

# Fullbrook Sex and Relationships Education Policy



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## **Policy Development and Consultation**

This policy has been developed in consultation with representatives of:

- Fullbrook Senior Leadership Team
- Fullbrook Governing Body
- Staff responsible for Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) issues
- Other teaching staff
- Students
- Parents and carers
- Outside agencies (Eikon and Options)

The Principal takes overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation in the long term. On a daily basis implementation is the responsibility of the curriculum leader for the citizenship programme.

This policy should be used in conjunction with Fullbrook's policies for Behaviour (The Fullbrook Way) and Child Protection.

This policy will be reviewed and evaluated by the Senior Leadership Team and ratified by governors annually and in the light of any new government regulations, guidelines or new findings arising from educational research.

Policy agreed:

Policy review date:

Version 3

## **Introduction**

Sex education forms part of a wider programme of health education, which is taught within the Citizenship programme. Aspects of sexual development and behaviour are taught in the context of moral considerations, and with regard to the values of family life.

As in all other aspects of education, there should be a partnership between home and school in helping students to develop the knowledge, attitudes and behaviour associated with sex and relationships education (SRE). SRE is more than just acquiring knowledge, it incorporates the development of attitudes and values which will lead to behaviour based on responsible decision making. The school aims to promote the partnership with parents in this area through parent information evenings.

All maintained secondary schools are required to provide sex education (including information about HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases) to all students. Only the biological aspects of sex education are taught as part of National Curriculum Science. At Fullbrook the Citizenship Programme includes a Sex and Relationships Education Programme.

## **Parents rights**

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from any teaching of sex education with the exception of National Curriculum Science. We believe that sex education is important for all students and we would encourage parents to discuss any concerns with the school before seeking to exercise their right to withdraw their child. Parents who wish to exercise this right should contact the Principal.

Students who are withdrawn from the sex education programme shall be provided with alternative work by their Citizenship teachers: such work will be relevant to the programme's overall aims.

Teaching resources are available for parents to view on request and opportunities will be provided for parents to see these materials when they are displayed at open evenings. More details regarding the specific content of the programme are available by request to the School.

Occasionally during a lesson which is not part of the Citizenship programme, issues relating to sexual conduct may arise from the subject matter being taught. Discussion arising on such an occasion will reflect the values endorsed in the school's policy statement but would not constitute 'sex education' as defined in law.

## **Aims of Sex and Relationships Education**

Aims of the sex and relationships education programme are:

- To increase knowledge and understanding and rectify any misunderstandings based on inaccurate information gained from other sources
- To facilitate communication on sexual matters though providing students with appropriate terminology so that they can discuss matters properly and know what is and is not acceptable.
- To support the development of caring and responsible attitudes to matters associated with sexual activity and promote responsible behaviour.
- To encourage the development (take out establishment and replace with development of a personal moral code and to promote self-confidence and self-esteem
- To develop the ability to make informed decisions about personal values within a moral framework by raising their awareness of individual's and society's attitudes and values.
- To provide the opportunity to explore, question and reflect to help students understand themselves and their development as responsible people.
- To raise awareness so students can recognise exploitation and know how to seek appropriate help and support.

## **Content of the Sex and Relationships Education Programme**

Sex and relationships education will be taught as a part of the Citizenship programme. The areas to be covered are the sexual behaviour aspects of human relationships, contraception and sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV and AIDS. The programme will also seek to encourage an exploration of personal, social and moral considerations and will seek to equip students with the skills of resisting unwanted pressure.

To comply with government requirements, sex education in Science will be restricted to the biological aspects of sexual behaviour.

In other subject areas opportunities for considering broader emotional and ethical dimensions to sexual attitudes may well arise and staff will endeavour to manage these in line with policy on SRE .

In the context of sexual intimacy and safer sex, all students will be given information about all forms of contraception available in order that they can make an informed choice. Questions will be answered accurately and honestly. If students need further personal advice any of the following may be used as appropriate to the needs of the student:

- Referral to Eikon (Eikon is a Youth Charity that aims to provide support for teenagers. There is a connexion funded full time youth worker available through Eikon, onsite at Fullbrook)
- Provided with help sheets where they will find information about appropriate support

- Offered small group work run in school by Options (Options is a local charity focussed on supporting teenagers making choices about sex, relationships and pregnancy)  
The programme will present factors in an objective and balanced manner so that students can:
  - Comprehend the range of sexual attitudes and behaviour in present day society
  - Know what is and what is not legal
  - Make informed, reasoned and responsible decisions about the personal values they will adopt both while they are at school and in adulthood
  - Emphasise the skills, attitudes and insights that young people need in order to form loving and caring relationships
  - Foster self-esteem, self-awareness and the skills of assertiveness that will enable them to resist and avoid unwelcome peer or social pressures.

### **Dealing with Sensitive Issues**

Sex and relationships education will include exploration of values and beliefs. It will, therefore, be challenging for students, their families and teachers. Young people will be presented with a balanced range of viewpoints on an issue so that they can assess the evidence and explore ideas without distortion.

Teaching about the physical aspects of sexual behaviour will be set within a clear moral framework in which students are encouraged to consider the importance of self-restraint, dignity and respect for themselves and others, and helped to recognise the physical, emotional and moral risks of casual and promiscuous behaviour. Students should appreciate the benefits of a stable relationship and the responsibilities of parenthood.

### **Method of Learning**

Sex and relationships education is taught as part of the wider Citizenship programme. Students are taught mixed ability and mixed gender learning groups.

Sex and Relationships Education is taught by a group of teachers in the 'Be Healthy' part of the Citizenship programme. All staff in this group have had specific training concerning the delivery of Sex and Relationships Education.

A variety of teaching strategies are used to give students the opportunity to discuss and explore issues in a structured environment so that, with the benefit of advice and guidance, they can make their own informed decisions. A questions box is available to student in all Sex and Relationships Educations lessons and a time in each lesson given for students to write questions. All slips of paper are put in the box and questions are then pulled and answered thus keeping the questioner anonymous.

Outside speakers and visitors are sometimes used to complement the programme, they are provided with a copy of this Fullbrook Sex and Relationships Education Policy and asked to adhere to this and statutory requirements. Where external speakers are used they will always be accompanied by a trained member of the 'Be Healthy' teaching team.

## **Confidentiality**

Students will be made aware that some information cannot be held confidential since there are some issues e.g. child protection or unplanned pregnancy, which may have to be referred to other people. At the same time, students will be offered sensitive and appropriate support.

Where there is evidence or suspicion of abuse, the school's Child Protection Policy will be followed.

In accordance with the DCSF Sex and Relationships Guidance (116/2000) in cases where students under 16 make disclosures the following will apply:

- Wherever possible, the student is persuaded to talk to their parent or carer;
- The student will be adequately counselled by their tutor, head of learning or Eikon as appropriate and informed about contraception, including precise information about where young people can access contraception and advice services.
- Any child protection issues are addressed using the School's Child Protection Policy and Procedures. When the member of staff who receives the information believes there is a child protection issue to be addressed, they should refer the case to a designated teacher for child protection.

**It will be made clear to the pupil that confidentiality cannot be guaranteed but disclosure to appropriate bodies will be made in the best interests of the student. The member of staff should ensure that the pupil understands why disclosure is required and that if confidentiality has to be broken they will be informed first.**

## **Staff training**

We provide training for those staff who are involved in the sex education programme in order to provide them with the requisite skills and knowledge. We shall also ensure that colleagues who are engaged in the programme are kept up-to-date with DCSF and Surrey County Council regulations and guidelines.

## **Monitoring the implementation of the policy**

Evaluation of the programme's effectiveness is conducted on the basis of:

- Student evaluation sheet completed by every student on the citizenship programme at the end of each unit of work and analysed by the senior leader responsible for ECM in the school. The programme is then changed annually based on this feedback and
- Staff feedback to the Citizenship Programme leader at the end of every session taught using a feedback sheet. This is also used to inform curriculum planning each year
- Monitoring will be reported to the governing body to ensure that policy is delivered as stated.

The policy is reviewed by governors annually.