



Preamble

The government recently announced: 'The Secretary of State for Education confirms the Government's ambition to support all young people to stay safe and prepare for life in modern Britain by making Relationships Education (Primary), Relationships and Sex Education (RSE – Secondary) and, subject to the outcome of a thorough consideration of the subject, Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE – both) statutory in all schools. The government laid an amendment to the Children and Social Work Bill on 1 March 2017 which we intend to come into effect from September 2019.'

SMRT School is pleased with this announcement.

Consequently, although SMRT recognises that its SRE Policy needs updating for the present, it feels that no update should be done which then needs to be changed in the light of central government's decisions. The policy below will be reviewed and updated as soon as central government guidance is received rather than waiting for the three-year period.

June 2017

Sex and Relationships Education Policy

1. Introduction

Policy on and decisions about sex and relationships are areas of much debate at government, local and individual levels. The School wishes to place both the debate and decision-making at the heart of its Values programme. The School is comprehensive and recognises that, as on many social issues, traditional Christian (and other faith) teaching can be at odds with the daily experiences of many Bristol teenagers. Good Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) will both recognise this tension, and, indeed, use this tension creatively in its exploration of the issues. The School is adamant that it wishes decisions made by its young people to be informed by them 'valuing themselves', 'valuing others' and by 'faith in Christ'.

2. Background

SRE is learning about sex, sexuality, emotions, relationships, sexual health and oneself. The School is required to meet students' needs in developing appropriate knowledge, skills and attitudes in this important area. The DfE recognises that biological SRE is so important that students must be exposed to it in the statutory curriculum. This is achieved in KS3 Science.

SRE takes a pro-active, positive approach to the issues of growing up to become a responsible sexual being, and is about much more than the giving of relevant facts. The SRE programme incorporates knowledge and understanding, a consideration of attitudes and values and the development of assertiveness and decision-making skills. The School deals with SRE, including the controversial issues of contraception, abortion, STIs, AIDS and sexuality, in a sensitive way, taking due consideration of religious and cultural mores.

The School recognises, however, that this is an area of teaching over which parents/carers might wish to exercise direct control by withdrawing their child. In practice, less than 1% of parents/carers do nationally. The School communicates about its SRE policy via the Prospectus, Parent/Carer Handbook and the school newsletter.

3. **The Curriculum**

Across Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4, students are taught how to develop a healthy and safe lifestyle, and how to develop good relationships which respect the differences between people.

4. **General Aims**

- To help students to develop lasting, loving relationships
- To explore the concept of responsibility within a Christian and moral framework
- To increase understanding of the responsibility of parenthood
- To give the skills of decision-making that will enable informed choices to be made
- To explore the influence of pressure on sexual behaviour, and to neither exploit others, nor be exploited themselves

5. **Staffing**

Overall responsibility for the school's SRE programme lies with the Deputy Head (Learning and Achievement) and the Assistant Head (Community). Development and implementation of the SRE programme in Values in Practice (ViP) will be coordinated by the ViP Coordinator. Members of staff delivering the SRE programme will have a sound basic knowledge of sex and relationship issues, and will be confident in their skills to teach sex education and discuss sex and relationships.

6. **Coverage of the Non-Statutory Curriculum**

In RE

GCSE units on marriage and divorce, sex outside marriage; homosexuality, abortion and contraception

In ViP

Year 7 units on Friends, Bullying and Personal safety

Year 8 units on Drugs and Alcohol

Year 9 units on Body Image and First Sex, including contraception demonstrations

Year 10 units on STIs

Year 11 units on HIV/AIDS, Consent and Personal Safety

Off Timetable Events

The school has had a successful relationship with outside agencies over a number of years. These agencies complement the school's programme and put on workshops only after approval from the key school staff (see 5).

7. **Advice on Sexual Health Matters**

Staff, whether delivering SRE or not, are not required to give advice on sexual health matters. They are able to direct students to sources of confidential advice on sexual health matters. Assurance of confidentiality can be given to students by staff if there are no child protection issues and if the member of staff judges that the student is able to understand the choices open to them.