

Walderslade Girls' School

Sex and Relationships Education Policy



Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) Policy 2018

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 Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural Education (SMSC). SRE will be taught in the context of positive relationships. In addition, SRE will promote children's self – esteem and emotional wellbeing 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.

Walderslade Girls' is committed to the provision of SRE to all of its students. Our programme aims to respond to the diversity of children's cultures, sexualities, gender identities, faiths and family backgrounds. Equal time and provision will be allocated for all groups of students. The new Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) Guidance published in 2000 emphasizes the need for effective Sex and Relationships Education which is firmly rooted within the Personal/Social and Health Education (PSHE) and Citizenship framework and supported the National Healthy Schools Standard.

Sex and relationships education is lifelong learning about sex, sexuality, emotions, relationships and sexual health. It involves acquiring information, developing skills and forming positive beliefs, values and attitudes.

The SRE Guidance (2000) is supported in legislation by the Learning and Skills Act (2000.)

Sex Education

Sex education forms part of a wider programme of health education, which is taught within the Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural (SMSC) programme, and Ethics. 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, as well as same sex relationships 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.

Each year students are involved in a Sex Education week where a former Sexual Health Nurse delivers sessions to students which are age appropriate and cover a range of topics.

Year 7	Menstruation and body changes
Year 8	Personal hygiene and body changes
Year 9	Contraception and Sexually Transmitted Infections
Year 10 & 11	Contraception, impact of alcohol, sexuality, fertility and saying 'No'
6 th Form	Love, Life, Sex, Promiscuity and dangers of Pornography

Aims

Walderslade Girls School believes sex and relationships education should;

- be a lifelong 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 students to make informed and responsible choices.
- to combat ignorance.
- to enable students to develop confidence in talking listening and thinking about feelings and relationships.
- to enable students 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 students.
- 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).

Specific Issues

The Sex and Relationship Education Guidance 2000 document (including supplementary advice 2014) recommends that the following specific issues should be included in the policy and incorporated within the SRE programme:

- Students should be fully prepared for the physical and emotional changes they undergo at puberty
- Students must have access to a preventative programme of study which enables them to learn about safety and risks in relationships.
- Students must have opportunities to develop the communication skills, attitudes and values required to keep themselves safe and healthy.
- Young people need access to, and precise information about, confidential contraceptive information, advice and services
- Young people need to be aware of the moral and personal dilemmas involved in abortion and know how to access a relevant agency if necessary
- Young people need to be aware of the risks of STIs including HIV and know about prevention, diagnosis and treatment
- Young people need to know not just what safer sex is and why it is important but also how to negotiate it with a partner
- Young people need to be aware of the possible consequences and legal implications of 'Sexting' and internet safety

As part of The Children Act (2004), students need SRE to contribute to their learning to prepare for the challenges, opportunities and responsibilities of adult life.

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 students (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

- 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

The Head of Year/Head of Department

- The development of appropriate schemes of work which meet statutory requirements and the needs of the students.
- 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.

Teaching staff

- 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 SMSC or Ethics teachers (Form tutor or Head of Year). Such work will be relevant to the programme's overall aims.

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.

Staff are not able to offer confidentiality and this must be made clear to students at the beginning of any discussion. Disclosures may happen at inappropriate times. When this occurs the member of staff must inform the Designated Safeguarding Lead as soon as possible after the disclosure. The student should be taken to the Pastoral Support.

- 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.
- Staff cannot 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 and Sexual Health Nurse operate a confidential drop-in clinic one lunchtime each week. All students are made aware of this. In addition to this, students in Year 10, 11 and 6th Form can book confidential appointments with the Sexual Health Nurse on a weekly basis through Pastoral Support.

Role of External Experts

At times it may be beneficial 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, Ethics curriculum and the SRE curriculum is outlined as follows:

Ethics:

Year 8 Arranged Marriage as part of Hinduism

Year 10&11 Relationships, Family and Marriage

Science:

Year 7 Reproduction

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.

Linked Policies

Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural Policy

Equality and Diversity Policy

Healthy Lifestyles Policy

Walderslade Values

Child Protection Policy