



# DEVONPORT HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

## SEX AND RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION POLICY

Named person: R Morgan

Category: Statutory

Review: Annually or When there are significant changes

Date to be reviewed: Summer 2019

**This policy has been reviewed with regard to the work/life balance of staff.**

Adopted by the Governors' Policy Committee on: 09/07/18

Ratified at the Full Governors' meeting on: 11/07/18

# Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) Policy

This policy is written in accordance with the DfE Sex and Relationship Education Guidance that was issued in July 2000, the Education Acts of 1996 and 2002 and the Children Social Care Act 2017. The document 'Sex and Relationship Education for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century' produced by the PSHE association has also guided the policy.

## **Definition of Sex Education:**

Sex and Relationship Education was made compulsory in English schools by the passing into law of the Children and Social Care Act 2017. The law does not give a definitive statement as to what sex education is. At DHSG it is regarded as education about sexual matters within a values framework, focusing upon responsibility within caring, committed relationships. Among the things we will concentrate on are knowledge of the facts of human reproductive processes, sexuality and behaviour, pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, contraception and abortion, and a consideration of the broader emotional and ethical dimensions of sexual attitudes. These include healthy relationships, consent and providing students with the knowledge to help themselves and others, keep safe from abuse, for example through sexual exploitation, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), forced marriage and Peer on Peer abuse. All aspects of the educative process will look at both off and online behaviour and risks.

## **Rationale**

Sex education provides an understanding that positive, caring environments are essential for the development of a good self-image and that individuals are in charge of and responsible for their own bodies. It ought to provide knowledge about the processes of reproduction and the nature of sexuality and relationships. It should encourage the acquisition of skills and attitudes which allow students to manage their relationships in a responsible and healthy manner.

## **Aims**

In the attempt to enable students to acquire knowledge, skills, responsible attitudes and behaviour with regard to sex education, DHSG aims to: provide a worthwhile educational experience for all its students which will present opportunities:

- to help students to consider the importance of self-restraint, dignity, respect for themselves and for others, acceptance of responsibility, sensitivity towards the needs and views of others, loyalty and fidelity;
- to enable students to recognise the physical, emotional and moral implications, and risks, of certain types of behaviour and to accept that everyone should behave responsibly in sexual matters;
- to support the personal development and social skills of the students;
- to ensure that students have an understanding of their own and others' sexuality;
- to enjoy relationships based upon mutual respect and responsibility which are free from abuse and exploitation and understand what constitutes a healthy relationship;
- to provide information and knowledge which will counteract prejudice and ignorance;
- to develop an understanding of risk and to promote strategies for personal safety;
- to enable students to be aware of the sources of help and to acquire the skills and confidence to use them;
- to help students identify risks associated with sexual exploitation and how to report concerns and gain support for victims.

**Objectives:**

- To enable students to understand the biological aspects of reproduction and the laws in place to protect the students.
- To consider the advantages and disadvantages of various methods of family planning in terms of personal preference and their social and moral implications.
- To recognise and be able to discuss sensitive and controversial issues such as conception, virginity, birth, child-rearing, abortion, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT), domestic abuse, sexually transmitted diseases and technological developments which involve consideration of attitudes, values, beliefs and morality (including the risks and impacts associated with sexting and pornography).
- To make students aware of the range of sexual attitudes and behaviour in present day society and recognise the importance of personal choice in managing relationships so that they do not present risks to health and personal safety.
- To make students aware that feeling positive about sexuality and sexual activity is important in relationships and that people have the right not to be sexually active.
- To explore the meaning of 'consent' in the context of a sexual relationship.
- To understand the changing nature of sexuality over time and its impact on lifestyles, e.g. puberty.
- To recognise that parenthood is a matter of choice that needs to be carefully considered.
- To critically analyse moral values and explore those held by different cultures and groups.
- To understand the concept of stereotyping and to discuss issues such as sexual harassment in terms of their effects on individuals.
- To understand aspects of legislation relating to sexual behaviour, gender and equal opportunities and to raise awareness of the availability of statutory and voluntary organisations which offer support in human relationships.

**Delivery**

Sex education at DHSG is taught in a cross curricular way through Biology and Religious Studies, as well as through the Pastoral Programme. Some of the programme will be delivered by Health professionals. Specific detail of delivery can be evidenced through the Pastoral Health Programme Schemes of Work. The diverse staffing and the variety of experience contained within this teaching body is seen as a valuable resource for the delivery of sex education. The provision of sex education is seen as progressive in terms of language, concepts and content which increases in depth and complexity as students progress through the school.

Throughout the course of teaching, a variety of sensitive issues will inevitably be explored. It is recognised that an individual's sexuality is a highly personal matter. The teaching of sex education at DHSG will place stress upon the need for understanding and awareness of a variety of sexual preferences across the spectrum of human sexuality.

It is intended that students will be given up-to-date information on a wide variety of contraceptive methods and whilst general statements about the efficacy of these methods will be given, specific advice and guidance to individuals will not be made as part of the SRE programme.

**Sex Education in the Curriculum**

**Introduction:** DHSG strives to offer an education for the whole person. Part of the make-up of all humans is that they are sexual beings. It would be irresponsible of the school to ignore this. Our

sex education programme aims to be a sensitive and responsible one which is set in a moral and social framework. It also aims to meet the statutory provision which has been outlined in various Government documents.

**Context:** The prime responsibility for bringing up children rests with parents/carers. Schools must recognise that parents/carers are key figures in helping their children cope with the emotional and physical aspects of growing up and in preparing them for the challenges and responsibilities which sexual maturity brings. The teaching offered by schools should be seen as complimentary and supportive to the role of parents/carers.

It is recognised that sex education is a complex issue which will place demands on schools and teachers. However, the purpose of sex education should be to provide knowledge about loving relationships, the nature of sexuality and the processes of human reproduction. At the same time it should lead to the acquisition of understanding and attitudes which prepare students to view their relationships in a responsible and healthy manner and provide them with the information and skills to safeguard themselves.

The sex education delivered should be tailored not only to the age, but also to the understanding of students. At DHSG we aim to present facts in an objective, balanced and sensitive manner. It will be set within a clear framework of values and an awareness of the law regarding sexual behaviour. Students will be encouraged to appreciate the value of a stable family life, marriage (including same sex marriage and Civil Partnerships in line with legislation changes in 2014) and the responsibilities of parenthood. Such matters will be treated with sensitivity and great care will be taken to encourage all students to feel a sense of worth. Particular care will be taken when issues such as marital breakdown and divorce are dealt with.

### **Inclusion**

‘Mainstream schools and special schools have a duty to ensure that children with special educational needs and learning difficulties are properly included in sex and relationship education. Sex and relationship education should help all students understand their physical and emotional development and enable them to make positive decisions in their lives’ ‘Sex and Relationship Education Guidance’ [DfE Ref 0116/2000]. Young people may have varying needs regarding SRE depending on their circumstances and background. We strongly believe that all students should have access to SRE that is relevant to their particular needs. To achieve this DHSG’s approach to SRE will take account of:

### **Ethnic and cultural diversity.**

Different ethnic and cultural groups may have different attitudes to SRE. We will consult students and parents/carers about their needs, take account of their views and promote respect for, and understanding of, the views of different ethnic and cultural groups.

### **Varying home backgrounds.**

We recognise that our students may come from a variety of family situations and home backgrounds. We shall take care to ensure that there is no stigmatisation of children based on their home circumstances.

### **Sexuality/gender.**

On average, about 5% of our students will go on to define themselves as lesbian, gay, bi-sexual or transgender (LGBT). Students may also have LGBT parents/carers, brothers or sisters, other family members and/or friends. All our students will meet and work with LGBT people. Our approach to SRE will include sensitive, honest and balanced consideration of sexuality and gender. We shall actively tackle homophobic bullying and prejudiced behaviour.

### **The needs of boys as well as girls.**

It is reported that girls tend to have greater access to SRE than boys, both through the media (particularly magazines) and the home. We will consider the particular needs of boys, as well as girls, and approaches that will actively engage them (applicable to the sixth form). We shall also be proactive in combating sexism and sexist bullying, and educate students to protect themselves from Peer to Peer abuse.

### **Special Educational Needs.**

We shall take account of the fact that some students may have learning, emotional or behavioural difficulties or physical disabilities that result in particular SRE needs.

### **The Parental Right to Withdraw their Child from Sex Education Lessons:**

Section 405 of the *Education Act 1996* enables parents/carers to withdraw their children from sex education other than the sex education that is in the National Curriculum (such as the biological aspects of human growth and reproduction that are essential elements of National Curriculum Science). It is realised that, under exceptional circumstances, a very small number of parents/carers may wish to exclude their children from this programme. In this case, such parents/carers should write to the Head of House (HoH), stating their objections. The HoH will then arrange a meeting to talk through concerns. Where objections still remain, we will organise different activities for the student as appropriate. The schemes of work contained within this document will enable parents/carers to estimate the point at which specific aspects of sex education will be delivered to their child. The biological element of reproduction remains within the National Curriculum Science Order for Key Stage 3, and is covered in detail during the KS4 as part of the GCSE course. It must be stated here that much of the SRE programme impacts on keeping children safe and as such we will seek to find alternate opportunities to deliver these key messages.

### **Answering difficult questions**

Sometimes an individual student will ask an explicit or difficult question in the classroom. Questions do not have to be answered and can be addressed later. This school believes that individual teachers must use their skill and discretion in these situations and refer to the Head of House / Head of Sixth Form if concerned. Any concerns regarding child protection should be referred immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).

### **Dealing with questions**

- Teachers should establish clear parameters about what is appropriate and inappropriate in a whole-class setting.
- Teachers should set the tone by speaking in a matter-of-fact way and ensuring that students discuss issues in a way which does not encourage giggling and silliness.
- Students should be encouraged to write down questions anonymously and post them in a question box, the teacher will have time to prepare answers to all questions before the next session, and will choose not to respond to any questions which are inappropriate.

- If a verbal question is too personal the teacher should remind the students of the ground rules.
- Teachers should not be drawn into providing more information than is appropriate to the age of the student.
- Students must not be given the impression that teenagers inevitably have sex, the view that sex should be between two consenting people who are mature enough to make informed decisions should be emphasised.

### **Monitoring**

Heads of House / Head of Sixth Form or Form Tutors sit in on all sessions led by outside speakers to ensure consistency of delivery to each group.

Form Tutors complete returns to Heads of House / Head of Sixth Form.

Heads of House / Head of Sixth Form have regular pastoral meetings with a member of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) in which these issues are discussed periodically.

Governors review this policy annually.

All resource materials used are informed by recognised educational suppliers and health organisations. Heads of House / Head of Sixth Form are responsible for ensuring that materials used are appropriate for the age and cultural background of the students concerned.

SLT meet on a need to know basis with the School Nurse, Youth Worker and Counsellor to discuss non-confidential feedback and sharing of concerns.

Internet access of students is carefully monitored with filters to ensure only appropriate sites related to sex and relationships can be visited – see ICT policy.

### **Evaluation**

Form Tutors regularly discuss and review content and progress of SRE.

Heads of House / Head of Sixth Form and SLT receive feedback from Key Stage 3 and 4 via reports.

Students complete evaluation sheets for Health Education Days and sessions.

Parents/carers are consulted periodically about SRE.

### **Informing Parents/Carers**

Parents/carers receive an annual letter outlining the content and nature of Sex and Relationship education and are reminded at the same time of their right to withdraw their children from the programme.

Parents/carers are asked to return a reply slip confirming their receipt of the letter.

Parents/carers may request copies of the full SRE policy document at any time and are welcome to comment on its content. With appropriate notice, parents/carers may request to see copies of the teaching materials used for SRE.

## At what age can I...?

You might not be seen as an adult in the eyes of the law until the age of 18, but as you get older you are legally allowed to do certain things. That can also mean you are legally responsible for your actions, so it's important to know what's what.

### 10 +

- You have reached the age of criminal responsibility. This means that between the ages of 10 and 14, you can be convicted of a criminal offence if it can be proven that you knew what you were doing was seriously wrong.
- Between the ages of 10 and 14, a girl or boy can be convicted of rape, assault with the intent to commit rape and unlawful sex with a girl or boy if she/he is under 16, if it can be proven that she/he knew what she/he was doing was wrong.

### 14 +

- You can get a part time job, for a maximum of two hours on a school day, working sometime between 7.00am and 8.00am and 5.00pm and 7.00pm.
- You can work on Sundays between 7.00am and 7.00pm, but again for no more than two hours.
- You can work up to five hours on a Saturday between 7.00am and 7.00pm.
- During school holidays you can work five hours a day from Monday to Saturday. But you can only work two hours a day on Sundays.
- It's worth checking with your Local Authority before taking on unusual work (i.e. anything that doesn't involve putting papers through letterboxes) to be sure it doesn't contravene local regulations and bylaws
- You can go into a bar and order soft drinks.
- If convicted of a serious criminal offence (in a Youth Court), you can be held in secure accommodation for no more than 24 months. You could also get a fine for a maximum of £1,000.
- Wearing a seatbelt is considered your own personal responsibility, so buckle up.

### 15+

- Working restrictions are the same as 14-year-olds, except you can work up to eight hours on a Saturday between 7.00am and 7.00pm (if you're 15 or over but under school-leaving age).
- You can view, rent or buy a 15 rated film.
- If you are awaiting trial for a criminal offence, you may be held in a remand centre.
- If convicted, you can be sent to a young offenders institute for up to two years.

### 16+

- You have the right to give consent to medical, dental and surgical treatment. This includes contraceptive advice and treatment.
- You can leave school on the last Friday in June, as long as you turn 16 by that date or by the start of the next school year. However, although you are not required to attend school, you will have to remain in education, employment or training until 18.
- You are entitled to free full-time further education (at school, sixth form college and city technology college).

- If you do leave full-time education for work, you are allowed to take time off for training or study (until you're 17).
- You can have sex, gay or straight, so long as your partner is also 16+ (17+ in Northern Ireland).
- If you're 17 and under, it is an offence for someone in a position of trust who is 18 or over to engage in any kind of sexual activity with you.
- You can claim benefit and obtain a National Insurance number.
- You can apply for legal aid.
- You can drink a beer, wine, or cider with a meal in a pub or restaurant if you are with an adult.
- You can ride a moped with a max engine power of 50cc (and a provisional licence). You can also drive an invalid vehicle (with a licence) and a mowing machine.
- You can work as a street trader and/or sell scrap metal.
- You can choose your own doctor.
- You can work full time if you've chosen to leave school (but not in a bar or a betting shop).
- You can join the armed forces (so long as that's OK with your parent/s or carer).
- You can move out of the family home with your parents' permission (If you're under 17 then Social Services may apply for a Care Order).
- You can rent accommodation, but a guarantor is required until you're 18 (this is an adult who can be responsible for you).
- You must pay for prescription charges (unless you're pregnant, on income support or in full-time education). Laws in Wales differ though.
- You can order your own passport.
- If convicted of a criminal offence, but not given a custodial sentence, you can receive a youth rehabilitation order.
- You can play the National Lottery.
- You can buy premium bonds.
- You can fly a glider.
- You can get married (with parental consent).
- And you can buy liquor chocolates.

## 17+

- You can drive most types of vehicles (with a provisional driving licence and a 21+ adult in the passenger seat who is qualified to drive).
- If you pass your driving test, and you're properly insured, you can get behind the wheel and take to the road on your own.
- You can apply for a private pilot's licence for a plane, helicopter, gyroplane, hot air balloon and airship.
- You can be interviewed by the police without an adult present, given a reprimand or a warning. Should you be charged with an offence (without being granted bail) then you could be sent to a remand centre or prison.
- You can become a blood donor.
- You can leave your body for medical study.

## 18+

- You can vote in local and general elections.
- You can stand for election as a Member of Parliament, local Councillor or Mayor.
- You can serve on a jury, or be tried in a magistrates court and go to jail if you're found guilty of a criminal offence.

- If you were adopted you can see your original birth certificate (and have your name added to the Adoption Contact Register).
- You can make a will.
- You can get married without parental permission.
- You can view, rent or buy an 18 rated film.
- You can view, rent, or buy pornographic material that does not contravene UK obscenity laws.
- You can buy fireworks.
- You can place a bet in a betting shop/casino.
- You can buy cigarettes, rolling tobacco and cigarette papers.
- You can open your own bank account.
- You can buy an alcoholic drink in a pub or a bar.
- You can pawn stuff in a pawn shop.
- You can have a tattoo.
- You can drive lorries weighing up to 7.5 tonnes, with a trailer attached.

#### **19+**

- You are no longer entitled to free full time education at school.

#### **21+**

- You can apply to adopt a child.
- You can supervise a learner driver (so long as you've held a driving licence for the same type of vehicle for three years).
- You can apply for a range of licences that would allow you to fly commercial transport aeroplanes, helicopters, gyroplanes and airships.
- You can drive lorries over 7.5 tonnes with a trailer (with the appropriate licence), as well as buses and road rollers.

<http://www.thesite.org/crime-and-safety/your-rights/what-age-can-i-9102.html>

THIS IS AN EXAMPLE OF THE STANDARD LETTER SENT TO PARENTS/CARERS AT THE START OF EACH ACADEMIC YEAR, EXACT CONTENT IS AGREED WITH THE DSL

September 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

You may be aware that there are statutory arrangements for Sex Education in Schools, and we are obliged to remind you annually of the issues covered. We provide sex education here largely through the tutorial programme and outside speakers. A copy of our Sex and Relationship Education policy is available for you to read on the school website or can be requested from the office.

Rest assured that sex education will be provided sensitively giving due regard to moral considerations and the value of family life. As parents/carers you have the right if you wish to withdraw your daughter/son from all or part of the sex education programme. Any enquiries you have about this should be made to the relevant Head of House and will be dealt with sympathetically, but we hope that you will trust the school to approach these issues in such a way as to allow individual children to maintain their family's convictions and views. In addition to sex education our pastoral programme covers other health issues such as drug and alcohol awareness and we may from time to time give out information leaflets and contact details.

It must be stated here that much of the SRE programme impacts on keeping children safe and as such we will seek to find alternate opportunities to deliver these key messages.

### Health Education: aspects covered in the School Pastoral Programme

#### Year 7

Puberty	Menstruation	Personal Hygiene and healthy lifestyles
Oral Health	Friendship Issues	Alcohol and Passive Smoking
Personal Safety	Bullying	Healthy eating

#### Year 8

Sex: The facts and emotions	Self Esteem	Bullying	Mental Well-Being
Smoking	Alcohol and Drug awareness	Sun Safety	
Healthy Eating	Anger Management	Managing anxiety	

#### Year 9

Moral dilemmas & Contraception	Sexually Transmitted Infections	Healthy Eating
Alcohol and Drugs	Relationships	Anxiety
Bullying	Sex and the Law	Mental Well-Being

#### Year 10

Eating Disorders	Contraception & Sexually Transmitted Infections	Relationship issues
Alcohol and Drugs	Mental Well-Being	Homophobic bullying & sexuality
Pornography		

#### Year 11

Alcohol/Drugs/Smoking	Stress management	Healthy Lifestyle	Mental Well-Being
Contraception and Pregnancy	Well woman advice	Personal safety	Relationship Issues

✂.....

To: **Devonport High School for Girls**

Student's name \_\_\_\_\_ Form \_\_\_\_\_

I confirm that I have received the letter dated September 2018 relating to Sex Education in Schools.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_