

Legislative Background

- Sex and relationships education briefing paper, December 2016
- The Education Act (1996) makes sex education (including education about HIV, AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases) a compulsory subject in all maintained secondary schools.
- Section 405 of the same Act gives parents the right to withdraw their children from any or all parts of the School's programme of sex education, other than those elements which are required by the National Curriculum Science order.
- The broader aspects of sex education (over and beyond human reproduction) do not appear in National Curriculum Science.
- The DfE also published guidance in 2000 relating to sex education.

Aims of relationship and sex education

- To present the facts in an objective, balanced and sensitive manner.
- To promote responsible behaviour and encourage students to have regard for moral considerations and the value of family life.
- To promote an awareness of the law on sexual behaviour.
- To cultivate the ability to make informed decisions and combat abuse and exploitation.
- To take account of students' maturity and development needs. (This means a changing emphasis from factual material for younger students to more moral and personal issues at a later stage).
- To develop the concepts of self-esteem, self-restraint, dignity and respect for themselves and others, including issues around consent.

The DfE guidance states that at secondary school, relationship and sex education should prepare young people for an adult life in which they can:

- develop positive values and a moral framework that will guide their decisions, judgements and behaviour
- be aware of their sexuality and understand human sexuality
- understand the arguments for delaying sexual activity
- understand the reasons for having protected sex
- understand the consequences of their actions and behave responsibly within sexual relationships
- have the confidence and self-esteem to value themselves and others and respect for individual conscience and the skills to judge what kind of relationships they want
- communicate effectively
- have sufficient information and skills to protect themselves and, where they have one, their partner from unintended/unwanted conceptions, and sexually transmitted infections including HIV
- avoid being exploited or exploiting others
- avoid being pressured into unwanted or unprotected sex
- access confidential sexual health advice, support and if necessary treatment and know how the law applies to sexual relationships



Sex and Relationship Education Policy

The Evolution and Vocational Centre seek to meet these requirements in offering relationship and sex education.

Knowledge and understanding

To help in the acquisition and understanding of knowledge about a range of matters associated with sex and sexuality. To give young people appropriate terminology so that they can discuss issues without embarrassment or fear of ridicule.

Attitudes

To help young people to develop caring and responsible attitudes towards matters associated with sexual activity. To help young people to understand themselves and their development as responsible people. To encourage the development of a personal moral code and to promote self-confidence and self-esteem.

Skills

To help develop skills for decision making, communicating, personal relationships and coping strategies, both for the present and for adult life and parenthood. These skills will include negotiating, managing feelings, dealing with stress and prejudice and developing assertiveness. Our content model which reflects these objectives and follows curriculum guidelines is summarised as follows.

Implementation

The content of the PSHE curriculum at the Evolution and Vocational Centre will provide opportunities for students to explore relationships in their widest sense. Sex education for many youngsters at the Evolution and/or Vocational Centre is an extremely sensitive subject. For this reason, it is our intention to bring in outside specialists to deliver sex education. This allows students to have open and honest conversations without the effect of any previous or ongoing working relationship. Young people tend to discuss more openly with adults who are specialists and who come in for one purpose. Personal or appropriate sexually explicit discussions with adults who are seen every day can be uncomfortable. It also ensures that the most up to date information is passed onto students. All students will be offered sex education during each academic year.

In addition, much of the curriculum in other subject areas makes a contribution to aspects of sex education. Other main curriculum areas to contribute to the programme are Science, English, PSHE and Religious Education.

The detailed content for all those areas mentioned above are available in the appropriate work schemes.

Confidentiality

Students have the right to confidentiality unless the teacher feels this is putting the student at risk. All such issues will then be taken to the Child Protection Lead.

Right of Withdrawal

Parents who wish to exercise the right to withdraw their children from any or all parts of the school's Sex Education Programme, must contact the school by letter. The Head teacher may then wish to discuss the matter with the parents so that any misunderstandings about the nature of sex education provided by the school may be resolved. Parents do not, however, need to give reasons for their withdrawal.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Sex and Relationship Education Policy

Feedback forms/feedback discussions to be completed by young people following sessions with outside specialists.

Reviewed March 2018