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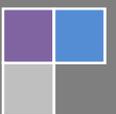
Sex & Relationships Education Policy

Blackwood Comprehensive School
Ysgol Gyfun Y Coed Duon

This document contains the specific policy and associated information relating to Sex & Relationships Education Policy at Blackwood Comprehensive School.



Responsible Staff Members Mr C Lewis (Senior Assistant Head)
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Introduction

The policy has been prepared in accordance with the Education Act 1996, the Sexual Health and Wellbeing Action Plan for Wales 2010-2015, the Strategic Framework for Promoting Sexual Health in Wales and the National Assembly for Wales Circular 019/2010 'Sex and Relationships Education in Schools', and takes into account the requirements of the PSE Framework.

Aims and Objectives of School Sex and Relationships Education Policy

The Sex Education Policy is part of the stated aims of the school as contained in the school prospectus. The provision of sex education should meet the needs of developing adolescents and should provide pupils with an understanding of physiological and emotional aspects of sexual development coupled with socially accepted standards and norms of behaviour.

It is important that a comprehensive and well-planned programme of sex education is given to pupils at the school in order to help them cope with their physical, moral and spiritual development and prepare them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

The programme will place great emphasis upon helping the pupils in the school to respect themselves and others, and equipping them with the skills to make responsible informed decisions. SRE is about understanding the importance of stable and loving personal relationships, respect, love, care and the building of successful relationships with friendship groups and the wider community.

Pupils will be taught about the nature and significance of marriage and its family life and the bringing up of children while recognizing that there are mutually supportive stable relationships outside of marriage and that we live society with pupils coming from a variety of family backgrounds.

The aims of sex and relationships education at Blackwood Comprehensive School are:

- To help pupils understand their growth and development, the processes of human reproduction and the nature of sexuality.
- To provide knowledge and understanding of sexual health issues and information about how to obtain appropriate advice on sexual health.
- To raise awareness about oneself and the needs and failings of others and develop respect for oneself and others.
- To enable pupils to consider the attitudes, values and skills which influence the way they behave.
- To build up pupils' self-esteem and confidence and equip them with the appropriate skills to manage their relationships in a morally responsible and healthy manner.

The Organisation of SRE in the school

SRE will be taught mainly in the PSHE lessons and in Science, but there are aspects which are addressed across the curriculum and especially in English, RE and PE.

The relevant learning outcomes from the DCELLS PSE Framework in KS3 are:

- *Develop respect for self and others;*
- *Value and celebrate diversity and equality of opportunity locally, nationally and globally;*
- *How to recognise and challenge effectively expressions of prejudice, racism and stereotyping;*
- *Display a responsible attitude towards keeping the mind and body safe and healthy;*
- *Develop positive attitudes towards self and others;*
- *Understand the law relating to aspects of sexual behaviour;*
- *Know about contraception, STIs and HIV within the context of relationships;*
- *Understand the role of marriage, the importance of stable family relationships and the responsibilities of parents;*
- *Appreciate the range of emotions experienced and how to develop strategies for coping with negative feelings;*
- *Understand the benefits of accessing different sources of information, support and advice;*
- *Understand what they believe to be right and wrong actions and the moral dilemmas involved in life situations.*

The relevant learning outcomes from the DCELLS PSE Framework in KS4 are:

- *Develop respect for self and others;*
- *Value diversity and equal opportunity, and be affronted by injustice, exploitation and denial of human rights;*
- *Understand the importance of access to unbiased information, including the internet, and be prepared to challenge views propagated by the media;*
- *Know how to challenge assertively expressions of prejudice, racism and stereotyping;*
- *Accept personal responsibility for keeping the mind and body safe and healthy;*
- *Develop a responsible attitude to personal relationships;*
- *Understand the short and longer term consequences when making decisions about personal health;*
- *Understand the range of sexual attitudes, relationships and behaviours in society;*
- *Understand the importance of sexual health and the risks involved in sexual activity including potential sexual exploitation;*
- *Explore the features of effective parenthood and the effect of loss and change in relationships;*
- *The statutory and voluntary organisations which support health and emotional wellbeing;*
- *Know how to access professional health advice and personal support with confidence;*
- *Understand how beliefs and values affect personal identity and lifestyle;*
- *Understand the factors involved in making moral judgments and the range of valued and principles by which people live.*

The school has a Head of PSHE whose task it is to plan and monitor the PSHE provision ensuring continuity and progression, good use of resources and adequate time allocation.

The Head of PSHE is responsible for drawing up a PSHE scheme of work, which includes SRE. The PSHE lessons are taught by a team of staff in one lesson a fortnight. The scheme of work is designed to provide opportunities for pupils to develop the skills, attitudes, knowledge and understanding of the learning outcomes above, via the topics of Puberty, Relationships, Contraception, STIs, Safe Relationships and the realities of Parenthood.

The Head of PSHE, with the link member of the Leadership group, monitors the learning, teaching and standards and evaluates the programme.

SRE takes place in mixed gender groups but the specific needs of boys and girls will be carefully addressed. Care will also be taken to understand the perspectives of pupils from the variety of cultural and religious backgrounds and to cater for pupils of all abilities.

Specific Issues

Contraception

Teaching about contraception is taught in the usual way in a class setting and in an interactive manner. Health professionals will be consulted where appropriate. Teachers will give information about where pupils can obtain confidential advice and counselling.

Abortion

When abortion issues are discussed in the school, pupils will be given the opportunity to explore the dilemmas, appreciate the validity of opposing views, and develop the communication skills to discuss it with parents and health professionals.

The main concern is to reduce the incidence of unwanted pregnancy, and the focus should be on providing appropriate information and effective advice on contraception and the benefits of delaying sexual activity.

The religious convictions of pupils and their parents should be respected.

Sexual orientation

Teachers will deal with this issue honestly, sensitively and in a non-discriminatory way. They will answer appropriate questions and provide factual information. Pupils will be encouraged to respect and recognise diversity and differences in human life.

Guidance in National Assembly for Wales Circular 47/06 'Inclusion and Pupil Support' deals with the unacceptability of and emotional distress and harm caused by bullying in whatever form, including sexual orientation. Any instance in the school will be dealt with in accordance with the school's bullying policy.

STIs including HIV and AIDS

The strategies for teaching about STIs including HIV/AIDS will include:

- Helping pupils clarify their knowledge of STIs including HIV/AIDS;
- Teaching them assertiveness skills for negotiating relationships;
- Enabling them to become effective users of services that help prevent/treat STIs and HIV/AIDS.

The key components will be: factual information and knowledge about safer sex and STIs, including

HIV/AIDS; an understanding of what is risky behaviour and what is not; condom use and safer sex in

general; skills to enable pupils to avoid being pressured into unwanted or unprotected sex; the

diagnosis, treatment and accessing of local sexual health advice services.

Confidentiality

Important Aspects:

- Pupils should be informed that teachers cannot offer unconditional confidentiality, particularly in relation to personal disclosures. However, pupils should be assured that their best interests will be maintained;
- Pupils should be encouraged, where possible, to talk to their parents or carers about sexual issues;
- Pupils must be informed of sources of confidential help, for example GP or young people's advice services;
- Ground rules need to be established in lessons;
- If there is any possibility of abuse the school's child protection procedures must be followed;
- All staff must be aware of the procedures involved in the school's child protection policy.

Personal disclosures to a teacher

If a teacher is approached by a pupil who is sexually active or contemplating sexual activity, the teacher should:

- Address any child protection issues with the designated teacher for child protection;
- Encourage the pupil, wherever possible to talk to the parent or carer;
- Take steps to ensure that the pupil has been adequately counselled and informed about contraception, including precise information about where young people can access contraception and advice services.

Teachers should also make it clear to the pupil that they cannot guarantee confidentiality in line with the school's confidentiality policy. The teacher should also ensure that the pupil understands that if confidentiality has to be broken that they will be informed first.

The school uses the advice, support and resources provided by the LEA advisory service and health professionals in the community. Visitors are used in accordance with the LEA guidelines on the use of outside agents in health education. Such visitors complement the teacher and give specialist input e.g. the community police officer, school nurse and visiting theatre companies.

Pupils will be given the addresses and contact numbers of clinics and advice centres.

Child Withdrawal Procedures

'Parents/carers have a right to withdraw their children from all or part of SRE provided at school, other than sex education contained within the national curriculum.' (National Assembly for Wales Circular 11/02)

Parents should be told of their right of withdrawal in the school Prospectus. Parents wishing to withdraw should either make an appointment to see the Head or make their wishes clear in writing. Arrangements will be made in school to accommodate the pupil during the time they are withdrawn.

School recognises that parents have the prime responsibility for bringing up children and wishes to work with parents in offering a complementary and supportive role.