



Sex and Relationships (SRE) Policy 2010 - 2011

SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION - RATIONALE AND OBJECTIVES

Rationale: Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) provides an understanding that positive, caring environments are essential for the development of a good self-image and that individuals are in charge of and responsible for their own bodies. It ought to provide knowledge about the processes of reproduction and the nature of sexuality and relationships. It should encourage the acquisition of skills and attitudes which allow pupils to manage their relationships in a responsible and healthy manner, encourages them to take action to minimise risks and inspires them to build robust self esteem.

The legal framework for this policy is provided by:

- Every Child Matters: Staying Safe and Healthy (2003)
- Education Act (1996)
- Learning Skills Act (2000)
- Sex and Relationship Education Guidance (2000)
- National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services (2004)
- Sex and Relationships Education Framework (2005)
- *Time for Change?* Personal, Social and Health Education (Ofsted 2007)
- Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning Programme (SEAL)
- National Healthy Schools Programme

Objectives of SRE:

- To enable pupils to understand the biological aspects of reproduction
- To consider the advantages and disadvantages of various methods of family planning in terms of personal preference and their social and moral implications
- To recognise and be able to discuss sensitive and controversial issues such as conception, virginity, birth, child-rearing, abortion, sexually transmitted diseases and technological developments which involve consideration of attitudes, values, beliefs and morality
- To make pupils aware of the range of sexual attitudes and behaviour in present day society and recognise the importance of personal choice in managing relationships so that they do not present risks to health and personal safety or damage self esteem

- To make pupils aware that feeling positive about sexuality and sexual activity is important in relationships and that people have the right not to be sexually active
- To understand the changing nature of sexuality over time and its impact on lifestyles, e.g. the menopause
- To recognise that parenthood is a matter of choice and generates a range of responsibilities and choices
- To critically analyse moral values and explore those held by different cultures and groups
- To understand the concept of stereotyping and to discuss issues such as sexual harassment in terms of their effects on individuals
- To consider the impact that prejudice and discrimination based on sexuality can have on individuals, families, communities and whole societies
- To understand aspects of legislation relating to sexual behaviour, gender and equal opportunities and to make aware the availability of statutory and voluntary organisations which offer support in human relationships

DELIVERY

SRE at Wallington County Grammar School is delivered using a cross curricular model involving units of study in Biology, Religious Studies and Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHEE). The diverse backgrounds and the variety of experience contained within the team of staff who currently teach the various elements of the school's SRE programme are seen as valuable resources as regards the depth and quality of SRE. The provision of SRE is progressive in terms of language, concepts, content, increasing in depth and complexity as pupils progress through the school.

The teaching of SRE will involve the coverage of many potentially sensitive issues. It is recognised that an individual's sexuality is a highly personal matter. The teaching of SRE at Wallington County Grammar School will place stress upon the need for understanding and awareness of a variety of sexual preferences and orientations throughout the spectrum of human sexuality.

It is intended that pupils will be given up-to-date information on a wide variety of contraceptive methods and whilst general statements about the efficacy of these methods will be given, specific advice and guidance to individuals will not be made without consultation with parents and carers.

SRE ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

Introduction: Wallington County Grammar School is concerned to offer an education for the whole person- body, mind and spirit. The SRE programme at Wallington County Grammar School aims to be a sensitive and responsible one which is set in a

moral and social framework. It also aims to meet the statutory provision which has been outlined in various Government documents.

Context: The prime responsibility for bringing up children rests with parents. Schools must recognise that parents are key figures in helping their children cope with the emotional and physical aspects of growing up and in preparing them for the challenges and responsibilities which sexual maturity brings. The teaching offered by schools should be seen as complementary and supportive to the role of parents. In an attempt to achieve this, the 1988 Education Reform Act (Section 1) states that all pupils should be offered the opportunity of receiving a comprehensive, well-planned programme of SRE during their school careers through a curriculum which:

- (a) "promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at school and of society; and
- (b) prepares such pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life."

It is recognised that SRE can touch upon difficult issues and will therefore place significant demands on schools and teachers. However, the purpose of SRE should be to provide knowledge about loving relationships, the nature of sexuality and the processes of human reproduction. At the same time it should lead to the acquisition of understanding and attitudes which prepare pupils to view their relationships in a responsible and healthy manner.

The SRE delivered should be carefully planned and resourced so that it is always appropriate both to pupils' age and their levels of understanding. Wallington County Grammar School will aim to present facts in an objective, balanced and sensitive manner. It will be set within a clear framework of values and an awareness of the law regarding sexual behaviour. Pupils will be encouraged to appreciate the value of a stable family life, marriage and the responsibilities of parenthood. Such matters will be treated with sensitivity and great care will be taken to encourage all children to feel a sense of worth. Particular care will be taken when issues such as marital breakdown and divorce are dealt with.

DEFINITION OF SRE

The law does not give a definitive statement as to what SRE is. At Wallington County Grammar School it is regarded as education about sexual matters within a values framework, focusing upon responsibility within caring, committed relationships. Among the things it will concentrate on are knowledge of the facts of human reproductive processes and behaviour, HIV and AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, contraception and abortion, and a consideration of the broader emotional and ethical dimensions of sexual attitudes.

The Parental Right to Withdraw their Son or Daughter from SRE Lessons:

Section 241 of the Education Act 1993 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. It is accepted that, under exceptional circumstances, a very small number of parents and carers may wish to withdraw their children from this programme. In this case, such parents should contact the PSHEE Coordinator, stating their objections. The schemes of work contained within this document will enable parents to estimate the point at which specific aspects of sex education will be delivered to their child. The biological element of reproduction remains within the National Curriculum Science Order for Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4. Other issues are dealt with in Religious Studies and PSHEE.

ADVICE TO INDIVIDUAL PUPILS

It is understood that it is important to distinguish between the School's function of providing education generally about sexual matters and the giving of advice to individual pupils on these issues. Effective teachers have always taken an interest in the welfare and well-being of their pupils. It is also understood that this function should never trespass on the proper exercise of parental rights and responsibilities. It is understood that particular care must be exercised in relation to giving contraceptive advice to pupils under the age of sixteen, for whom sexual intercourse is unlawful. It is the general rule that giving an individual pupil advice on such matters without parental knowledge or consent would be inappropriate.

CONFIDENTIALITY AND CHILD PROTECTION

All staff members and external visitors who work with our pupils will be given a copy of this policy and our School's Child Protection Policy. The School's Child Protection Officer will have a discussion with any health professional or other adult before they start to work with our children to ensure they are familiar with our policy and expectations regarding correct practice and how to respond to issues, including those that may relate to Child Protection matters. We make clear to pupils what our procedures are with regard to confidentiality. All staff work within the guidelines of our Confidentiality Policy. Teachers, schools nurses and outside visitors who are involved in the delivery of SRE will set out clear boundaries which encourage discussion but make clear what will happen if a child or young person makes a disclosure that causes concern. If this does happen, staff will follow the school's safeguarding procedures.

SRE, EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND INCLUSION

The SRE curriculum has been developed to take into account the diversity of the school population and to meet the needs of the pupils at Wallington County Grammar School. The teaching materials we use are regularly reviewed to ensure their suitability.

SRE will be inclusive and meet the needs of all young people, recognising that issues such as sexuality, disability, ethnicity and faith affect attitudes towards sex and relationships. We will address explicit and implicit homophobia in schools, and issues of related bullying.

SRE – AIMS

In the attempt to enable pupils to acquire knowledge, skills, responsible attitudes and behaviour with regard to SRE, Wallington County Grammar School aims to:

Provide a worthwhile educational experience for all its pupils which will present opportunities:

- To help pupils to consider the importance of self-restraint, dignity, respect for themselves and for others, acceptance of responsibility, sensitivity towards the needs and views of others, loyalty and fidelity
- To enable pupils to recognise the physical, emotional and moral implications, and risks, of certain types of behaviour and to accept that both sexes should behave responsibly in sexual matters
- To support the personal development and social skills of the pupils
- To ensure that pupils have an understanding of their own and others' sexuality
- To enjoy relationships based upon mutual respect and responsibility which are free from abuse and exploitation
- To provide information and knowledge which will counteract prejudice and ignorance
- To develop an understanding of risk and to promote strategies for personal safety
- To enable pupils to be aware of the sources of help and guidance and to acquire the skills and confidence to use them

The Programme of SRE (11-16) at WCGS

Year	Subject	Theme	Further Information
7	Religious	Jewish Rites	Circumcision and family life

	Studies		
7	PSHEE	Puberty	Puberty and Human Reproduction
8	Biology	Reproduction	Asexual and sexual reproduction in plants. Sexual reproduction in mammals. A discussion of human reproduction. Diagrams of main sexual organs of male and female. Production of sperm and egg and how they come together during mating to enable fertilisation to take place. Development of the embryo in the uterus and how birth is accomplished The menstrual cycle. The video "Living and Growing" is used.
8	PSHE	Relationships	Building and maintaining positive relationships, romantic relationships and physical intimacy, marriage and divorce
8	Religious Studies		Role of women in Biblical times (includes the story of Tamar, Abraham and Hagar
9	Biology	KS3 AT2	Understand the life process of reproduction.
9		SoW 7A	A brief description to cover the general facts about gamete formation, menstruation, fertilisation and events leading to birth.
9	PSHEE	SRE	Talking openly and honestly about sex and relationships, contraception, HIV and AIDS
10	PSHEE	SRE	One hour session on STIs general sexual health delivered by team of professionals from Sutton PCT, teenage pregnancy and parenthood, avoiding inappropriate relationships
10	Economics, History, Geography	Population	Factors influencing Birth Rates at different times in different parts of the world
10	Religious Studies		Prejudice and discrimination including sexism. Religion and early life including abortion
10/11	Biology	KS 4 AT2 SoW 7a,8a,9a	Progression from Y9. Growth by outline of the stages from fertilised ovum to adult, including changes in both sexes during adolescence. Reproduction including 1.) Sexual intercourse, birth, suckling and protection of the young child, 2.) The inter-linked activities of the ovaries and the uterus during the menstrual cycle, 3.) Contraception by methods that prevent sperm reaching the ovum or that prevent ovulation or implantation, 4.) Responsible sexual behaviour and how it helps to prevent unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) including AIDS. STIs prevention, diagnosis and treatment. The protection, respiration and nourishment of the foetus and the removal of its waste products. The roles of oestrogen and progesterone are related to the menstrual cycle. Benefits and drawbacks involved in the use of hormones in medicine (e.g. fertility controls in humans).
11	PSHEE		Cross cultural and inter-racial relationships, homosexuality and homophobia
11	Religious		Matters of life (IVF)

Where the circumstances are such as to lead the teacher to believe that the pupil has entered into, or is contemplating, a course of conduct which is likely to place him or her at moral or physical risk or in breach of the law, the teacher has the general responsibility to ensure that the pupil is aware of the implications and is urged to seek advice.

The Programme of SRE (16-18) at WCGS

Year	Subject	Theme	Further Information
12	PSHEE	Testicular Cancer	Delivered by Young Peoples' Sexual Health Advisor incorporating the facts about testicular cancer and the importance of self-examination. The talk includes general sexual health matters and a revision of contraception as well as the specific theme.
12	PSHEE	Women's Health	Delivered by School Nurse, the session includes general sexual health matters as well as breast awareness and a revision of contraception.
	Religious Studies		IVF and abortion
13	Religious Studies		Religious views on sexual behaviour
13	PSHE	Child Abuse	Aspects of child abuse sufficient to allow recognition and description of action to take. Delivered by a speaker from Police Liaison.

Adopted by Full Governing Body on 10th November 2010

