

SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS POLICY

Legal Status:

Complies with Part 2, paragraph 5 of the Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations (Amendment) 2015.

Applies to:

- Pattison College

Related documents:

- Personal Development Learning
- Personal, Social, Health Economic Education (PSHEE) and Citizenship
- Curriculum Policy
- School Ethos
- Child Protection Policy

Availability

This policy is made available to parents, staff and pupils in the following ways: via the School website and on request a copy may be obtained from the School Office.

Monitoring and Review:

- This policy will be subject to continuous monitoring, refinement and audit by the Principal.
- The Proprietor (who is also the Principal) undertakes an annual review of this policy and of the efficiency with which the related duties have been discharged, by no later than one year from the date shown below, or earlier if changes in legislation, regulatory requirements or best practice guidelines so require.

Signed:

Date: September 2016

Principal and Proprietor

Background Information

Pattison College is a 3-19 co-educational Independent School in Coventry. This policy will evolve through consultation involving students, parents, staff, and appropriate external personnel such as health advisers. All views will be taken into account when developing this policy and any associated curricular input.

What Is Sex and Relationship Education?

SRE is life long learning about physical, sexual, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care for family life. It involves acquiring information, developing skills and forming positive beliefs, values and attitudes.

Principles and Values

In addition Pattison College believes that SRE should:

- Be an integral part of the life long learning process, beginning in early childhood and continue into adult life.
- Be an entitlement for all young people.
- Encourage each student to contribute to our community and aim to support each other as they grow and learn.
- Be set within the wider school context and support family commitment and love, respect and affection, knowledge and openness.
- Encourage students and teachers to share and respect each other's views. The important values are love, respect and care for each other.
- Generate an atmosphere where questions and discussion on sexual matters can take place without any stigma or embarrassment.
- Recognise that parents are the key people in teaching their children about sex, relationships and growing up. We aim to work in partnership with parents and students, consulting them about the way these topics are delivered at Pattison College recognise that the wider community has much to offer and aim to work in partnership with health professionals, social workers, peer educators and other mentors or advisers.

Sex and Relationship Education at Pattison College has three main elements:

Attitudes and Values

- learning the importance of values, individual conscience and moral choices
- learning the value of family life, stable and loving relationships and marriage
- learning about the nurture of children
- learning the value of respect, love and care
- exploring, considering and understanding moral dilemmas
- developing critical thinking as part of decision-making
- challenging myths, misconceptions and false assumptions about normal behaviour

Personal and Social Skills

- learning to manage emotions and relationships confidently and sensitively
- developing self-respect and empathy for others
- learning to make choices with an absence of prejudice
- developing an appreciation of the consequences of choices made
- managing conflict

Knowledge and Understanding

- learning and understanding, at appropriate stages, physical development
- understanding human sexuality, reproduction, sexual health, emotions and relationships
- learning the reasons for delaying sexual activity and the benefits to be gained from such delay

Aims and Objectives

The aim of SRE is to provide balanced factual information about human reproduction, together with consideration of the broader emotional, ethical, religious and moral dimensions of sexual health. Our SRE programme delivered in a number of ways, aims to prepare students for an adult life in which they can:

- develop positive values and a moral framework that will guide their decisions, judgements and behaviour;
- have the confidence and self esteem to value themselves and others
- have respect for individual conscience and the skills to judge what kind of relationship they want
- understand the consequences of their actions and behave responsibly regarding sexual and pastoral relationships
- avoid being exploited or exploiting others or being pressured into unwanted or unprotected relationships
- communicate effectively by developing appropriate terminology for sex and relationship issues
- develop awareness of their sexuality and understand human sexuality
- challenge sexism and prejudice and promote equality and diversity
- understand the arguments for delaying sexual activity
- understand the reasons for having protected sex
- have sufficient information and skills to protect themselves and, where they have one, their partner from uninvited/unwanted conceptions and sexually transmitted infections including HIV
- be aware of sources of help and acquire the skills and confidence to access confidential health advice, support and treatment if necessary
- know how the law applies to sexual relationships

Content

From Key Stage 2 students learn at the appropriate level how good relationships can promote mental well-being, how to manage their feelings positively and how to manage changing relationships.

Materials used reflect ongoing consultation with parents and professional advisers. Age and cultural backgrounds of the students are always regarded in relation to images used. The range of material used is available to parents and informative books are available to students in the library.

Organisation

In the Prep School SRE is not delivered in isolation but embedded across curriculum areas, including Science. It is usually delivered in Years 5 & 6.

SRE is delivered by the NHS Lead Sexual Health Worker who has the experience and skills to deliver sensitive material to mixed ability, co-educational groups of pupils. Active learning methods that involve pupils' participation may be used.

In the Senior School the biology of sexual reproduction is covered in Key Stage 3 Science, Year 7, including the effect of hormones on the body during puberty. Aspects of sexual health are discussed from a biological perspective in Year 10 under the health topic of GCSE Core Science.

Specific Issues within SRE

Withdrawal

Parents/Carers have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the sex and relationships education provided by Pattison College, but not from teaching the biological aspects of human growth and reproduction necessary under National Curriculum Science as covered in our Schemes of Work. Those parents/carers wishing to exercise this right are invited in to School to explore any concerns and discuss the impact that withdrawal may have on the child. Once a child 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 student's confidentiality will be respected by the teacher or member of staff concerned. If this person believes that the student is at risk or in danger, she/he must talk to the named Designated Safeguarding Lead (Mrs McConnell) who may confer with other relevant members of staff before any decision is made.

The student concerned will be informed that confidentiality is being breached and reasons why. The student will be supported 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.

Disclosures

If a member of staff learns that an under 16 year old is sexually active or contemplating sexual activity the school will ensure that:

- The young person is persuaded to talk to their parent/carer
- Child Protection issues are addressed;
- The young person receives adequate counselling and information

Controversial and Sensitive Issues

Members of staff are aware that views around SRE related issues are varied. However, whilst personal views are respected, all SRE issues are taught without bias. Topics are presented using a variety of views and beliefs so that students 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 students' questions are answered according to the age and maturity of the student concerned. Questions do not have to be answered directly and can be addressed individually later. Pattison College believes that individual teachers must use their skill and discretion in this area and refer to the Child Protection Coordinator if they are concerned.

Sexual Identity and Sexual Orientation

Pattison College believes that SRE should meet the needs of all students regardless of their developing sexuality and be able to deal honestly and sensitively with sexual orientation, answer appropriate questions and offer support. Homophobic bullying is dealt with strongly yet sensitively.

Dissemination

This policy will be displayed on the School's website and training will be regularly delivered to staff on the policy content. The Deputy Head facilitates the gathering of policy feedback from parents, staff and pupils on an agreed basis for example, every two years.