

The New School at West Heath

Policy on Sex and Relationships Education (with appendices in development)

Introduction

The New School at West Heath believes that sex education is a crucial part of preparing students for their lives now and in the future as adults and parents. A number of our students are already sexually active when they come to us. Some of our students have been sexually abused and others have inappropriate or misinformed attitudes towards sex. All students can benefit from an understanding of the physiology and mechanisms of human reproduction and the emotional, social, health, and moral issues surrounding it.

Aims & Objectives

- To meet National Curriculum and statutory regulations covering the teaching of sex education.
- To provide a programme of progressive and differentiated learning about the physiology and mechanisms of human reproduction within a context which allows students to understand the complex moral, emotional, health, and social issues surrounding it.
- To help students cultivate the **personal and social skills** necessary for the development of appropriate healthy relationships, making informed choices, managing conflicts, and recognising and avoiding abuse.
- To provide students with current and accurate information to equip them with the necessary **knowledge and understanding** about sex and sexuality, sexually transmitted diseases and prevention, contraception, and pregnancy, and birth.
- To encourage students to explore their own **attitudes and values** and opinions on moral issues, to develop their personal relationship and decision-making skills, and to foster self-awareness, self-esteem, and a sense of moral responsibility in order to avoid and resist inappropriate behaviour and attitudes.

Strategies

Parents of all new students sign a consent form, giving their permission for the student to participate in sex education lessons. (The New School at West Heath recognises a parent's right to refuse permission and in such a case, the student will be excused from lessons and set alternative work, except when sex education forms part of the National Curriculum. A summary statement of the sex education policy appears in The New School at West Heath prospectus that is given to parents of all prospective students.)

The School implements the guidance contained in circular 0116/2000. Details of the elements (attitudes & values, personal and social skills, knowledge and understanding) together with other considerations to be addressed are provided in appendix 1 attached to this policy. Students who follow the optional Child Development GCSE course in KS4 have additional opportunities to pursue many of the relevant issues in greater depth.

The values of marriage and family life are discussed and encouraged. Alternative lifestyles are acknowledged but not promoted.

Any student with a personal problem involving relationships whether of a sexual or other nature is listened to sympathetically and is usually referred to the Principal. Except when issues of child protection are involved (see Child Protection Policy), conversations with students are kept confidential and comprise a full discussion of the moral, social, emotional, and health issues. Students are strongly encouraged to seek parental/professional medical advice.

In cases where students request assistance from staff to make appointments with health professionals, their right to confidentiality will be respected. However, good practice would feature contact with their parent or carer to advise them of such a request, the reason why and the outcome. In cases where a mature and responsible student expressly requests that their parents or carers are not informed, staff will advise the student of the school's responsibility to notify parents or carers that an appointment has been made but that the reason will not be divulged. Staff in any doubt about the application of this policy should discuss the issue with their line manager forthwith.

Staffing & Resources

The Head of Education has primary responsibility for the setting, implementing, and monitoring of policy.

Science, PSHE, Humanities and PSHE teachers have responsibility for planning and co-ordinating the curriculum and schemes of work to ensure all National Curriculum and other statutory requirements are met.

All members of staff have responsibility for ensuring adherence to the principles and practices of this policy in their classroom and pastoral work.

There are no specifically allocated financial resources. Subject teachers are expected to meet expenses from their departmental budgets.

External Links

The visiting school nurse speaks to groups of students when visiting the school at least once during the academic year. She discusses issues such as contraception and sexually transmitted disease and their prevention as well as health issues relating to pregnancy, birth and early child development. Students

sometimes find it easier to discuss such issues with a relative stranger. The nurse is advised by staff about which issues to highlight and this often provides a useful way to address issues of concern rather than confronts a student directly.

Sex & Relationship Education	
This Policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies: Curriculum , Safeguarding Children, Spiritual, Moral Social & Cultural Education	
Appendices:	
Monitoring of Policy Implementation is the responsibility of: The Senior Leadership Team	
Lead responsibility:	Vice Principal - Education
Relevant Legislation:	To be detailed in the next release
Annual Policy Review Required:	Yes / No
Approved by: S.S. Committee	Date approved:
Ratified by: Trustees	Date ratified: 10/2003
Reviewed – no changes	Date:
Reviewed – with revisions	Date:
Revision No.	1.0

Appendix 1: Implementation of Guidance in Circular 0116/2000

Elements

attitudes and values						
	PSHE (C&C)	PSHE - Self Sci	Science	School nurse	Humanities (RE)	Other
learning the importance of values and individual conscience and moral considerations;	Year 11				✓	
learning the value of family life, marriage, and stable and loving relationships for the nurture of children;	Year 11				✓	
learning the value of respect, love and care;	Year 8					
exploring, considering and understanding moral dilemmas					✓	
Developing critical thinking as part of decision-making.		✓				

personal and social skills						
	PSHE (C&C)	PSHE - Self Sci	Science	School nurse	Humanities (RE)	Other
learning to manage emotions and relationships confidently and sensitively;		✓				
developing self-respect and empathy for others;		✓				
learning to make choices based on an understanding of difference and with an absence of prejudice;		✓				
developing an appreciation of the consequences of choices made;		✓				
managing conflict		✓				
learning how to recognise and avoid exploitation and abuse		✓				

<u>knowledge and understanding</u>						
	PSHE (C&C)	PSHE - Self Sci	Science	School nurse	Humanities (RE)	Other
learning and understanding physical development at appropriate stages;	Year 7:		✓			
understanding human sexuality, reproduction, sexual health, emotions and relationships;	Year 9:		✓			
learning about contraception and the range of local and national sexual health advice, contraception and support services;	Year 9			✓		
learning the reasons for delaying sexual activity, and the benefits to be gained from such delay; and	Year 11			✓		
the avoidance of unplanned pregnancy.	Year 9			✓		

<u>Secondary schools should:</u>	Implementation
teach about relationships, love and care and the responsibilities of parenthood as well as sex;	Year 8 C&C
focus on boys as much as girls;	To be completed
build self-esteem;	To be completed
teach the taking on of responsibility and the consequences of one's actions in relation to sexual activity and parenthood;	To be completed
provide young people with information about different types of contraception, safe sex and how they can access local sources of further advice and treatment;	Year 9 C&C
use young people as peer educators, e.g. teenage mothers and fathers;	Year 11
give young people a clear understanding of the arguments for delaying sexual	To be completed
activity and resisting pressure;	To be completed
link sex and relationship education with issues of peer pressure and other risk-taking behaviour, such as drugs, smoking and alcohol; and ensure young people understand how the law applies to sexual relationships.	To be completed