

Roundwood Park School



Relationships & Sex Education Policy

Revised May 2019
(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 recognise healthy and unhealthy behaviours within a relationship.
- 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 Relationships and Sex 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 relationships and sex education regarding self-esteem and peer pressure will be delivered within the PSHCE programme. In years 9, 10 and 11, Relationships and Sex Education will be delivered within the PSHCE programme by school staff as well as visiting professionals. At 6th form level it is delivered in tutorial time 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 for all 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, non-binary).
- 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 relationships and sex education. Parents may, however, request that their children are withdrawn from some areas of the programme. 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 (e.g. 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 loving committed partnerships and marriage 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

Relationships and Sex Education Scheme of Work (Outline)

YEAR 7

National Curriculum Science

- Basic facts of puberty
- secondary sexual characteristics
- anatomy
- sexual intercourse
- pregnancy, birth
- No notes are given on Contraceptives or HIV. Questions answered if asked

PSHCE

- Friendships, assertiveness, awareness of peer group pressure

YEAR 8

- As part of a Drugs Education Morning, pupils take part in a classroom session about resisting peer pressure and also a workshop exploring peer pressure. This is facilitated by a visiting theatre company
- Topics on 'Risk' and 'Making Decisions,' includes a lesson on cyber bullying and "sexting"

YEAR 9

National Curriculum Science

Will build on basic facts from Yr 7 by:

- Highlighting adaptations of sex cells, i.e., relating structure/shape of cells to function or fertilisation
- Highlight role of hormones and their importance to menstrual cycle, pregnancy etc.
- Discuss/analyse food charts to outline healthy diet for pregnant mother
- Discuss/analyse figures to show dangers of smoking/drugs during pregnancy

Health Education (part of PSHCE as a half a term unit)

- Implications of being in a sexual relationship (including LGBT), making sexual health decisions
- Sexually Transmitted Diseases/Infections (including HIV/AIDS). Where to find advice/help
- Contraception – Recognise common methods and gain basic understanding of how they work. Advantages and disadvantages
- Pornography - understanding the implications of early exposure as well as overexposure
- Child Sexual Exploitation - highlighting awareness and potential for grooming of young people

YEAR 10

Health Education (part of PSHCE – run as a ‘collapsed timetable’ activity day, with input from a visiting theatre company alongside other classroom-based activities):

- Alcohol/Drugs education with link to unsafe sex. Where to find advice/help
- Pregnancy
- Sexually Transmitted Disease
- Contraception
- Abortions
 - Legal aspects
 - Moral issues
- Attitudes towards sexuality
 - Origins of prejudice
 - To foster a greater degree of tolerance

PRE

- Religion and Human Relationships

YEAR 11

Health Education (part of PSHCE run either in lessons or as a collapsed timetable activity day)

- Communication and relationships
- Social media/staying safe on-line
- Sexting
- Teenage pregnancy
- Mental health and youth suicide
- Young drivers & drink driving
- Knife crime
- Gambling
- Parenting/Adoption/Fostering

YEARS 12/13

Through the tutorial system occasional discussions, debates and speakers tackle issues of concern to this age group. We are not prescriptive at this level as to the topics covered, the Head of Sixth Form responds to the needs of the students and issues of national interest. Suitable topics could be, for example, consent, gene therapy, grooming, medical ethics and abortion. The Sixth Form is currently looking at expanding the scope of sexual health provision.

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, a referral will be made initially to a member of the school’s safeguarding team, potentially leading to a referral to either the school nurse or GP.
- 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 Relationships and Sex Education 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 be signposted towards the Relationships and Sex Education Policy.
- The parents of in-year admissions will be signposted once a place at the school has been confirmed.
- In the case of Secondary Transfer students, parents will be signposted to this information when provided with other documentation during the summer term prior to transfer.
- A printed 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 Board every two 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 relationship and sex education programme
- student self-assessment

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

P. Cunningham
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