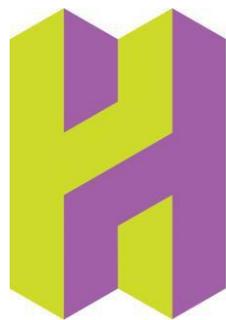


Harborne Academy

Sex and Relationships Policy



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Policy Owner: Governing Body

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Harborne Academy Sex and Relationships Policy

What Is Sex and Relationship Education?

Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) is lifelong learning about physical, sexual, moral and emotional development. It involves acquiring knowledge and information, developing skills and forming positive beliefs, values and attitudes. It is about the understanding of the importance of stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care, for family life.

Principles and Values

- Be an integral part of the lifelong learning process, beginning in early childhood and continue into adult life
- Be an entitlement for all young people
- Be set within the wider school context and supports family commitment and love, respect and affection, knowledge and openness. SRE should acknowledge that family is a broad concept and not just one model. It includes a variety of types of family structure, and acceptance of different approaches should be recognised
- Encourage students and teachers to share and respect each other's views. Students should be aware of different approaches to sexual orientation and family structures without prejudice
- Generate an atmosphere where questions and discussion on sexual matters can take place without any stigma or embarrassment
- Recognise that parents are the key people in teaching their children about sex, relationships and growing up. We aim to work in partnership with parents and students, consulting them about the content of programmes where apt
- Recognise that the wider community has much to offer and we aim to work in partnership with health professionals, social workers, peer educators and other mentors or advisers

Sex and Relationship Education at Harborne Academy has three main components:

Attitudes and Values

- learning the importance of values, individual conscience and moral choices
- learning the value of family life, stable and loving relationships, and marriage
- learning about the nurture of children
- learning the value of respect, love and care
- exploring, considering and understanding moral dilemmas
- developing critical thinking as part of decision-making
- challenging myths, misconceptions and false assumptions about normal behaviour

Personal and Social Skills

- learning to manage emotions and relationships confidently and sensitively
- developing self-respect and empathy for others
- learning to make choices with an absence of prejudice;
- developing an appreciation of the consequences of choices made;
- managing conflict;
- empower students with the skills to be able to avoid inappropriate pressures or advances (both as exploited or exploiter)

Knowledge and Understanding

- learning and understanding physical development at appropriate stages
- understanding human sexuality, reproduction, sexual health, emotions and relationships
- learning about contraception and the range of local and national sexual health advice, contraception and support services
- learning the reasons for delaying sexual activity, and the benefits to be gained from such delay
- the avoidance of unplanned pregnancy

Aims of the SRE Policy

The aim of SRE is to provide balanced factual information about human reproduction, together with consideration of the broader emotional, ethical, moral, and religious dimensions of sexual health. Our SRE programme aims to prepare students for an adult life in which they can:

- develop positive values and a moral framework that will guide their decisions, judgements and behaviour; have the confidence and self-esteem to value themselves and others and respect for individual conscience and the skills to judge what kind of relationship they want
- understand the consequences of their actions and behave responsibly within sexual and pastoral relationships
- avoid being exploited or exploiting others or being pressured into unwanted or unprotected sex
- communicate effectively by developing appropriate terminology for sex and relationship issues
- develop awareness of their sexuality and understand human sexuality; challenge sexism and prejudice, and promote equality and diversity
- understand the arguments for delaying sexual activity
- understand the reasons for having protected (safe) sex
- have sufficient information and skills to protect themselves and, where they have one, their partner from uninvited/unwanted conceptions and sexually transmitted infections including HIV

- be aware of sources of help and acquire the skills and confidence to access confidential health advice, support and treatment if necessary
- know how the law applies to sexual relationships

This policy has been updated to be in line with the statutory guidance “Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education”. It has taken into account the Equality Act 2010 and other statutory policies such as “Keeping Children Safe in Education 2018”. SRE and PSHE are regularly updated and evaluated as part of our curriculum review. External speakers sign our External visitor Guidance and are monitored during their visits. We evaluate each session in order to improve our programme of delivery.

Organisation and Content of Sex and Relationship Education

Harborne Academy delivers Sex and Relationship Education through its PSHE Programme, RE and science lessons at KS3 and KS4.

Much of the Sex and Relationship Education at Harborne Academy takes place within PSHE lessons. While much of PSHE is taught by tutors with support from professionals we endeavour to use Umbrella (NHS) with the teaching of certain aspects of the curriculum (contraception, healthy relationships and STIs). We also use theatre groups such as Loud Mouth to support with delivery of the SRE curriculum.

SRE lessons are set within the wider context of the PSHE curriculum and focus more on the emotional aspects of development and relationships, although the physical aspects of puberty and reproduction are also included.

The Science National Curriculum is delivered by the Science Department. These lessons are more concerned with the physical aspects of development and reproduction. The Health and Social Care curriculum also delivers growth, development and life spans in humans.

The RE curriculum is delivered by an RE specialist. RE lessons focus on the social aspect of SRE including, for example, the role and function of marriage within different religious groups. Matters such as child-rearing and sexuality are considered as well.

Any SRE lesson may consider questions or issues that some students will find sensitive. Before embarking on these lessons ground rules are established which prohibit inappropriate personal information being requested or disclosed by those taking part in the lesson. When students ask questions, we aim to answer them honestly, within the ground rules established at the start of the sessions. When it is felt that answering a specific question would involve information at a level inappropriate to the development of the rest of the students, the question may be dealt with individually at another time.

Inclusion

As stated in the statutory guidance (draft published Feb 2019) as an Academy we endeavour to be “alive to issues such as everyday sexism, misogyny, homophobia and gender stereotypes and take positive action to build a culture where these are not tolerated, and any occurrences are identified and tackled. Staff have an important role to play in modelling positive behaviours. School pastoral and behaviour policies should support all pupils.” The Culture for Learning Policy was updated in 2018 to ensure that homophobic and sexual bullying were mentioned explicitly. Staff received training on peer on peer abuse and how to tackle HBT bullying during INSET and CPD sessions. This training is on-going.

Ethnic and Cultural Groups

We intend our policy to be sensitive to the needs of different ethnic groups and we will respond to parental and/or student queries in order to allay any concerns that may exist about the SRE curriculum.

Students with Special Needs

We will ensure that all young people receive sex and relationship education, and we will offer provision appropriate to the particular needs of all our students, taking specialist advice where necessary.

Sexual Identity and Sexual Orientation

We aim to deal sensitively and honestly with issues of sexual orientation, answer appropriate questions and offer support. Young people, whatever their developing sexuality need to feel that sex and relationship education is relevant to them. **We are a Stonewall champion school and our staff are trained to support the needs of LGBTQ students.**

Right of Withdrawal of Students from Sex Education

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the sex education programme except for those parts included in the statutory National Curriculum (ie, the study of human growth and reproduction in science lessons). As an Academy we would discuss with parents the benefits of receiving this important education and any detrimental effects that withdrawal might have on the child. This could include any social and emotional effects of being excluded, as well as the likelihood of the child hearing their peers' version of what was said in the classes, rather than what was directly said by the teacher. However if the parents' choose to withdraw their child we would make alternative arrangements for students where they will be given a meaningful alternative.

Parents are encouraged to discuss their decisions with staff at the earliest opportunity. Parents are welcome to review any SRE resources the school uses. There is no right to withdraw from Relationships Education or Health Education.

Confidentiality, Controversial and Sensitive Issues

For guidance on the teaching of controversial and sensitive issues, please refer to the section headed Organisation and Content of Sex and Relationship Education elsewhere in this document.

Teachers cannot offer unconditional confidentiality and this should never be offered to students.

In a case where a teacher learns from a student under the age of consent that they are having or contemplating sexual intercourse:

- the young person will be persuaded, wherever possible, to talk to their parents and if necessary to seek medical advice
- safeguarding issues will be considered, and referred if necessary to the safeguarding team responsible for Child Protection under the school's procedures
- the young person will be properly counselled about contraception, including precise information about where young people can access contraception and advice services

In any case where child protection procedures are followed, the teacher will ensure that the young person understands the circumstances where confidentiality can be broken.

Health professionals in school are bound by their codes of conduct in one-to-one situations with students, but in a classroom situation they must follow the school's confidentiality policy.

Monitoring and Evaluation of Sex and Relationship Education

It is the responsibility of the Progress Leaders and the Assistant Head Pastoral to oversee and organise the monitoring and evaluation of PSHE, in the context of overall school policies for monitoring the quality of teaching and learning. The PSHE programme will undertake self-evaluation and monitoring through the usual school cycle.

The Governors and Leadership Team are responsible for overseeing, reviewing and organising the revision of the Sex and Relationship Education Policy.

Ofsted is required to evaluate and report on spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of students. This includes evaluating and commenting on the school's sex and relationship education policy, and on support and staff development, training and delivery.