It includes a variety of types of family structure, and acceptance of different approaches.
- Encourage students and teachers to share and respect each other's views. We are aware of different approaches to sexual orientation, without promotion of any particular family structure. The important values are love, respect and care for each other.
- Generate an atmosphere where questions and discussion on sexual matters can take place without any stigma or embarrassment.
- Recognise that parents are the key people in teaching their children about sex, relationships and growing up. We aim to work in partnership with parents and students, consulting them about the content of programmes.
- Recognise that the wider community has much to offer and we aim to work in partnership with health professionals, social workers, peer educators and other mentors or advisers.

Sex and Relationship Education in this school has three main elements:

Attitudes and Values

- learning the importance of values, individual conscience and moral choices;
- learning the value of family life, stable and loving relationships, and marriage;
- learning about the nurture of children and the responsibilities of parenthood;
- learning the value of respect, love and care;
- exploring, considering and understanding moral dilemmas;
- developing critical thinking as part of decision-making;
- challenging myths, misconceptions and false assumptions about normal behaviour.

Personal and Social Skills

- learning to manage emotions and relationships confidently and sensitively;
- developing self-respect and empathy for others;
- learning to respond to prejudice and make choices with an absence of prejudice;
- developing an appreciation of the consequences of choices made;
- managing conflict;
- empower students with the skills to be able to avoid inappropriate pressures or advances (both as exploited or exploiter).

Knowledge and Understanding

- learning and understanding physical development at appropriate stages;
- understanding human sexuality, reproduction, sexual health, emotions and relationships;
- understanding what is meant by sexual consent and developing the confidence to discuss the issues related to this;
- learning about contraception and safe sex, including 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;
- identify risk taking behaviour including peer pressure.

Aims

The aim of SRE is to provide balanced factual information about human reproduction, together with consideration of the broader emotional, ethical, religious, and moral dimensions of sexual health. Our SRE programme aims to prepare students for an adult life in which they can:

- develop positive values and a moral framework that will guide their decisions, judgements and behaviour; have the confidence and self esteem to value themselves and others and respect for individual conscience and the skills to judge what kind of relationship they want.
- understand the consequences of their actions and behave responsibly within sexual and personal relationships.
- avoid being exploited or exploiting others or being pressured into unwanted or unprotected sex.
- communicate effectively by developing appropriate terminology for sex and relationship issues.
- develop awareness of their sexuality and understand human sexuality; challenge sexism and prejudice, and promote equality and diversity.
- understand the arguments for delaying sexual activity.
- understand the reasons for having protected sex.
- have sufficient information and skills to protect themselves and, where they have one, their partner from uninvited/unwanted conceptions and sexually transmitted infections including HIV.
- be aware of sources of help and acquire the skills and confidence to access confidential health advice, support and treatment if necessary.
- know how the law applies to sexual relationships.

Organisation and Content of Sex and Relationship Education

The Roundhill Academy specifically delivers Sex and Relationship Education through its PD Programme, RE and Science lessons. All students in years 7-11 have access to the school nurse where they can use the weekly drop in service in school or access the range of services, information and guidance available through the school nurse service.

Much of the Sex and Relationship Education at the school takes place within PD lessons during Year 9 and in Year 10 students participate in sex and healthy relationships day. Teachers generally deliver the PD Curriculum with support from professionals where appropriate. SRE lessons are set within the wider context of the PD curriculum and focus more on the emotional aspects of development and relationships, although the physical aspects of puberty and reproduction are also included. The Science National Curriculum is delivered by staff in the Science department. These lessons are more concerned with the physical aspects of development and reproduction, although the importance of relationships is not forgotten.

Our PD Programme and Science National Curriculum are taught in every year. Topics relating directly to SRE are: Managing Risk in Year 8, Healthy Relationships in Year 9 and Sexual Relationships in Year 10. Teachers who deliver these lessons have received Red Box training.

Any SRE lesson may consider questions or issues that some students will find sensitive. Before embarking on these lessons ground rules are established which prohibit inappropriate personal information being requested or disclosed by those taking part in the lesson. When students ask questions, we aim to answer them honestly, within the ground rules established at the start of the sessions. When it is felt that answering a specific question would involve information at a level inappropriate to the development of the rest of the students, the question may be dealt with individually at another time.

Assessment is carried out at the end of every module and involves Assessment for Learning strategies, a combination of teacher, self and peer assessment of knowledge and understanding, interpersonal skills, and attitudes.

Inclusion

Ethnic and Cultural Groups

We intend our policy to be sensitive to the needs of different ethnic groups. For some young people it is not culturally appropriate for them to be taught particular items in mixed groups. We will respond to parental requests and concerns. Parents are informed by letter of the SRE topic when it is delivered in Year 9; it is at this point that decisions over inclusion can be made.

Students with Special Needs

We will ensure that all young people receive sex and relationship education, and we will offer provision appropriate to the particular needs of all our students, taking specialist advice where necessary. We request the intervention of outside providers such as the school nurse service when this is deemed necessary.

Sexual Identity and Sexual Orientation

We aim to deal sensitively and honestly with issues of sexual orientation, answer appropriate questions and offer support. Young people, whatever their developing sexuality, need to feel that sex and relationship education is relevant to them.

Right of Withdrawal of Students from Sex and Relationship Education

Some parents prefer to take the responsibility for aspects of this element of education. They have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the sex and relationship education except for those parts included in the statutory National Curriculum (i.e. in Science lessons). We would make alternative arrangements in such cases. Parents are encouraged to discuss their decisions with staff at the earliest opportunity. Parents are welcome to review any SRE resources the school uses.

Confidentiality, Controversial and Sensitive Issues

Teachers cannot offer unconditional confidentiality. Teachers are not legally bound to inform parents or the Principal of any disclosure unless the Principal has

specifically requested them to do so. The school promotes a young person's right to confidentiality however safeguarding also remains a priority.

In a case where a teacher learns from an under 16 year old that they are having or contemplating sexual intercourse:

- The young person will be persuaded, wherever possible, to talk to parent/carer and if necessary to seek medical advice.
- Child protection issues will be considered, and referred if necessary to one of the DSL's responsible for Child Protection under the school's procedures.
- The young person will be properly counselled about all matters related to sexual activity including contraception by the school nurse and other staff who have received training and support through the LCC Safer Sex Project. In any case where child protection procedures are followed, the teacher will ensure that the young person understands that if confidentiality has to be broken, they will be informed first.
- In addition to this information and guidance, the School Nurse, under the Fraser guidelines, is permitted to issue a young person with condoms and carry out pregnancy tests when required. Consent from parents for this treatment is not legally necessary although the involvement of parents is encouraged.

Fraser guidelines state that "Any competent young person in the UK can consent to medical, surgical or nursing treatment, including contraception and sexual and reproductive health. They are said to be competent if they are capable of fully understanding the nature and possible consequences of the treatment."

Health professionals in school are bound by their codes of conduct in a one-to-one situation with an individual student, but in a classroom situation they must follow the school's confidentiality policy.

Monitoring and Evaluation of Sex and Relationship Education

It is the responsibility of the PD Coordinator to oversee and organise the monitoring and evaluation of PD, they are line managed and supported by the Head of Humanities and the Vice Principal. The PD programme is included within the Humanities Faculty for the purpose of departmental reviews, under which all departments undertake yearly. Self-evaluation reviews are also led by the Senior Leadership Team.

The Governors are responsible for overseeing, reviewing and organising the revision of the Sex and Relationship Education Policy.

Ofsted is required to evaluate and report on spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of students. This includes evaluating and commenting on the school's sex and relationship education policy, and on support and staff development, training and delivery.

Reviewed September 2018 Helen Blythe