

Sex and Relationship Education Policy

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Executive Summary

Sex Relationship Education is lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of a stable and loving relationship for family life (including marriage), respect, love and care without stigmatising students based on their home circumstances.

It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality and sexual health. It is not about the promotion of sexual orientation or sexual activity.

Sex and Relationship Education has 3 main elements:

1. Attitudes and Values
2. Personal and Social Skills
3. Knowledge and Understanding

4. At Manchester Settlement School, SRE is principally taught through 2 main curriculum areas – PHSE and Science plus through one to work with Learning Mentors. In PSHE classes a professional from the Hathersage Centre (Palatine) comes into school and delivers sessions in an informal and accessible format. In addition to this the students have access to the school nurse services where they can speak confidentially to a healthcare professional about any concerns they may have. The school nurse offers sexual health and contraception advice as well as screening for pregnancy and STI's.

In National Curriculum Science students learn about: The way in which hormonal control occurs, including the effects of sex hormones • Some medical uses of hormones, including the control and promotion of fertility • The defence mechanisms of the body • How sex is determined in humans

Parents are the key people in teaching their children about sex, relationships and growing up. Their important role as sex educators is recognised in the Home Office strategy “Supporting Families”, and Manchester Settlement School seeks to work in close partnership with parents in this field. The key purpose of this policy statement is to reassure parents that Manchester Settlement School’s SRE programme will complement and support their role as parents.

OFSTED is statutorily required under Section 10 of the School Inspections Act 1996 to evaluate and report on the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils at any school they inspect. This includes evaluating and commenting on a school’s sex and relationship education policy and programme of study. Sex Education and Relationship Policy Rationale

The purpose of the Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) Policy is to contribute to the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of students at Manchester Settlement School. Manchester Settlement School aims to equip all groups of students to take their place in a rapidly changing and challenging world.

Policy Objectives

- To teach about one-to-one relationships, the value of love and care and the responsibilities of parenthood.
- To be inclusive of all our young people, regardless of gender, culture or family circumstances.
- To build self-esteem.
- To teach students how to take responsibility for themselves and others and how to deal with the consequences of their actions.
- To provide students with information about different methods of contraception, safe sex and how to access local sources of advice and treatment.
- To provide our learners with a clear understanding of the arguments for delaying sexual activity and resisting pressure.
- To link SRE with issues of peer pressure and other risk-taking behaviour in order to promote young people's safety and well-being.
- To ensure students understand how the law applies to sexual relationships.

SRE has three main elements:

Attitudes and Values

Learning the importance of values, individual conscience and moral considerations Learning the value of family life, stable and loving relationships and marriage for the nurture of children without stigmatising students based on their home circumstances. Learning the value of respect, love and care Exploring, considering and exploring moral dilemmas and 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 an absence of prejudice Developing an appreciation of the consequences of choices made Managing conflict; and Learning how to recognise exploitation and abuse and to develop strategies to deal with these issues

Knowledge and Understanding

Learning and understanding physical development at appropriate stages Understanding human sexuality, reproduction, sexual health emotions and relationships. Learning about contraception and the range of local and national sexual health advice, contraception and support services, learning the reasons for delaying sexual activity, and the benefits to be gained from such delay

The avoidance of unplanned pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections Understanding the implications of on-line relationships and know how to manage them safely.

Principles:

Manchester Settlement School's Sex and Relationship Education policy is based upon the following principles:

- Effective sex and relationship education is an essential part of the curriculum if young people are to make responsible and well informed decisions about their lives.
- The key objective of sex and relationship education is to help and support young people through their physical, emotional and moral development.
- As part of the new PSHE framework (May 2016), sex and relationship education will help students to develop the necessary skills and understanding for them to lead confident, healthy and independent lives.
- As part of sex and relationship education, students should be taught about the nature and importance of marriage as well as issues relating to the demands of family life and parenthood.
- Students should learn the significance of stable relationships and marriage as key building blocks of community and society. However, care must be taken to ensure that there is no stigmatisation of students based on their home circumstances.
- Students should be given accurate and up to date information and encouraged to develop skills that promote an understanding of difference and a respect for themselves and others.
- Effective SRE does not encourage early sexual experimentation. Students should be taught the reasons for delaying sexual activity and the benefits to be gained from such delay. They will also be encouraged to seek appropriate advice on sexual health matters.
- It is the responsibility of the School to ensure that the needs of all students are met, whatever their developing sexuality. However, there should be no direct promotion of sexual orientation.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The SRE programme is regularly reviewed by the School Management Team and as part of the science GCSE. Individual lessons are reviewed on a constant basis by teachers and learning mentors.

The Sex and Relationships Education Policy is reviewed in the context of the new PSHE framework and current government guidelines and legislation for independent schools

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