

INTRODUCTION

West Sussex Alternative Provision College (WSAPC) is a short stay provision for pupils in Key Stages 1-4 who for a variety of reasons are not in long term learning placements. PSHE and Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) is generally taught in mixed sex classes. WSAPC's Sex and Relationship Education Policy is a policy of the Governing Body. It has been developed through collaboration and consultation between teachers, parents/carers and pupils.

The responsibilities of the Local Authority, the Governing Body and WSAPC in relation to Sex and Relationship Education are contained in the 1986 Education (No 2) Act, the 1993 Education Act and Circular 5/94. The Department for Education and Employment (DfE) released further guidance in 2000.

STATEMENT OF INTENT

The Governing Body of WSAPC believes that appropriate and responsible Sex and Relationship Education, as required by the 1993 Education Act (and subsequent guidance), is an entitlement of all students and an important element of the curriculum in preparing pupils for adult life.

Sex and Relationship Education will be taught in such a way as to complement and support the role of parents/carers in carrying out their responsibilities for bringing up their children and will promote the values of family life.

Sexual facts will be presented in an objective and balanced manner in order to enable pupils to:

- ✦ Understand a range of sexual attitudes and behaviour.
- ✦ Know what is and what is not legal.
- ✦ Be able to make informed, reasoned and responsible decisions about the attitudes and behaviour they may adopt in adulthood.

IMPLEMENTATION

The teaching of physical and emotional aspects of sexual behaviour will be set within the clear moral framework of the whole curriculum in which pupils are encouraged to consider the importance of self-restraint, dignity, and the value they should set upon themselves and others.

Pupils will be helped to appreciate, through open discussion, the benefits and desirability of stable relationships, of married and family life, and the responsibilities of parenthood. Pupils will be given the opportunity to debate sexual issues and be made aware of the health risks of casual and promiscuous sexual behaviour.

Sex and Relationship Education will therefore aim to give pupils a full understanding of themselves and others and help them to develop fulfilling relationships. To achieve that aim WSAPC will:

- ✦ Help pupils develop their knowledge and understanding of growth, development, and human sexuality.
- ✦ Foster pupils' self-esteem, self-awareness, and sense of moral responsibility.
- ✦ Help pupils to develop the skills of avoiding and resisting unwanted sexual experience.



- ✦ Encourage pupils to explore values and attitudes concerning sexuality and personal relationship and to develop the skills of communication and decision-making.
- ✦ Promote the values associated with stable family life.

ORGANISATION AND CONTENT OF THE PROGRAMME; TEACHING METHODS; STAFFING

The programme of study for Sex and Relationship Education includes the material required by the National Curriculum (specifically in Science) and reflects the guidance provided by the DfE and WSAPC.

The detail of the programme of study for Sex and Relationship Education is contained in the schemes of work followed by the departments involved. The schemes of work are altered from year to year, in the interest of continuing improvement in the quality of education in WSAPC.

WSAPC invites appropriate specialists to support the staff for certain parts of the Sex and Relationship Education programme. In particular, WSAPC welcomes the regular involvement of medical staff, especially the Community School Nurse.

Reflection is an essential part of learning. It helps pupils to consolidate the knowledge and skills they have been learning and to form new understanding and attitudes. Reflection, prompted by questions and discussion, forms part of the programme of study.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Implementing Sex and Relationship Education can cause anxieties for some teachers who may lack confidence in dealing with some of the more sensitive aspects of the content of the programme. There may also be issues arising from changes in the legislative framework for Sex and Relationship Education. Staff development work focused on Sex and Relationship Education will therefore be a part of the programme of staff development at the College as needs, either of the staff, or the organisation, dictate.

STATEMENTS ABOUT SPECIFIC ISSUES

- ✦ Teachers can provide individual pupils, including those who have been withdrawn from the Sex and Relationship Education programme, with general information about contraceptive methods and local contraceptive services as this does not count as Sex and Relationship Education. WSAPC values the support of the West Sussex Outreach Services and Advisory Team in training staff to provide this kind of general information. However, staff should not give **specific** 'advice' as to which contraceptive method to use, etc.
- ✦ Health professionals working in WSAPC, on a one to one basis with pupils, are bound by their professional codes of conduct. However, when working in a classroom situation, they are bound by WSAPC policy. WSAPC provides space in all centres when required for the Community School Nurse to be able to offer pupils confidential advice and opportunities for reflection.
- ✦ Teaching staff will first consider whether or not child protection procedures are an issue in a given situation. Health professionals, in particular the Community School Nurse, are able to offer confidential advice but must be prepared to supply information on a need to know basis to keep a pupil from harm.



- ✦ When discussing issues of a confidential nature with pupils, respect for privacy is enforced throughout WSAPC. However, teaching staff will not promise confidentiality to pupils because the degree of confidentiality will be governed by the need to protect the pupil. Confidentiality may not be maintained if the withholding of information will prejudice the welfare of the student.
- ✦ There will be occasions when staff and other professionals providing Sex and Relationship Education have to exercise their discretion and judgement about how to deal with explicit issues raised by an individual pupil, especially when they are raised in class. They should confine themselves to those matters falling within the College's Sex and Relationship Education policy. The shaping of the response should be consistent with the maturity and understanding of the students present.
- ✦ Sexual harassment is the intimidation of one person by another through the use of bullying, inappropriate and unwelcome sexual language or actions. It can be a particularly unpleasant and demoralising form of bullying. WSAPC's Anti-bullying Policy is a separate document. Staff of appropriate seniority and gender will deal with possible cases of sexual harassment and child protection procedures will be followed if necessary.
- ✦ A member of WSAPC who is affected by a disease that may be sexually transmitted will not be discriminated against. Normal precautions will be taken to protect other members of WSAPC against risk of infection. Support will be given through the agencies which work with WSAPC (e.g. the Community School Nurse) both to the person directly affected and to others who may be deemed at risk.
- ✦ "Young people, whatever their developing sexuality, need to feel that Sex and Relationship Education is relevant to them and sensitive to their needs. The Secretary of State for Education and Employment is clear that teachers should be able to deal honestly and sensitively with sexual orientation, answer appropriate questions and offer support. There should be no direct promotion of sexual orientation." (DfE Sex and Relationship Guidance, 2000).

WORKING WITH PARENTS

The Governing Body acknowledge the right of parents to withdraw their children from all or part of the Sex and Relationship Education provided, unless it forms part of the National Curriculum (which is statutory). However, they hope that parents will be able to support both the policy and the practice of the WSAPC.

In the event of a complaint arising from the Sex and Relationship Education programme of WSAPC, parents should first contact the Assistant Headteacher (Head of the Centre the child is attending). If it is not possible to resolve the matter, a formal statement of the complaint should be made to the Co-Head Teachers.

The Governing Body will consult the parents/carers of WSAPC students about developments in the Sex and Relationship Education Policy. Parents who would like to know more in detail about the programme of study, the resources and the staffing are very welcome to enquire, and should contact the Assistant Headteacher (the Head of the Centre their child is attending) in the first instance.



MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed every 3 years. The review will include an assessment of its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.

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