

SEX & RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION (SRE) POLICY

Policy Statement

SRE is lifelong learning process of acquiring information, developing skills and forming positive beliefs and attitudes about sex, sexuality, relationships and feelings (Sex Education Forum 1999).

Effective SRE can make a significant contribution to the development of the personal skills needed by pupils if they are to establish and maintain relationships. It also enables young people to make responsible and informed decisions about their health and well-being.

The 1996 Education Act consolidates all relevant previous legislation and states that all secondary schools are required to provide an SRE programme that includes (as a minimum) information about sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS. The sex education elements contained in the National Curriculum Science Orders are also mandatory. All schools must provide an up to date policy that describes the content and organisation of SRE provided outside the National Curriculum Science Order. The DfEE Sex and Relationship Education Guidance (2000) supports this legislation and suggests that schools should set sex education within a broader base of self-esteem and responsibility for the consequences of one's actions

Aims of SRE programme

It is our aim for sex education at this college

- 1) to provide students with a sound factual knowledge of the details outlined in the content section of this policy.
- 2) to encourage exploration of values and moral issues, consideration of sexuality and personal relationships and the development of communication and decision-making skills.
- 3) to foster self-esteem, self-awareness, a sense of moral responsibility and the skills to avoid and resist unwanted sexual experience.

Moral and Values Framework

The SRE programme at Alec Hunter Humanities College reflects the college's ethos and demonstrates and encourages the following values:

- Respect for self;
- Respect for others;
- Responsibility for their own actions;
- Responsibility for their family, friends, schools and wider community.

This is outlined in our Code of Conduct – **Be Safe, Be Kind, Be responsible.**

Equal Opportunities Statement

The college is committed to the provision of SRE to all of its pupils. Our programme aims to respond to the diversity of children's cultures, faiths and family backgrounds. Equal time and provision is allocated for all groups but there may be occasions where pupils with Special Educational Needs are given extra support from SEN staff.

Content

In key stage 3 pupils learn how good relationships can promote mental well-being, how to manage their feelings positively and how to manage changing relationships. They learn the law relating to sexual behaviour, how to develop skills of assertiveness in order to resist peer pressure and stereotyping, sources of advice & support and when and where to get help, through the PSHE programme delivered by a small team of staff in each year group.

Students are taught in mixed ability teaching groups.

The responsibility for the programme is held by the PSHE coordinator (Mrs.Artus) but regular SMT line management meetings are held to discuss content.

The biological aspects of human sexual behaviour are covered as part of the Year 7 Science curriculum. This is delivered, in sets, by the Science teacher in Year 7.

In PSHE lessons, ground rules are established for group activities/discussion when dealing with sensitive issues.

Controversial and Sensitive Issues

Staff are aware that views around SRE related issues are varied. However, while personal views are respected, all SRE issues are taught without bias. Topics are presented using a variety of views and beliefs so that pupils are able to form their own, informed opinions but also respect others that may have a different opinion.

Advice to Individual Students

In accordance with the advice in the Circular 5/94 teachers in this School do not give individual advice on contraception and other aspects of sexual behaviour. In circumstances where a pupil is considered at some risk the teacher would seek advice from the Headteacher.

However, so that individual students' needs are met in terms of accurate advice which teachers cannot give, the school nurse is willing to provide this. Appointments can be arranged through the Pastoral Managers or via the drop in sessions.

Teachers are also able to offer information to students on how they can access appropriate health/counselling services.

Where a student is considered to be at risk of any type of abuse the school follows the L.A. procedures for Child Protection.

The designated person for Child Protection in Bernie Large – Deputy Head teacher, Student Well-Being

We provide a broad and balanced sex education programme for all students including those with special educational needs and we ensure full entitlement and access.

Dealing with Questions

Both formal and informal SRE arising from pupils' questions are answered according to the age and maturity of the pupil concerned. Questions do not have to be answered directly, and can be addressed individually later. The school believes that individual teachers must use their skill and discretion in this area and refer to the Designated Person for Child Protection if they are concerned.

Sexual Identity and Sexual Orientation

Alec Hunter Humanities College believes that SRE should meet the needs of all pupils regardless of their developing sexuality and be able to deal honestly and sensitively with sexual orientation, answer appropriate questions and offer support. Homophobic bullying is dealt with strongly yet sensitively. The school liaises with parents on this issue to reassure them of the content and context. The college takes part in the annual local authority, Being safe project, which deals with these issues.

Informing Parents

The views of parents are central to SRE. We will inform all parents, via the Lower School booklet, of the content of the course. Parents/Carers have the right to withdraw their child(ren) from all or part of the sex and relationships education provided at school except for those parts included in statutory National Curriculum.

Any parent requiring further information should contact the PSHE coordinator- Mrs. Artus or Mrs. Richards- Key Stage 3 Director..