

## **SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION POLICY**

Policy Date: March 2010

Last updated: January 2018

Date review due: January 2021

Portfolio Group responsible: Curriculum

Origin: Deputy Headteacher: Mr Graham Hill



## **Underlying principles**

**All school policies reflect the school values of:**

<b>Hope</b>	<b>Kindness</b>
<b>Courage</b>	<b>Integrity</b>
<b>Trust</b>	<b>Respect</b>
<b>Responsibility</b>	

At The Ilfracombe Academy, our policies are interpreted in accordance with our values which are: Hope, Kindness, Courage, Integrity, Trust, Respect and Responsibility.

### **1. Introduction:**

According to DfE 'Sex and Relationships Education' guidance document (2000):

- Sex and relationship education (SRE) should contribute to promoting the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at school and of society and preparing pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.
- Effective sex and relationship education does not encourage early sexual experimentation. It should teach young people to understand human sexuality and to respect themselves and others. It enables young people to mature, to build up their confidence and self-esteem and understand the reasons for delaying sexual activity. It builds up knowledge and skills which are particularly important today because of the many different and conflicting pressures on young people.
- Pupils need to be given accurate information and helped to develop skills to enable them to understand difference and respect themselves and others and for the purpose also of preventing and removing prejudice. Secondary pupils should learn to understand human sexuality, learn the reasons for delaying sexual activity, the dangers and risks of sexualised behaviour and the benefits to be gained from such delay, and learn about obtaining appropriate advice on sexual health.

Sex and Relationship Education at The Ilfracombe Academy complies with all these principles. This policy will be shared with all the agencies we work with who are concerned with the physical and mental health of our students.

### **2. Morals and Values Framework**

At The Ilfracombe Academy, we serve and support our community providing a child-centred education that reflects Christian values. Respecting the dignity and potential of each individual person and sensitive to the needs of a diverse society we strive to enhance and strengthen our values of Hope, Kindness, Courage, Integrity, Trust, Respect and Responsibility. It is within this moral framework that Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) is taught.

SRE is delivered across the curriculum at the Academy. However, the majority of the issues are addressed and delivered during dedicated Personal, Careers and Religious Education (PCRE) lessons at both Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4. The aim of the SRE curriculum is to inform young people about their sexuality and sexual health, whilst at the same time encouraging them to consider the context in which sexual relationships take place, the possible issues that may arise during adolescence and into adulthood that are linked to relationships, and to highlight the advantages of loving and committed relationships.

### **3.**

#### **4. Content**

Sex and Relationship Education provides knowledge and encourages the acquisition of skills and attitudes which allow students to manage their lives in a responsible, safe and healthy way. The material is taught mainly by subject specialist staff in an age-appropriate way, including the use of outside speakers and outside agencies (eg School Nurse). Content is totally compliant with the DfE 'Sex and Relationships Education' guidance document (2000). There are a wide range of age-appropriate teaching resources which are regularly updated. Staff receive regular training to update their knowledge. The following topics, amongst others, are included in the programme of learning. Lessons will include factual knowledge, discussion about attitudes and issues arising from the topic, and time for individual reflection:

##### ***Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9):***

- Birth
- Emotional and physical changes at puberty (including menstruation)
- Importance of personal hygiene
- Friendship/Bullying
- Self Esteem
- Labelling and attitudes to body image
- Marriage, and other types of committed relationships and family structures
- Mental health
- Stress and Relaxation techniques
- Why do we have boyfriends and girlfriends, and what pressures does that bring?
- Exploration of the pressures of when to have sex
- Sexual Harassment, Sexual Violence and coercive relationships (materials from SPLITZ linked to domestic violence)
- What is contraception?
- The consequences of unprotected sex, including Sexually Transmitted Infections, and where to go for help
- HIV and AIDS
- Teenage pregnancy
- Peer mentor led sessions
- On-line grooming dangers and the effect of pornography
- Transgender

##### ***Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11):***

- Abortion
- Genetic Engineering
- Marriage and alternative family structures
- Homosexuality and Gay marriage
- Parenting
- Views on sex, contraception, STI's
- Prejudice and stereotyping including racial prejudice and homophobia
- Views on all of the above from different faiths and cultures
- Relationships and making choices
- Avoiding abusive relationships (outside speaker from Domestic Violence agency)
- Consent to sex and staying safe

**(Further detailed information on the schemes of learning can be found on the staff server in the PCRE folder)**

## 5. Organisation

The Head of PCRE department is responsible for coordination of SRE delivered during PCRE lessons, who also coordinates a programme of outside agency speakers who visit during PCRE lessons, delivering various aspects of SRE. Other aspects of SRE for example internet awareness, coercive relationships, consent and 'sexting' are also delivered through the assembly programme and the tutorial programme. These are coordinated by the Deputy Headteacher (Pastoral). Some aspects of SRE are included in the National Curriculum for Science, and delivered during Science lessons under the guidance of the Head of Science.

There is a School Nurse who provides a weekly, confidential drop-in clinic available to students of any age. The Pastoral Assistants also provide personal advice and guidance to students of a more general nature, or will help them to access the most appropriate service or agency for their needs.

SRE is taught in mixed sex groups in both key stages, except for one specific lesson on contraception which is sometimes taught to single sex groups in year 10 to enable students to ask questions relevant to them.

All staff delivering SRE are aware of procedures for Child Protection and Safeguarding via the annual training and regular updates given to all staff at the Academy.

## 6. Confidentiality and Advice

Students are taught during SRE lessons that some information cannot be held as confidential by school staff, and they will understand that if certain disclosures are made, then some action will ensue. At the same time, students will be offered appropriate and sensitive support. The following procedures will be adhered to by all adults employed by the Academy:

### ***Disclosure of suspicion of possible abuse:***

The Academy's Child Protection and Safeguarding procedures will be invoked (see relevant policy)

### ***Disclosure of pregnancy or advice on contraception to under 16's:***

The following procedure is undertaken so that students who need support know that they can talk to an adult in the Academy and that they will be supported:

Information and guidance will be sought from a health professional. The Academy will always encourage students to talk with their parents first. Students will be given support to do this if they need it. If this takes place, then subsequent responsibility lies with the parents, although the Academy will monitor the situation to ensure the safety and well-being of the child.

If a student is unable to, or refuses to talk to their parents, the adult will refer them to a health professional, and will report the incident to the Deputy Headteacher (Pastoral) who will coordinate with the Head of Year and/or Pastoral Assistant to inform the parents wherever it is appropriate to do so.

## 7. Working with Parents, and Student withdrawal from SRE procedures

The Academy is committed to working in partnership with parents. Under the 1993 Education Act, students can be withdrawn by their parents from part of the Sex and Relationships Education programme that is outside the compulsory elements of Sex and Relationships Education in the National Curriculum for Science. Parents wishing to exercise that right are asked to provide a written request and to meet with the Deputy Headteacher (Pastoral) to discuss their concerns. Once a student has been withdrawn from the SRE programme, they cannot take part in any later SRE without parental approval.

## 8. Monitoring and Review

The Head of PCRE is responsible for monitoring the standard of students' work and the quality of the teaching of SRE at the Academy. They are also responsible for reviewing this document with their Senior Leadership Team line manager. When reviewing this policy, the Pastoral Deputy Headteacher will be involved so that all relevant pastoral information is taken into account.

## 9. Linked Documents

- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2016 (September)
- South West Child Protection procedures online manual  
<http://www.proceduresonline.com/swcpp/>
- Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges  
Advice for governing bodies, proprietors, Headteachers, principals, senior leadership teams and designated safeguarding leads Dec 2017
- Toolkit for working with children and young people trafficked for the purpose of criminal exploitation in relation to 'County Lines' ( Children's Society ) 2017
- CP and SafeguardingPolicy 2018-19
- Guidance for schools CSE 2016
- Prevent Facts 2016

POLICY HISTORY				
Policy / Version Date	Summary of change	Contact	Implementation Date	Review Date
September 2011	Updated re Heads of Year Proof read by governor	L Norris	September 2011	May 2013
March 2014	Updated as an Academy	J Larrington	March 2014	March 2017
January 2018	Updated to reflect DFE guidance. 'Keep Children safe in education' and 'Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges'	Mr G Hill	Jan 2018	Jan 2021