

The Charter School

Sex and Relationship Education Policy

The Charter School Goal

We work to enable all students to develop the knowledge, skills and character so that they can be happy in life, and be successful in higher education or the inspiring career pathway of their choice.

Introduction

All schools providing secondary education must provide sex education (including education about HIV and AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases). All schools should also teach human growth and reproduction as set out in the statutory national curriculum for science.

Principles

The Charter School is committed to providing the opportunity for pupils and students to:

- learn in a safe and supportive environment where diversities in relationships and in which all types of sexuality are respected
- consider emotional and moral issues collectively
- work in a safe environment to share thoughts on sex and relationships education

Purposes

The Charter School recognises that Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) is lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. Sex and Relationship Education :-

- is about the importance of stable and loving relationships including marriage for family life, and about respect, love and care
- provides pupils with factual knowledge and an understanding of the influences on young people, encouraging them to be aware of the options open to them and to take charge of decisions about their own behaviour
- encourages the development of personal and interpersonal skills, the awareness and respect of self and others and encourages reflection and responsibility.

Aims and objectives

The aim of a sex and relationship education policy is to clarify the provision of sex and relationship education to all pupils (including education about HIV and AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases) and the teaching of human growth and reproduction as set out in the national curriculum.

Our objective is to work to ensure that pupils will achieve a clear understanding of the arguments for delaying sexual activity and resisting pressure. We link sex and relationship education with issues of peer pressure and other risk-taking behaviour, such as sexting, drugs, smoking and alcohol, and to ensure that our pupils understand how the law applies to sexual relationships and especially the legal age of consent.

Guidelines

Our programme provides knowledge about the processes of reproduction and human growth as part of the National Curriculum in science. All pupils must follow this programme.

The Tutorial (pastoral) programme also deals with the nature of sexuality and relationships. We encourage the acquisition of skills and attitudes that allow pupils to manage their relationships in a responsible and healthy manner and provides them with foundations for potential parenting skills for later in life should individuals choose this. The programme is delivered within a moral framework. As well as knowledge and information, pupils are encouraged to consider the importance of the following values, which are derived from the schools' value system – The Charter Way.

Action plan

Sex education is carried out principally within the Science curriculum and Tutorial PSHEE programme according to current legislation. Materials and any external speakers are carefully chosen, appropriate to the needs and ages of our students and according to the national curriculum. Sex education is taught within the context of stable, loving relationships. We consider how students may be taught about safeguarding, including on-line, through teaching and learning opportunities. Parents are informed of the programme and are welcome to view materials used in sex education or to discuss further with the Year Leader. Parents are told of their right to withdraw their son or daughter from this programme. Alternative arrangements will be made for these students.

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We work to develop attitudes and values through:

- promoting respect, value, love and care of themselves and others including respect for individual and cultural differences and for LGBT community members
- developing understanding and promoting sensitivity towards the needs and views of others and modelling appropriate behaviours.
- discussing moral issues including concepts associated with right and wrong; encouraging responsibility for their own actions and promoting positive self-images.
- exploring responsibility to the school, their family and the wider community.

We work to develop personal and social skills through:

- learning how to share and co-operate with others.
- experiencing being part of a community within the class, the school and the wider community, enjoying the benefits, and learning to accept the responsibilities this brings.
- enabling pupils to express preferences, communicate needs, make decisions, choose options that other people act upon and respect.
- supporting pupils in learning to understand appropriate and inappropriate behaviours and manage their own behaviour and emotions.

- enabling pupils to make choices and deal with the consequences that these may bring.
- enabling pupils to make choices based on an understanding/acceptance of differences and absence of prejudice.
- developing self-respect and empathy for others.
- developing self-awareness and self-esteem.
- developing skills to manage potential conflict and upset.
- learning how to assert oneself appropriately and safeguarding to avoid abusive exploitation.
- realising the importance of ‘deferring’ or ‘delaying’ sexual experiences as young people, including in the contexts of unwanted school-age pregnancies, dangers of “sexting”, cyber-grooming, etc

We aim to develop knowledge and understanding through:

- developing body awareness and physical control.
- developing an understanding of their ability to influence the environment.
- developing a knowledge of gender, growth and development.
- learning when privacy is appropriate and how to protect one’s own privacy.
- promoting a positive attitude to body changes around puberty and developing the skills needed to cope with them.
- developing an understanding of physical feelings, including physiological responses to touch.
- developing an understanding of own and others’ sexuality, sex health, emotions and relationships.
- learning about healthy lifestyles.

As part of our sex education programme, issues of contraception, HIV/AIDS, sexuality, unwanted pregnancies and abortion will be addressed. Facts are presented in an objective and balanced way, with pupils being encouraged to consider their attitudes and values. Students are made aware of the differences between fact, opinion, and cultural and religious beliefs.

Our methods of teaching include presentations, small group workshops and visiting speakers, the use of worksheets, videos, on-line programmes and textbooks. Pupils in Year 9 also receive visits from the school nurse and team to learn about contraception and other SRE issues.

Staff are aware that effective sex and relationship education may lead to disclosure of a child protection issue and will use the school’s child protection policy to handle any such matter confidentially.

Monitoring and evaluation

It is the responsibility of the DHT to ensure that staff have had sufficient training to undertake this programme and that each tutor group is completing the programme. Pupil and parent surveys are used to evaluate the effectiveness of the programme from the pupils' and parents' points of view.

Note : parent/carers have the right to withdraw their child from the SRE part of the Tutorial programme and alternative arrangements will be made for their child's supervision. The request to withdraw must be made in writing to the Head Teacher. However: parents do not have the right to withdraw their child from the biological aspects of human growth & reproduction necessary in NC/ exam syllabus Science