

# Sex and Relationships Education Policy





## Sex and Relationships Education Policy

### DESCRIPTION OF SCHOOL

Whickham is a large suburban comprehensive school of about one thousand seven hundred pupils. The students are predominately from families who reside in the village of Whickham. However, there are also students from the surrounding areas of Swalwell, Sunnyside, Marley Hill, Dunston and Lobley Hill. A few students come from as far afield as Rowlands Gill, Shotley Bridge and Low Fell. There is a truly comprehensive intake with students from all abilities and socio-economic groups.

There are a small number of students who come from families of ethnic origin. There are some pupils with special needs, either educational or physical.

The school achieves very good results in public examinations at GCSE, 'AS' and 'A2' level, and prides itself on high academic standards and providing an education which meets the diverse needs of all its pupils.

### POLICY FORMATION AND CONSULTATION PROCESS

The policy has been reviewed from the original, which was formulated by a working party of pastoral staff, governors and senior managers. It has been reviewed in light of new guidance on Sex Relationships Education found in the DfES publication 'Sex and Relationships – Education guidance' (ref: - Education guidance' (Ref: DfEE 0116/2000).

### Policy Situation at time of writing

We are currently anticipating Government guidance on SRE in the form of a Green Paper. At the time of writing the information contained in the education white paper was :

**4.29 Children need high-quality sex and relationships education so they can make wise and informed choices. We will work with teachers, parents, faith groups and campaign groups such as Stonewall to make sure sex and relationships education encompasses an understanding of the ways in which humans love each other and stresses the importance of respecting individual autonomy.**

This policy will be reviewed in light of the Green Paper when it is published.

## **AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF SCHOOL SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION POLICY**

The provision of accurate, unbiased information and guidance on sex and relationships to enable students to make informed choices in their and future relationships. The school should follow the guidelines in the Gateshead Health Education Policy and take into account the revised National Curriculum of 2007, the Personal, Social and Health Education Non-statutory Framework, the Social Exclusion Report on Teenage Pregnancy and the DfEE circular 0116/2000 on Sex and Relationships Education in Schools.

## **MORAL AND VALUES FRAMEWORK**

Teaching should emphasise responsible attitudes to sexual relationships, parenthood and family life. The school should address pupil's questions on all sexual matters having due regard to their maturity and any religious or cultural factors bearing on the subject under discussion.

## **CONTENT OF SCHOOL SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION**

- Year 7 - Puberty, reproduction, emotional changes and bodily changes.
- Year 8 - Changes in friendship patterns and relationships
- Year 9 - Contraception, information on HIV / AIDS, close relationships, the changing nature of friendships and dealing with situations assertively.
- Year 10 - Marriage, love sexual responsibility as well as a 7-week module on relationships, contraception and STD's, including HIV and AIDS.
- Year 11- Decision making, marriage, parenting and drugs, which includes the influence of alcohol on decision making.

## **ORGANISATION**

- |                       |                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Co-ordinator          | K Gardner - responsible for planning of overall programme after consultation and responsibility for delivery of some courses.                                                              |
| School Health Adviser | L Bland - responsible for giving contraception education in Year 9 and helping with delivery of the Year 10 guidance Carousel for both Sex and Relationships as well as drugs education.   |
| Teachers              | Tutors during CFL lessons for Year 7 and CFL Teachers for Years 8-11. Teachers in the Science Department for Year 7 Reproduction and RE GCSE teachers for social and moral responsibility. |
| Staff training        | -K Gardner and L Bland have been on a range of training opportunities and training for tutors is at present proposed. K Gardner, H Murray and C                                            |

Pattison have completed certification in Teaching Sex and Relationships education.

Classroom arrangements	-Wherever possible the groups should be taught in mixed groups and as small as possible ie. One tutor group or English groups. Sometimes when an outside speaker is involved the classes can be doubled to 60 pupils and taken to a house room or the 6 <sup>th</sup> form study area. The sixth form sessions usually involve the whole year group, but can be broken down into smaller groups for workshop sessions.
Methodology	- Generally the explicitness and style of delivery of topics is matched to the maturity of the class. This must be left to the professional judgement of the tutors and teachers involved. As a general rule a teacher should answer genuine questions as clearly and simple as possible to avoid any mystification’.
Procedures for review -	Feedback is obtained by a number of routes – for the guidance Carousel the students are given a questionnaire at the end of the module, as are the students in PSHE at the end of the year. We have also been able to review this as part of the ‘Behaviour Related Health Survey’ done by Exeter University. (It is extremely difficult to review the long-term effectiveness of programmes other than by statistical evidence of a decrease in pregnancy rates etc.) Also the programme is monitored through the departmental review system and by the SCL for CFL.
Young Persons’ Clinic	Pupils have access to a Young Persons’ Clinic which operates every Friday lunchtime

## RESOURCES

See attached Schemes of Work and catalogue of resources for PSHE.

## SPECIFIC ISSUE STATEMENTS

Since it is illegal to give individual contraceptive advice to students under 16, it will be made clear that teachers cannot listen to any such requests, and students seeking advice should be referred to the appropriate health professionals (for whom there are leaflets for teachers to give to students containing this information).

Teachers cannot keep any divulgence of sexual abuse, under-age sex or pregnancy confidential. They must be referred to the Assistant Head in charge of Child Protection, Deputy Headteacher or the Headteacher who will inform the relevant people concerned. This must be made clear to the student when making a disclosure or during PSHE lessons before the situation arises. The school’s Child Protection Policy (2008) must be followed.

Clear procedures are laid down in the school prospectus for the withdrawal of students from Sex and Relationships education lessons. The parents will complete a form to this effect and the student concerned will complete that lesson in the library.

Any complaints about the delivery of the Sex and Relationships Education Programme will be initially dealt with in writing by the Sex and Relationships Education Co-ordinator or, if necessary, in an interview with the parent concerned.

Close co-operation will be maintained with the Gateshead Health Education Unit based at Dryden Professional Development Centre and with the other National and Regional organisations where appropriate.

If any member of the school community is infected or affected by HIV the guidelines laid down by Gateshead for such a situation will be followed.

### **WORKING WITH PARENTS**

If any parent wishes to consult the Co-ordinator for Sex and Relationships Education on any matter raised in the programme they may do so by appointment.

### **DISSEMINATION OF THE POLICY**

The policy will be available to any parent or governor who requests to see it. If necessary a copy of the full policy will be sent to a parent. A shortened policy statement will appear in the school prospectus mentioning the availability of the lengthier version.

### **PROCEDURES FOR MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

The Governing Body Working Party will review the policy at regular intervals, especially if there is any change in the national curriculum or other Government directives or guidelines around the subject.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Schemes of work are attached to this policy.

K Gardner 09 / 2001  
Reviewed 07 / 2004  
Revised 07/2005  
Revised 11/2008  
Revised 01/2010  
Revised 03/2011  
Revised 01/2013

Related Policies:      Child Protection  
                                 PSHEE