



THE CORBET SCHOOL

Relationships and Sex Education Policy

Associated Policies

PSHE Policy

Citizenship Policy

Anti-Bullying Policy

Drug Education Policy

Child Protection Policy

Equal Opportunities policy

Review Period:- Annual

Review Completed:- Sept 2017

Next Review Due:- July 2018

Policy Manager:- AH – T&L

Approval Authority:- Curriculum

Policy Statement

RSE is a lifelong learning process of acquiring information, developing skills and forming positive beliefs and attitudes about sex, sexuality, relationships and feelings (Sex Education Forum 1999).

Effective RSE can make a significant contribution to the development of the personal skills needed by pupils if they are to establish and maintain relationships. It also enables young people to make responsible and informed decisions about their health and well-being.

This policy adheres to and is consistent with the 1996 Education Act which states that all secondary schools are required to provide an RSE programme that includes (as a minimum) information about sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS. The sex education elements contained in the National Curriculum Science Orders are also mandatory. All schools must provide an up to date policy that describes the content and organisation of RSE provided outside the National Curriculum Science Order. The DfEE Sex and Relationships Education Guidance (2000) supports this legislation and suggests that schools should set sex education within a broader base of self-esteem and responsibility for the consequences of one's actions. The 2014 supplementary guidance is produced by the PSHE association, with recommendations from the Brook and Sex Education Forum.

Other related policies and documents include the PSHE Policy, Citizenship Policy, Anti-Bullying Policy, Drug Education Policy, Child Protection Policy, Equal Opportunities policy and the RSE Guidance booklet, including the Shropshire Protocol for professionals working with sexually active under 18s.

Aims and Objectives

In addition to the school's aims, the policy will include the principles that all young people are entitled to responsible and relevant sex education as a key element of PSHE. Sex and relationship education is provided in a way that encourages students to consider morals and the value of family life.

Aims

- To promote understanding of sexual attitudes and behaviour;
- To assist the development of informed, reasoned and responsible decisions;
- To help develop self-esteem and self-confidence in young people as a foundation for responsible and caring relationships;
- To assist a positive and confident attitude about the physical, emotional and moral aspects of sexual maturity.

Objectives

- Knowledge of personal relationships; risks and responsibilities, forms of contraception and STIs
- Inclusion of moral/family values, religious values, gender roles and stereotyping;
- Provision of opportunities for students to examine their own and others' attitudes towards sexual activity and related issues;
- To promote an awareness of peer pressure and encourage the development of assertiveness and confidence to cope with peer pressure;
- To develop other personal skills; listening, communication, empathy, consideration, self-esteem;
- To raise awareness of sources of help and to develop the skills to use them
- To promote a partnership with parents.

Moral and Values Framework

The RSE programme at the Corbet School reflects the school ethos and demonstrates and encourages the following values:

- Respect for self;
- Respect for others;
- Responsibility for their own actions;
- Responsibility for their family, friends, schools and wider community.

Equal Opportunities Statement

The Corbet School is committed to the provision of RSE to all of its pupils. Our programme aims to respond to the diversity of children's cultures, faiths, family backgrounds and sexual orientation.

The RSE programme offers the students the opportunity to develop and clarify the attitudes and values in relation to gender roles, stereotyping and to the concepts of masculinity and femininity. The programme seeks to counteract assumptions in society, e.g. passivity of females, women as 'homemakers', men as breadwinners, men as aggressors. It looks to the need for students to build self-esteem and develop decision-making skills. Open debate is encouraged by means of a friendly and caring environment.

All students have equal access to all aspects of the curriculum which is relevant to their individual needs. Equal time and provision is allocated for all groups but there may be occasions where pupils with Special Educational Needs are given extra support from SEN staff or other appropriate staff.

Content

The Corbet School uses elements of the Shropshire Respect Yourself Relationship and Sex Education programme. It is a comprehensive scheme of work from year 6-11, ensuring age appropriate topics and progression. The content of the programme will be monitored by the PSHE Co. using responses from staff and pupil feedback. The sex education programme is an integral part of the school's Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHCE) programme.

The emphasis is upon relationships and we refer to relationship and sex education (RSE) The Shropshire scheme has three components:

- Knowledge and information
- Skills and self-esteem (such as decision-making and assertiveness)
- Attitudes and values clarification.

The materials for each year include pupil consultation, review and reflect exercises and the use of active learning techniques. The materials and images used aim to reflect the age, identify and cultural background of a range of young people. Pupils are encouraged to ask questions and seek advice and support from reliable and confidential sources of support, including parents, family, pastoral team, and the health professionals.

In key stage 3 pupils learn how good relationships can promote mental well-being, how to manage their feelings positively and how to manage changing relationships. They learn the law relating to sexual behaviour, how to develop skills of assertiveness in order to resist peer pressure and stereotyping, sources of advice and support and when and where to get help.

In key stage 4 pupils learn to recognise the influences and pressures around sexual behaviour and respond appropriately and confidently and seek professional health advice. They learn how HIV and other sexually transmitted infections affect the body, how different forms of contraception work, the risk of early sexual activity and the link with the use of alcohol. Arguments around moral issues such as abortion, contraception and the age of consent are also considered.

Organisation

RSE is not delivered in isolation but firmly embedded in all curriculum areas, including Personal, Social Health Education (PSHE) and citizenship. In accordance with Ofsted recommendations a specialist team has been identified for KS4. Staff receive support, advice and training on the materials. Guidance is provided on answering difficult questions, differentiation and single gender working. They deliver in teaching groups with the active support of tutors. Where possible a male and female member of staff will deliver. Delivery is in 60 minute timetable curriculum lessons in teaching groups, a minimum of five one hour lessons over the year, delivered in a block module.

Liaison procedures are already in place with the main feeder schools in the area. And in accordance with Ofsted recommendations we liaise with our feeder and receiver schools ' *to ensure continuity and progression across the phases' 'the transition from primary to secondary is particularly important ;RSE in year 7 should reinforce and build upon RSE in primary school'*

The Corbet School believes in the importance of training and support for staff delivering this has been put in place and CPD opportunities have been taken up. Staff are encouraged to access appropriate training and support to help them deliver effective RSE.

Monitoring and assessment

The Corbet SRE programme enables pupils' knowledge, confidence and ability to access help and support. The information will be used to identify vulnerable pupils and identify pupils' progress. In addition liaison with the CHAT Service, targeted youth support and our school nurse provides anonymous information to inform the programme and provide co-ordinated care.

Specific Issues within RSE

Withdrawal

Parents/Carers have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the sex and relationships education provided at school except for those parts included in statutory National Curriculum. Those parents/carers wishing to exercise this right are invited in to see the Pastoral Head/ Head Teacher who will explore any concerns and discuss the impact that withdrawal may have on the child. Once a child has been withdrawn they cannot take part in the RSE programme until the request for withdrawal has been removed.

Materials are available to parents/carers who wish to supplement the school RSE programme or who wish to deliver RSE to their children at home.

Child Protection

The school has a separate Child Protection Policy. Effective RSE may bring about disclosures of child protection issues and staff are aware of the procedures for reporting their concerns.

Confidentiality

As a general rule a child's confidentiality is maintained by the teacher or member of staff concerned. If this person believes that the child is at risk or in danger, she/he talks to the named child protection coordinator who may confer with the head teacher before any decision is made.

The child concerned will be informed that confidentiality is being breached and reasons why. The child will be supported throughout the process.

Disclosures

If a member of staff learns that an under 16 years old is sexually active or contemplating sexual activity the school will ensure that:

- The young person is encouraged to talk to their parent/carer, but recognise that they may choose not to;
- Any Child Protection issues are addressed;
- The young person receives appropriate counselling, information and access to professional support
- The Head teacher will monitor the frequency of cases where they handle information without parental knowledge.

Controversial and Sensitive Issues

Sensitive and controversial issues within RSE cannot be ignored. Such issues are presented in a broad and balanced way, using correct information free from sensationalism and personal bias.

Topics such as contraception, abortion, homosexuality, HIV/AIDS, may arise as part of the planned curriculum or introduced by students themselves. A supportive climate will be fostered and discussions will take place. Medical and scientific language will be used to ensure understanding and this includes the correct naming of reproductive organs and body parts.

Staff are aware that views around RSE related issues are varied. Topics are presented using a variety of views and beliefs and pupils are encouraged to form their own, informed opinions but also respect others that may have a different opinion.

Dealing with Questions

Both formal and informal RSE arising from pupils' questions are answered according to the age and maturity of the pupil concerned. Some questions may be better addressed with pupils individually, rather than in the classroom. The school believes that individual teachers must use their skill and discretion in this area and refer to the Child Protection Coordinator if they are concerned.

Sexual Identity and Sexual Orientation

The Corbet School believes that RSE should meet the needs of all pupils regardless of their developing sexuality and be able to deal honestly and sensitively with sexual orientation, answer appropriate questions and offer support. Homophobic bullying is dealt with strongly yet sensitively. The school may liaise with parents as part of home school partnership working.

Relationship and Sexual Health Guidance and Services offered individually to young people in School

- Young people are able to access confidential advice from the school nurse, the CHAT Service and the pastoral support staff within school.
- Child Protection procedures are followed at all times.
- Confidentiality is upheld where appropriate although young people are encouraged to talk with their parents/carers, they may choose not to.

Following the Frazer Guidelines the school nurse, assigned by the NHS, provides the following services within school:

- Shropshire Condom Distribution Scheme (CDS)
- Chlamydia screening
- Pregnancy testing
- Signposting to other services
- On-going individual support

Dissemination

All staff members and governors receive a copy of the policy. Copies are available from the school office and via the school website. A short summary of the policy is included in the school prospectus.

Key websites

www.teachernet.gov.uk/pshe

www.psheassociation.co.uk

www.ncb.org.uk/sef (Sex Education Forum)

Appendix 1

Sample letter to parents

Appendix 2

Governors' statement

Appendix 1 - Sample letter to parents

Send prior to delivery, and/or insert into prospectus

Dear Parents and Carers

Relationship and Sex Education (RSE)

As part of the statutory national curriculum aspects of relationship and sex education are taught to all pupils. We believe that this biological approach needs to be balanced with an emphasis on relationships, feelings, and values. We are particularly concerned to ensure our pupils know how to keep themselves safe and healthy and develop confidence and self-esteem to ensure they are not vulnerable or exploited in any way.

The scheme of work we are delivering includes elements of the Shropshire Respect Yourself Relationship and Sex Education programme Year 7 -11. It is informed by national recommendations and good practice guidance and has won a national award. Our main primary schools considering delivering the Shropshire Respect Yourself: Eat Better, Move More , Relationship and Sex Education programme Year 1-6 ,which will ensure continuity and age appropriate progression.

As part of our planning we have reviewed and updated our Relationship and Sex Education Policy, ensuring that there is consistency with our school's ethos and culture and related policies, such as safeguarding and bullying.

The programme is delivered by skilled and trained members of teaching staff. There will be opportunity for the children to work in mixed and single gender groups and exercises are adapted to take into account different levels of maturity among the class. We encourage pupils to ask questions and want the delivery of RSE to be a partnership between school and home.

The personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) syllabus is on the website Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the non-statutory lessons. If you have any concerns about the suitability of the programme for your child we are available to discuss these and the implications of withdrawal with you. We can also highlight resources and books so that you can discuss these important issues with your child.

Appendix 3 – Governor’s policy statement on Relationship and Sex Education

Governing bodies are required by the 1993 Education Act to prepare and keep up to date statements of policy on the content and organization of sex education in their schools. In making this statement Governors have taken account of the National Curriculum documents for science and PSHE and Citizenship, Ofsted recommendations and advice from Shropshire Health Development Officer. Sex education includes such concepts as growing and changing, the life cycle, puberty and reproduction. It is also about emotions, relationships and responsibilities and how we care for each other. We therefore refer to this work as, relationship and sex education, (RSE) placing the emphasis on relationships

RSE aims to help children and young people understand their feelings, emotions and bodies, how they are growing and changing, and how they will change in the future. It aims to enhance emotional and social development, helping them to understand the benefits of caring relationships and to be aware of pressures and possible dangers.

The work is integrated within science and PSHE and taught as a spiral curriculum in an age appropriate way. We use elements of the Shropshire Respect Yourself RSE scheme of work and recommended resources. This is a national award winning programme, which is cross phase, providing consistency of approach for our pupils.

Trained and confident members of staff deliver the lessons in a way which is consistent with the ethos and culture of the school. Some single gender work or small group exercises will be used as appropriate. The work is differentiated based on physical and emotional maturity and cognitive development.

The policy will be reviewed every two years. Governors will seek the views of teachers, pupils and parents. Parents are invited to attend parents meetings to preview resources and discuss the work. The syllabus for personal, social, health and economic education is available on the school website. The Headteacher and Governors are available to discuss any concerns. Parents are informed of their right to withdraw their children from sex education additional to that required by the National Curriculum Science Order.