



Kingsthorpe College

A Designated Specialist Sports College



SEX EDUCATION POLICY

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Frequency of Review:	Yearly
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File Name:	Sex Education Policy
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Rationale

This revised policy is intended to meet the requirements of the Governing Body in providing Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) in accordance with the DfEE document "Sex and Relationships Education Guidance 2000" (DfEE 0116/2000). It replaces the existing document issued by the Governing Body – March 1996 which was based on Circular 5/94.

It has been written to take account of:

- the revised National Curriculum, published in September 1999
- the awareness of issues arising out of both the new Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) framework and the Social Exclusion Unit report on teenage pregnancy.

Purposes

SRE is not about the promotion of sexual orientation or activity. Rather, its objective is to support young people through their physical, emotional and moral development by providing them with clear information and opportunities to relate this to wider considerations. Students will be taught about the nature of marriage and its importance for family life. However, the governors recognise that there are strong and mutually supportive relationships outside marriage. Therefore, students need to learn the significance of stable relationships as key building blocks of community and society. They need to understand difference, without prejudice and have respect for themselves and others. KC will take care to ensure that there is no stigmatisation of children based on their home circumstances. Our students should learn to understand human sexuality, learn the lessons for delaying sexual activity and the benefits to be gained from such delay and learn about obtaining appropriate advice on sexual health. The governing body firmly believes that SRE should contribute to promoting the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of students and help to prepare them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

The KC governing body and Principal will ensure that the SRE policy and structure reflects the wishes of parents and the wider community. Arrangements will be made to involve parents in the structuring of the course and to protect students from inappropriate teaching and materials.

The governing body believes that SRE should encompass, in addition to facts about human reproductive processes and behaviour, consideration of the broader emotional and ethical dimensions of sexual attitudes. It must include at a point appropriate to the age and maturity of the student's education information about HIV and Aids and other sexually transmitted diseases. In dealing with these and other sensitive matters such as contraception and abortion, the College will aim to offer balanced and factual information and to acknowledge the major moral and ethical issues involved.

Great care will be taken to match any SRE provided to the maturity of the students involved, which may not always correspond to their chronological age. It will take into account both their capacity to absorb sensitive information and the extent to which it is essential for them to have such information at that point in their development.

Students' questions will be answered sensitively: due consideration will be given to any particular religious or cultural factors bearing on the discussion of sexual issues and to parents' wishes as to the degree of explicitness of the concepts and presentation to be used.

SRE will be taught within a moral framework preparing students from Years 7-13 to make informed and responsible decisions about themselves and others throughout their lives.

SRE – KC General Considerations

The governing body believes that the College should:

- teach about relationships, love and care and the responsibilities of parenthood as well as sex
- focus on boys as much as girls
- build self-esteem
- teach the taking on of responsibility and the consequences of one's actions in relation to sexual activity and parenthood
- provide young people with information about different types of contraception, safe sex and how they can access local sources of further advice and treatment
- use young people as peer educators, e.g. teenage mothers and fathers
- give young people a clear understanding of the arguments for delaying sexual activity and resisting pressure
- link sex and relationship education with issues of peer pressure and other risk taking behaviour, such as drugs, smoking and alcohol
- ensure young people understand how the law applies to sexual relationships

Guidelines

The SRE programme will be delivered primarily through the tutorial and personal and social education programmes, but will have a cross curricular dimension, being complimented by work done in other areas of the curriculum such as PE, Science, RE and English.

Every effort will be made to place the physical aspects of sexual behaviour into the context of personal relationships and responsibilities, parenthood and family life and to eliminate as far as possible, the isolation of factual physical knowledge.

SRE has 3 main elements:

Attitudes and Values

- learning the importance of values, individual conscience and moral considerations;
- learning the value of family life, marriage and stable relationships for 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.

Personal and Social Skills

- learning to manage emotions and relationships confidently and sensitively;
- developing self-respect and empathy for others;
- learning to make choices based on an understanding of difference and absence of prejudice;
- developing an appreciation of the consequences of choices made;
- managing conflict and learning how to avoid exploitation and abuse.

Knowledge and Understanding (at appropriate stages)

- learning about and understanding physical development;
- understanding human sexuality, reproduction, sexual health, emotions and relationships;
- learning about contraception and the range of local and national health advice and support services available;
- learning the reasons for delaying sexual activity and how to avoid unplanned pregnancy.

SRE Programme – General Aims

1. To develop a student's understanding of his / her own development and that of their peers.
2. To help students to adapt to changes in themselves.
3. To help students explore and understand the feelings, attitudes and values of themselves and others.
4. To raise self-esteem among students.
5. To help students to make informed decisions about their life and their relationships.
6. To help young people to determine where they can have control over their lifestyles.
7. To help them to make conscious choices in determining their future health and lifestyle.

SRE should prepare young people for an adult life in which they can:

- develop positive values and a moral framework that will guide their decisions, judgements and behaviour;
- be aware of their sexuality and understand human sexuality;
- understand the arguments for delaying sexual activity;
- understand the reasons for having protected sex;
- understand the consequences of their actions and behave responsibly within sexual and pastoral relationships;
- have the confidence and self-esteem to value themselves and others;
- communicate effectively;
- avoid being exploited or exploiting others;
- avoid being pressured into unwanted or unprotected sex;
- access confidential sexual health advice, support and if necessary treatment;
- know how the law applies to sexual relationships.

Using the Wide Community & Visiting Speakers

The governing body consider that the delivery of sex and relationship education is not necessarily the sole responsibility of the College. Elements of sex education and relationship education are also provided by a range of people in the wider community including health professionals, social workers, youth workers, peer educators and visitors. People in the wider community have much to offer at all levels of planning and delivering sex and relationship education, bringing a new perspective and offering specialised knowledge, experience and resources. Such speakers should be made familiar with the policy of the College. The approaches and methods to be used should be discussed in advance of any session to eliminate any conflicts. Students must always be presented with a balanced view and therefore staff need to present alternative views if such bias occurs.

Parental Involvement

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from any or all parts of a school's programme of SRE other than those elements which are required by the National Curriculum Science Order. This parental right of withdrawal, includes those over compulsory school age, although a student in this category may challenge the parental decision. Parents do not have to give reasons for their decision in the case of compulsory school age pupils; nor do they have to indicate what other arrangements they intend to make for providing sex education for their children. Once a request that a child be excused has been made, the request will be complied with until the parent changes or revokes it.

Parents will in future be informed of the College policy statement on SRE in the Annual Report of the Governing Body. At each Annual Parents' Evening they will have the opportunity to question and discuss the policy but a more detailed understanding of the aims of the policy and the rationale behind it will only become apparent through more detailed discussion with teachers.

The materials used in the delivery of SRE will be available on the Parents' Evenings. Parents will have an opportunity on these occasions to view videos, study books and worksheets and discuss with respective staff any issues of concern. All parents will be informed in writing prior to any major aspect of work within the sex education programme.

Sexual Inappropriate Behaviour

Where the circumstances are such as to lead any teacher to believe that a student has embarked upon, or is contemplating, a course of conduct which is likely to place him or her at moral or physical risk or in breach of the law, that teacher has a general responsibility to ensure that the student is aware of the implications and is urged to seek advice, in such circumstances, the teacher should inform the Principal and or the College Child Protection Officers. The Principal / Child Protection Officer should arrange for that student to be counselled if appropriate and, where the student is under age, for the parents to be informed.

Child Sexual Abuse Procedure

All circumstances relating to knowledge concerning the possibility of the above should be reported immediately to the Principal / College Child Protection Officers. The Principal must take the action set out in Circular 4/88 or any document replacing that one.

Review

The SRE programme will be reviewed by the respective staff in the Spring Term and their respective comments / recommendations will be presented to the governing body at the beginning of the new academic year.

During the Summer Term the governing body will review its policy in the light of both parental comments and staff comments and establish its policy for the future.