



Ysgol Clywedog

Sex Related Education Policy

Member of staff responsible: Head of PSE

When reviewing this policy, we referred to:-

- a) *Better Health- Better Wales* (1999) which highlights that rates of teenage pregnancy are the highest in Europe and there are worrying increases in the rates of sexually transmitted infections among 16-19 year olds
- b) the National Assembly's *Strategic framework for promoting sexual health in Wales* (2000) which proposes a number of health and education initiatives to address these problems. A central objective of the strategy is to ensure that all young people in Wales receive effective education about sex and relationships as part of their personal and social development and in order to promote sexual health.
- c) Welsh Assembly Government's key strategies, one being to reduce the incidents of STIs by teaching about safer sex. Of particular concern in Wales is the increasing rate of chlamydial infection among 16-19 year olds.
- d) Teenage Pregnancy Strategy which aims to halve under-18 conception (from the 1998 baseline) and increase the proportion of parents aged 16 to 18 who are in education, employment or training to 60 percent by 2010.

Aims of our SRE policy:-

- to help and support pupils through their physical, emotional, moral and spiritual development;
- to enable young people to make responsible and well informed decisions about their lives;
- to help pupils learn to respect themselves and others and move with confidence from childhood through adolescence into adulthood;
- to prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life, and enable them to develop considered attitudes, values and skills, which influence the way they behave.

Partnership with parents and carers

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of SRE, except for those parts included in the statutory National Curriculum programme of study for science. In such circumstance we would seek to enter into consultation with the parents to discuss their concerns. We would make alternative arrangements for any pupil whose parent/carer chooses to withdraw their child.

Looked after children

Looked after children and children with disruptive lifestyles or periods of long absence may miss opportunities for learning and may lack some parental guidance. It is our aim to ensure that they receive SRE.

Special educational needs and learning difficulties

It is also important that pupils with special needs are not withdrawn from PSE in order that more time can be devoted to core National Curriculum subjects.

Sexual identity

The National Assembly is clear that teachers should be able to deal with issues of sexual identity honestly, sensitively and in a non-discriminatory way. Section 28 of the Local Government Act 1988 does not prevent the objective discussion of homosexuality in the classroom.

Abortion and termination

About half of pregnancies to girls under 16 end in abortion each year. In 2000 the rate for 15 year olds in Wales was 7 per 1000 girls compared to 8 per 1000 girls in England.

If/when abortion is discussed we offer the pupils the opportunity to explore the dilemmas enabling them to know and understand abortion, and appreciate the validity of opposing views, and develop the communication skills to discuss it with parents and health professionals.

The use of outside agencies

Elements of sex and relationships education are also provided by a wide range of people in the wider community. These people have much to offer at all levels of planning and delivering SRE, bringing a new perspective and offering specialised knowledge, experience and resources.

However, when they are in their professional role, such as school nurse in consultation with an individual pupil, they should follow their own professional codes of conduct (this is the case irrespective of who is paying them).

Confidentiality and Child Protection

All staff are aware of the confidentiality, personal disclosures and Child Protection guidelines,

Sexual abuse and sexual abuse on the Internet

Within Year 7's programme, we have units of work on sexual abuse and sexual abuse on the Internet. Both units of work have been developed by the NSPCC and deal with the issues in a sensitive way. The NSPCC believe that young people are better safeguarded by having correct knowledge and by developing the necessary skills to keep themselves safe.

Delivery of SRE

The SRE programme is co-ordinated by the subject leader for PSE and is delivered in the following ways:-

- the majority of the SRE programme, at both key stages is delivered via PSE lessons;
- outside agencies may support some aspects of the programme;
- some aspects of SRE will be delivered through biology lessons and child development;
- pupils are taught in mixed gender groups.

We provide a stimulating and supportive learning environment in which pupils can develop an understanding of the importance of stable and loving personal relationships, respect, love, care and the building of successful relationships. They gain knowledge and awareness of sex, sexuality and sexual health and learn about the benefits of delaying sexual activity and how to obtain appropriate advice on sexual health. Pupils are able to develop their feelings of self-worth and confidence especially in relationships with others.

This will include developing the following skills: valuing themselves as unique individuals, keeping themselves and others healthy and safe, communication, decision making and assertiveness.

Contents of SRE programme

- physical and emotional changes at puberty;
- male and female sex organs;
- menstruation, wet dreams;
- sexual abuse, sexual abuse on the Internet/ 'sexting';
- what makes a good relationship?;
- risk taking behaviour;
- emotions; love, affection, passion;
- respecting others;
- peer pressure;
- assertive behaviour; ways to say "no";
- sexual intercourse, foreplay;
- sexually transmitted infections, including HIV;
- contraception;
- pregnancy;
- living together/marriage;
- parenthood;
- abortion.