

Roundwood Park School



Sex & Relationships Education Policy (summary)

Revised February 2016
(Students, Families and Community Committee)

Description of School

Roundwood Park School is a mixed comprehensive school of approximately 1200 students (boys and girls). Students come from all parts of Harpenden and many live in surrounding towns and villages. The local area is relatively affluent. However, a wide range of social backgrounds is represented in the school population. Very few students come from an ethnic minority background and few languages other than English are spoken at home. On entry the overall abilities of the students are above national norms and relatively few students have Educational Health Care Plans (EHCP).

Aims

- To help students understand biological facts, which will be presented in an objective, balanced and sensitive manner.
- To encourage students to appreciate the value of a stable family life, loving commitment to a partner and the responsibilities of parenthood. To also recognise that many people lead fulfilling lives as single people.
- To encourage students to recognise the physical, emotional and moral implications and risks of sexual behaviour.
- To help all boys and girls accept that both sexes must behave responsibly in sexual matters.
- To develop student self esteem, so that they are more likely to develop caring relationships and are less likely to exploit or be exploited by others.
- To help young people develop the skills, knowledge, understanding and confidence required to make informed choices about their lifestyle so as to promote good health in themselves and others.
- To inform young people about the health and welfare services available and how to use them.
- Our overall aim is to help young people understand themselves as individuals, their sexuality and their relationships with others by equipping them to participate in society as informed, competent, responsible and caring individuals.

Organisation of School Sex and Relationships Education

- Sex education within science will be taught by qualified science staff. The teaching of the six principal religions in Britain with regard to sexual behaviour will be addressed in PRE in Key Stage 3. In years 7 and 8, aspects of sex education regarding self esteem and peer pressure will be delivered within the PSHCE. In years 9, 10 and 11, sex education will be delivered within the PSHCE programme by selected staff. At 6th form level it is delivered in tutorial by tutors. Outside speakers will be used as and when appropriate.
- Classroom ground rules are set for staff and students to enable all to feel secure. These rules do not allow inappropriate personal questions to be asked and emphasise the right to

be listened to with respect. No student will be asked to do or say anything she/he does not feel comfortable about.

- Teaching will include the giving out of factual information, but the importance of open discussion and role play will be recognised.
- A variety of resources will be used as appropriate to the age of the student. The school will continue to choose resources which give a balanced view, especially for potentially controversial topics such as abortion and LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgender).
- It is necessary to be quite explicit in the teaching of some topics (such as contraception and the transmission of HIV) but this will be handled sensitively. Some students may ask explicit questions and if a response to the whole class does not seem appropriate, the question may be answered only to the individual or small group of students. Unless otherwise specified in the outline scheme of work, all lessons will be taught in mixed gender groups.
- All students are entitled to a programme of sex education. Parents may, however, request that their children are withdrawn from some areas. Withdrawal from the National Curriculum aspects of sex education is not permitted by law. Parents should also be aware that some aspects of sex education arise in subjects other than science (eg the study of population in the Geography National Curriculum). Questions which arise naturally in the classroom will be answered by subject staff.

Moral and Values Framework

Our moral and values framework has been drawn up with reference to government legislation and guidance which affirms the need to encourage students to have due regard to moral considerations and the value of family life.

Key elements of our framework.

- To emphasise the importance of marriage and loving committed partnerships as the ideal context for sexual activity.
- To recognise the nature and importance of stable relationships for family life and bringing up children, with particular reference to marriage.
- To consider the teaching of Christianity and the other principal religions represented in Britain with regard to family life and sexual behaviour.
- To accept the value of all people and the differences in sexual attitudes between cultures.
- To emphasise equality in relationships and responsibility.
- To help young people resist the pressure to become prematurely involved in sexual activity and to present choosing not to have sex as a positive option.
- To teach the current legislation relating to sexual behaviour
- To respond to the challenges that new technologies and trends pose

Specific Issues Statement

- Teachers will NOT advise individual students on contraception although certain general information will be presented which may include handling samples of contraceptive materials. If a teacher feels that it is appropriate for a student to receive some form of advice/further information on contraception or the student requests such information/advice, referral will be made to the School Nurse.
- Confidentiality within the classroom cannot always be guaranteed and on occasions it may be necessary for information to be brought to the attention of the relevant senior member of staff and, if appropriate, to the parents of the students. However, the School Nurse and School Counsellor work within a different set of guidelines and can therefore respect greater confidentiality.
- On occasions issues might arise within sex education classes which may cause the teacher to have some concerns about child sexual abuse. In such cases the LA guidelines will be followed (see School Child Protection Policy).
- Parents/guardians have the legal right to withdraw their child from all or part of the school's Sex Education Programme with the exception of National Curriculum Science. If parents wish to exercise this right, they should notify the school in writing of their request. Such a request should be made at the beginning of the appropriate year or as soon as possible thereafter so that alternative arrangements can be made.
- Any complaints regarding the Sex Education and Relationships Programme should be made in accordance with the Complaints Procedure for Parents as outlined on the school website.
- Health professionals and visitors will be involved in the delivery of certain parts of the programme. An appropriate member of staff will always be present during these times and will have agreed the content of the lesson with the visitor.

Dissemination of Policy and Working with Parents

- All parents of students at Roundwood Park School will receive a summary of the Sex and Relationships Education Policy.
- The parents of "casual entrants" will receive the summary once a place at the school has been confirmed. In the case of Secondary Transfer students, this will be issued together with other documentation during the summer term prior to transfer.
- A copy of the full policy statement will be available on request.
- If parents have concerns or questions relating to the policy, they are invited to address them direct to the school.

Procedures for Policy Monitoring and Evaluation

The policy will be monitored regularly by the PSHCE Subject Leader and the PSHCE Line Manager, and formally reviewed by the Governing Body every three years.

The following criteria will be used in monitoring the success of the policy:

- verbal feedback from students at the end of work units
- the quality of students' written and oral work
- core skills assessments made by teaching staff for reports.
- feedback from staff via online surveys.

- the number of students withdrawn from sex education and the reasons for withdrawal
- number of parental complaints about the sex education programme
- student self-assessment

NB. A list of resources used is available to parents/guardians on request.

P. Cunningham
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