

# Hope House School & Vacation Centre

Transforming the lives of children living on the Autistic Spectrum

## SEX & RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION POLICY

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### Version Control Sheet

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## **Introduction**

Hope House School is an Independent Special School where the health and behaviour of pupils is taken very seriously. We recognise that some pupils will face barriers around sex and relationships and will endeavour to recognise this and put in place strategies to support and overcome these barriers. Hope House School and the staff will ensure that pupils are given learning opportunities to develop responsible attitudes to personal and social relationships.

The Board of Directors and staff of Hope House School wish to ensure that pupils receiving sex and relationship education do so in a safe, caring and professional environment. The Principal will accept responsibility in principle for members of the school staff delivering such education for members of staff who have volunteered to do so.

Please note that parents/carers are to be informed that their child is about to receive sex and relationship education prior to this commencing, and have the right to opt out, this could be for reasons that may affect the child or young persons' well-being, ethical or religious status.

## **Policy Statement**

The school has a duty to impart factual knowledge and recognises that sex education is a natural part of a personal, social, health education and citizenship curriculum.

## **Aims**

- To develop understanding and attitudes which prepare pupils to view their relationships in a responsible and healthy manner?
- To provide knowledge about relationships, the nature of sexuality and the processes of human reproduction.
- To present facts in an objective, balanced and sensitive manner, set within a clear framework of values and an awareness of the law on sexual behaviour.
- To encourage pupils to appreciate the value of stable family life, marriage and the responsibilities of parenthood.
- To help pupils consider the importance of self-restraint, dignity, respect for themselves and others, the acceptance of responsibility, sensitivity towards the needs of others, loyalty and fidelity.
- To enable pupils to recognise the physical and emotional implications and risks of certain types of behaviour and to accept that both sexes must behave responsibly in sexual matters.

## **Implementation**

The school incorporates sex education into the curriculum through PSHE and Science work throughout the year for the whole school.

## **PSHE & Citizenship**

Sex and relationship education should be supported by a school's wider curriculum for personal, social and health education. In this way, schools can ensure that pupils:

- Receive their sex education in the wider context of relationships and
- Are prepared for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

The combined PSHE and Citizenship framework at Key Stages 1 and 2 is developed through four broad themes:

- Developing confidence and responsibility and making the most of pupils' abilities.
- Preparing to play an active role as citizens.
- Developing a healthier, safer lifestyle.
- Developing good relationships and respecting the differences between people.

At primary school level sex and relationship education should contribute to the foundation of PSHE and Citizenship by ensuring that all pupils:

Develop confidence in talking, listening and thinking about feelings and relationships.

- Are able to name parts of the body and describe how their bodies work.
- Can protect themselves and ask for support.
- Are prepared for puberty.

At secondary school level the minimum requirement is to provide information about sexually transmitted diseases (STI's) and HIV/AIDS. This will be delivered through video material and the use of fact sheets and questionnaires.

## **National Curriculum Science or through ASDAN**

### **Key Stage 1:**

-that animals including humans move, feed, grow, use their senses and reproduce.

-to recognise and compare the main external parts of the bodies of humans

-that humans and animals can produce offspring and these grow into adults

-to recognise similarities and differences between themselves and others and treat others with sensitivity.

### **Key Stage 2:**

-that the life processes common to humans and other animals include nutrition, growth and reproduction.

-about the main stages of the human life cycle.

### **Key Stage 3/4:**

-describe the human life cycle, identifying the purpose of key organs for reproduction.

The teaching staff, deliver the majority of the sex education curriculum with some input from non-teaching staff and possibly from external health care professionals.

### **Specific Issues within SRE**

#### **Withdrawal**

Parents/Carers have the right to withdraw their child 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 Principal who will explore any concerns and discuss any impact that withdrawal may have on the child or young person. Once a child or young person has been withdrawn they cannot take part in the SRE programme until the request for withdrawal has been removed.

#### **Confidentiality**

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

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

#### **Child Protection**

The school has a separate Child Protection Policy. Effective SRE may bring about disclosures of child protection issues and staff should be aware of the procedures for reporting their concerns. In the event of a child disclosing an abusive situation, this will be referred through to the designated person in school who will log any concerns. This person at present is the head teacher. Records are kept of any disclosures or concerns and what actions were taken.

All staff is informed of the Child Protection Procedure and in particular of the need not to interview or interrogate the child.

### **Controversial and Sensitive Issues**

Staff are aware that views around SRE related issues are varied. However, while personal views are respected, all SRE issues are taught without bias. Topics are presented using a variety of views and beliefs so that pupils are able to form their own, informed opinions but also respect others that may have a different opinion.

### **Dealing with Questions**

Both formal and informal SRE arising from pupils' questions are answered according to the age and maturity of the pupil concerned. Questions do not have to be answered directly, and can be addressed individually later. 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.

### **Dissemination**

All staff members, board of directors receive a copy of the SRE policy. Training is regularly delivered to staff on the policy content. Copies are available from the school office on request from parents. A short summary of the policy is included in the school prospectus.

### **SEND**

Materials and resources selected will take account of the needs of all children who will be following the programme.

Extra time for discussion to allow for understanding may be necessary for children with SEND. The maturity of the children will be taken into account when organising group discussions

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

The effectiveness of delivery strategies and pupil response will be monitored and evaluated by teachers involved in all key stages.

### **Background Documentation**

This policy was informed by reference to 'Sex and Relationship Education Guidance' - July 2000 (DfEE).

## **Appendices**

**Links:**

**BBC Learning Zone - Sex Education**

[www.bbc.co.uk/learningzone/clips/sex-education](http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningzone/clips/sex-education)