

# **Hurworth School Maths and Computing College**

## **Sex & Relationship Education Policy**

**Accepted by:** Governing Body – January 2009

**Senior Leadership Team Lead Reviewer:** James Keating

**Review Cycle:** 3 Years

**Date for Review:** January 2012

### **Mission Statement**

Hurworth School Maths and Computing College believes that every young person is entitled to sex and relationship education as preparation for adult life. It is a key component to each pupil's personal, social, health and citizenship education and complements the statutory science education they receive. In planning our programme we aim to support parent/carers in helping their children to make the transition to adult life and we welcome discussion with them. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from any or all aspects of sex education other than those elements required by the National Curriculum Science order.

Effective Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) has three main elements; attitudes and values, personal and social skills and knowledge and understanding, we aim to cover all these elements through the following aims:

- To support young people through the many physical and emotional changes they will experience during their time in school
- To help them develop the skills and attitudes that will help them deal with the difficult decisions in their lives
- To empower them to make responsible and informed choices
- To help young people understand their own values and beliefs and to respect the values and beliefs of other people
- To prevent unintended teenage pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections
- To promote an understanding of the importance of respect, care and stability in relationships
- To help young people enjoy their sexuality, take care of their sexual health and understand their rights and responsibilities
- To develop young people's self esteem and skills to help them enjoy relationships that are based on respect and responsibility and are free from any abuse

### **Legal requirements/Recommendations**

#### **Section 241 of the Education Act 1993**

States that governors of secondary schools must provide sex education (including education about HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases) to all registered pupils.

## **Section 46 of the Education Act (No2) 1986**

Requires the LA, governing body and Head Teacher to 'take such steps as are reasonably practicable to secure that where sex education is given to any registered pupil at the school it is given in such a manner as to encourage those pupils to have due regard to moral considerations and the value of family life.

This policy relates to many other school policies (Confidentiality Policy, Child Protection Policy, Anti-Bullying Policy). We believe that SRE is not an isolated topic but is an implicit part of our whole school provision.

## **PSHCE Curriculum**

DCSF guidelines (2000) states that SRE should be part of the PSHCE framework and that SRE should be set within a broader base of self-esteem and responsibility for the consequences of one's actions and is required to provide as a minimum, information about Sexually Transmitted Infections, HIV and AIDS. At Hurworth School, SRE will be taught within the wider citizenship programme.

All tutors will be responsible for delivering this curriculum but support should be provided by outside agencies and each of the Heads of Year. The Citizenship Co-ordinator has responsibility for the Citizenship curriculum and the development of sex and relationships within PSHCE. She will also support teachers in the delivery of the programme. The DCSF provides guidance on teaching strategies for SRE including the setting of ground rules, distancing techniques, dealing with questions and discussion and reflections strategies.

The PSHCE schemes of work will;

- Teach about relationships, love and care and the responsibilities of parenthood as well as sex;
- focus on boys as much as girls;
- build self esteem;
- teach the taking on of responsibility and the consequences of one's actions in relation to sexual activity and parenthood;
- provide young people with information about different types of contraception, safe sex and how they can access local sources of further advice and treatment;
- use young people as peer educators, e.g. Teenage mothers and fathers;
- give young people a clear understanding of the arguments for delaying sexual activity and resisting pressure;
- link SRE with issues of peer pressure and other risk-taking behaviour, such as drugs, smoking and alcohol;
- ensure young people understand how the law applies to sexual relationships.

We hope to achieve the above in the following ways;

- Ensure that the schemes of work include meaningful discussions about feelings, relationships and values and move the focus away from the physical aspects of reproduction – which will be covered in science lessons.
- Ensure that lesson plans use a variety of teaching styles and activities that engage boys as well as girls. Teachers should use videos, group discussion and role play whenever possible. Worksheets should be used in moderation.
- Consider, through consultation with the School Council, if single sex grouping may occasionally be appropriate;
- Ensure that schemes of work are culturally appropriate and inclusive of all children. Consultation with ethnic minority parents will be a necessity;
- Ensure that SEN children are catered for within the SRE programme. Consultation with the SEN / Autism Coordinator will be necessary to plan differentiated work and ensure that students are not withdrawn from PSHCE lessons so that they can catch up on NC subjects.
- The delivery of the schemes must be done in a sensitive way so as to consider the needs of all pupils regardless of sexual orientation. Teachers should deal honestly and openly with sexual orientation answering questions and offering support but they should not be seen to be promoting sexual orientation. Teachers should also challenge homophobic bullying and consult with their Head of Year.

Resources and materials used during PSHCE lessons will appropriate and relevant to the age of the child. Materials will be available for parents to view and in the event, for example, of a video being shown which may cause offence; a letter warning will be issued.

## Sensitive Issues

Teachers should not deliver SRE lessons based on their own personal beliefs and attitudes and should follow the values outlined in this policy. The following sensitive issues should be dealt with as described below:

### Puberty

Outside agencies discuss issues such as menstruation and breast cancer awareness. A nurse speaks to year 7 girls about their physical development and in Yr 10 about 'Healthy Women'. Pupils also need to be made aware of places they can obtain sanitary protection and advice. (This is the School Office and female Head of Year)

### Contraception

It is hoped that, whenever possible, the school nurse will deliver this information. Pupils can access the School Nurse every Tuesday for advice on contraception. Pupils are also made aware of the clinics, surgeries they can attend to obtain contraception. Access to confidential information is also available for pupils on a school notice

board and the back of toilet doors and through the wider pastoral support systems in school.

## **Abortion**

This subject is dealt with, in depth, in RS lessons. If teachers wish to discuss this issue in a PSHE lesson, they must encourage pupils to consider the moral and personal dilemmas involved, enable them to know and understand about abortion, and develop the communication skills to discuss it with parents and health professionals. The religious conviction of pupils must be considered. However, in the event of disclosure about pregnancy, please refer to the Confidentiality Policy/ Child Protection Policy.

## **Safe Sex and STI's**

It is hoped that this will be delivered by the school nurse in connection with the use of contraception. It is written into the PSHCE schemes of work. Some training has been given to staff but in the event of a teacher not wishing to deliver this area, the Heads of Year should deliver the following;

- Help pupils to clarify their knowledge of HIV/AIDS and STI's. – including the risks, protection and all the facts.
- Teach assertiveness skills and how to negotiate safe sex.
- Enable pupils to become effective users of services that help prevent/treat STI's.

## **Parental rights to withdraw/absence of child during SRE lessons**

We aim to work in partnership with parents when planning and delivering SRE and the Policy will be available to all parents on request. We would therefore hope that no parent would feel the need to withdraw their child. However, parents do have the right to withdraw their child from all or part of SRE except for that provided within Science. In the event of withdrawal it is the responsibility of the school to ensure that SRE is provided by the parents. In this instance, the DCSF will offer a standard pack of information.

If a child is absent, it will be the responsibility of the tutors through negotiation with their Head of Year on ways to enable that child to access SRE. It is suggested that the Head of Year could work independently with such pupils during another tutorial session or information could be sent home.

## **Monitoring and evaluation / Action Plan**

The National Healthy School Standard and S&R Education (NHSS) introduced in October 1999, underlying principle is that effective S&R education is best achieved through a whole-school approach that involves parents, gives staff appropriate training and support and ensures that pupil's views are listened to.

This policy and the SRE programme of study should be monitored and reviewed regularly in conjunction with our pupils, teachers, parents and governors to ensure that it reflects their wishes and needs. It will be discussed with the school council to

ensure that it is appropriate to the age and maturity and needs of pupils and with all staff during a pastoral meeting

Staff training opportunities will be offered whenever the INSET training is provided by the LA. In the mean time, support will be offered to all staff through a multi agency approach.

Safe Zone (a local directory of confidential advice and services) is issued to all pupils in Years10 and 11 in conjunction with Darlington PCT.

A cycle of multi agency assistance has been compiled to assist staff with the signposting of advice and support in the event of a suspected pregnancy/ sexual activity disclosure.

## **Appendix A – SRE Letter to parents**

Dear Parent,

Section 241 of the Education Act 1993, states that governors of secondary schools must provide sex education (including education about HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases) to all registered pupils.

It is the belief of Hurworth Maths and Computing College that every young person is entitled to sex and relationship education (SRE) as preparation to adult life. It is a key component to pupils' personal, social, health and citizenship education (PSHCE) and complements the statutory science education they receive.

Sex education delivered through National Curriculum Science lessons will cover the practical aspects of sex, for example, fertilisation, reproduction and the physical and emotional changes that take place during adolescence. SRE delivered through the PSHCE programme, will aim to follow DCSF guidelines and focus on the three main elements of SRE that are; attitudes and values, personal and social skills and knowledge and understanding.

A full explanation of all of our aims, what will be included in the PSHCE curriculum and how it will be delivered, teaching strategies and involvement of outside agencies can be found in our SRE policy that is available to all parents, on request. This policy has been and will be reviewed every year in consultation with parents, pupils, staff and governors.

SRE guidelines for parents can also be found on the DCSF website

We aim to work in partnership with parents when planning and delivering SRE and we would hope that no parent would feel the need to withdraw their child. However, as a parent you have the right to withdraw your child from any or all aspects of SRE other than those elements required by the National Curriculum Science order.

If you do wish to remove your child, this must be discussed with the Deputy Head Teacher prior to the withdrawal. In this situation, the DCSF will offer a standard pack of information for such parents which will be issued by the school.

We also have a confidentiality policy that deals with the procedures all staff would follow in the event of a disclosure by you child. This was written in line with DCSF guidance and was also reviewed by parents and governors. A copy of this is also available on request.

If you have any queries or concerns regarding either policy, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Keating at school.