

# **Walderslade Girls' School**



## **Sex & Relationships Education (SRE) Policy October 2012**

*(Revised October 2012, ratified November 2012)*

## The Principles

Walderslade Girls School promotes a positive ethos in terms of Sex and Relationships Education; we aim to be understanding, informative and supportive. Young people are subjected to a wide range of diverse messages from advertising and the media and SRE is one forum where young people can begin to make sense of what they see, hear and feel for themselves. SRE will reflect the values of Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education. SRE will be taught in the context of positive relationships. In addition, SRE will promote children's self – esteem and emotional well being and help them to form and maintain worthwhile and satisfying relationships, based on respect for themselves and for others at home, school, work and in the community.

All pupils will be offered the opportunity of receiving a comprehensive, well planned programme of sex and relationship education (SRE) during their school career, in fulfilment of the requirement of section 1 of the Education Reform Act 1988, the Education ACT 1993 and the revised National Curriculum published in September 1999.

## Sex Education Policy

Sex education forms part of a wider programme of health education, which is taught within the Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) aspect of RS and Citizenship. The concepts of sexual development and behaviour are taught within a moral framework and with regard to the values of family life. The need for self-restraint, dignity and respect for others is emphasised and students are taught the emotional, moral and physical risks of promiscuous behaviour. Every student has the right to be as well informed as possible about issues surrounding sex and relationships, in order to facilitate their development into responsible citizens.

The benefits of planned parenthood within a stable married relationship are discussed as an integral part of the course.

All secondary schools are required to provide sex education (including information about HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases) to all students. Only the biological aspects of sex education are taught as part of the Science National Curriculum. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from any teaching of sex education with the exception of National Curriculum Science which is compulsory for all students to study. We believe that sex education is important for all students and we would expect parents to discuss any concerns with the school before seeking to exercise their right to withdraw a child.

## Aims

Walderslade Girls School believes sex and relationships education should;

- be a life long learning process based on the acquisition of knowledge and skills, and the development of positive attitudes.
- equip young people to enjoy sex and relationships that are based on qualities such as mutual respect, love, trust and negotiation.

- value all people equally within a caring and supportive environment
- recognise and appreciate the value and diversity of families that exist
- address the needs of all young people taking into account gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, SEN or physical and mental ability.

### **Objectives**

- to promote spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and experiences at the school
- to prepare students for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life
- to promote responsible behaviour and respect for oneself and for other people
- to inform and support students and parents
- to encourage a sense of self-worth in all students
- to encourage respect and consideration for others
- to help students develop personal responsibility
- to prepare students for adulthood, future parenthood and citizenship
- to emphasise the importance of relationships and family values
- to help students lead healthy lives, both physically and emotionally
- to enable pupils to make informed and responsible choices
- to combat ignorance
- to enable pupils to develop confidence in talking listening and thinking about feelings and relationships
- to enable pupils to protect themselves and ask for help and support
- to be prepared for puberty
- to provide information which is easy to understand, relevant and appropriate to the age and maturity of the pupils
- to explore and clarify personal and family values
- To enable students to understand how to be safe and to stay safe

- To equip all students with the necessary knowledge of pregnancy and the dangers of sexually transmitted infections (STIs)

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

#### **The Governing Body:**

The governing body of Walderslade Girls' School is responsible for:

- Establishing in consultation with the Headteacher, staff and parents, a policy for the provision of sex and relationships education for all registered pupils (including education on HIV/Aids and other sexually transmitted infections).
- Making that policy available to parents.
- The Safeguarding Governor having oversight of this policy.

#### **The Headteacher is responsible for:**

- The implementation of the School's SRE policy.
- Ensuring the policy is understood and complied with at all levels
- Ensuring relevant and updated material on SRE is brought to the attention of relevant personnel

#### **Heads of Departments are responsible for:**

- The day to day management of matters related to SRE within the Personal, Social and Health Education Programme of the school

#### **The Head of PSHE is responsible for:**

- The development of appropriate schemes of work which meet statutory requirements and the needs of the pupils.
- Ensuring relevant and updated material on SRE is brought to the attention of relevant personnel.
- Liaising with teaching staff to ensure the provision of appropriate material and support and adherence to the school's SRE policy.
- Identifying staff development needs for inclusion in the Continuing Professional Development programme.
- Ensuring that parents are informed about the content of the SRE programme and their right to withdraw their child from that programme.

#### **Subject Staff**

Teaching staff are responsible for:

- Ensuring their familiarity with the SRE policy and programme and compliance with the legal requirements.
- The effective delivery of the agreed programmes of study.
- Awareness of the specific needs of vulnerable children and the provision of appropriate support for them when controversial/sensitive issues are addressed.

### **Parental rights**

Parents may withdraw their child from any or all parts of the sex education programme other than from those parts which form part of the Science Curriculum. Parents who wish to exercise this right should contact the Headteacher.

Students who are withdrawn from the sex education programme shall be provided with alternative work by their PSHE teachers. Such work will be relevant to the programme's overall aims.

### **Relationship to other policies and Schemes of Work**

The SRE policy supports Science SOW in relevant areas. The SRE policy supports Social Moral Cultural and Spiritual Education (SMSC).

### **Vulnerable Children**

At Walderslade Girls School the specific needs of the vulnerable children, identified and unidentified, are recognized. Known vulnerable children should not be withdrawn from lessons but supported through them.

### **Confidentiality**

Effective SRE should enable and encourage young people to talk to a trusted adult about personal matters, including sex. Ideally that person would be the parent or carer.

Children cannot effectively learn if they are concerned or frightened about being abused. They have a right to expect schools to provide a safe and secure environment. Effective sex and relationship education which brings about understanding of what is and is not acceptable in a relationship can lead to disclosure of child protection issues.

- If a member of staff suspects or has reason to believe a child is at risk of being abused, they must report this to the Designated Child Protection Coordinator (DCPC) in accordance with the procedures set down in the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.
- Teachers are not able to offer unconditional confidentiality and this must be made clear to students at the beginning of any interview.

- Disclosures may happen at inappropriate times. When this occurs the member of staff must inform the DCPC as soon as possible after the disclosure. The student should be taken to the Pastoral Support Provision (PSP).
- Staff may not offer students one-to-one advice on contraception or sexual behaviour but may give the address of an advice centre or refer a student to the school nurse. Staff do however, teach the facts about contraception.
- Neither may staff promise confidentiality to students since there are some issues e.g., child protection which may have to be referred to other people. Students are however entitled to confidential sexual health advice.
- In cases of special needs, students may require alternative and more appropriate provision. In such circumstances help from outside agencies may be sought but always in consultation with parents and the students.
- In the event of a pregnancy while at school, the school, in liaison with the student, her parents and other relevant outside agencies will ensure that all steps are taken to ensure the student's continuing education and all necessary support is put in place.
- Issues such as contraception, HIV / AIDS, STIs and abortion will be dealt with in a factual, objective and sensitive way. Students will be encouraged to form their own opinions and to respect the rights of others who hold different views.

### **Dealing with sensitive issues**

Sex education will include questions of values and beliefs. It is therefore bound to be controversial. Young people will be presented with a balanced range of viewpoints on an issue so that they can assess the evidence and explore ideas without distortion.

Teaching about the physical aspects of sexual behaviour should be set within a clear moral framework in which students are encouraged to consider the importance of self-restraint, dignity and respect for themselves and others, and helped to recognise the physical, emotional and moral risks of casual and promiscuous behaviour. Students should appreciate the benefits of a stable relationship and the responsibilities of parenthood.

### **Access to Services**

Confidential "Drop In" Clinic – The visiting School Nurse operates a confidential drop-in clinic one lunchtime each week. All students are made aware of this.

### **Assessment Recording and Reporting**

Assessment of SRE takes the form of an end of unit test and teacher assessments within the PSHE programme. These are used to identify a national Curriculum level which is included in the end of year reports.

### **Role of External Experts**

From time to time it may be necessary for external experts such as qualified nurses, Health visitors, Local Authority personnel to assist with the delivery of the SRE programme. When this happens a qualified teacher, most usually the class teacher, will be present in the classroom.

### **Content of the SRE Curriculum**

The areas of SRE covered within each year group as part of the science curriculum and the SRE curriculum is outlined as follows:

Year 7	
Year 8	
Year 9	
Year 10	
Year 11	
Year 12	
Year 13	

### **Monitoring, Evaluation and review of the SRE Policy**

The Headteacher, along with the Senior Leadership Team and Governors' Pastoral Committee will monitor the implementation of this policy and will recommend any changes or updates in accordance with changes to legislation accordingly. The policy will be reviewed annually.