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# Charters School

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## Sex Education Policy

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Updated April 2011

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# Sex Education Policy

Approved on 5 April 2011 Minute number 200/11

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Statutory or recommended? Statutory

Clerk to Governors to indicate where information is to be displayed

Website ✓ First Class ✓ Folder ✓

Approved by Curriculum committee

## SEX AND RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION POLICY

*'All children and young people have a right to education, support and health services that will help them manage and take responsibility for their sexual health' (United Nations Conventions on the Rights of the child 1992) (Teaching & Learning about HIV National Children's Bureau 2003)*

### Introduction

Charters School aims to offer all pupils the opportunity of receiving a comprehensive, well-planned programme in accordance with the guidance given in the following publications and reports:

- **'Sex and Relationship Education Guidance circular: DfEE 0116/2000, July 2000'.**
- **RBWM Sex and Relationships Education: Guidance for professionals working with young people 2002.**
- **OFSTED HMI 433 report on Sex and Relationships Education 2002.**
- **National Healthy Schools Standard: Sex and Relationship Education DfES 2001.**
- **Teaching and Learning about HIV: National Children's Bureau 2003.**
- **QDP LTD: Sex and Relationships Education Guidance 2007.**

The School's legal obligations are:

1. That there must be provision for sex education for all registered pupils. This is not defined but must include education about HIV, AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs).
2. The governing body must keep up to date a separate written statement of their policy with regard to the content and organisation of sex education.
3. The governing body and the head teacher must take such steps that are reasonably practical to ensure that sex education is given in such a manner to have due regard to moral considerations and value of family life. This includes pupils learning about the nature of marriage and its importance for family life and the bringing up of children.
4. The governing body and the head teacher must ensure that pupils are protected from teaching and materials which are inappropriate having regard to the age and the religious and cultural background of the pupils concerned.
5. The head teacher must ensure that the sex education curriculum is compatible with the governors' policy.
6. Schools must publish in their prospectus information about how to access the policy.
7. Governing bodies must make copies of the statement available for inspection and provide a free copy to parents if they request one.
8. Parents may withdraw their children from any sex education which is not part of the National Curriculum. Any parent wishing to take this course of action should inform the head teacher. In such cases, the school must make alternative arrangements for these pupils.

### AIMS

*'SRE is a lifelong process of acquiring information, developing skills and forming positive beliefs and attitudes about sex, sexuality, relationships and feelings' (Sex Education Forum 1999) and supports 'positive levels of self-esteem and the development of emotional resourcefulness in children and young people' (Simon Blake: Sex and Relationships Education 2002)*

**The aims of the sex education and relationship policy reflect that pupils should be prepared for an adult life. Thus the approach of the school is:**

- To stimulate a growing awareness of moral values and to be able to discuss sensitive and controversial issues such as abortion and STIs.
- To teach about relationships, love and care and the responsibilities of parenthood, as well as sex education.
- To put equal emphasis on boys and girls
- To build up self-esteem so that they value themselves.
- To equip students to avoid being exploited.
- To equip students to communicate effectively and to avoid being pressured.
- To teach the taking on of responsibility and the consequences of one's actions in relation to sexual activity and parenthood.
- To provide the pupils with information about the different types of contraception, safe sex and how they can access local sources of further advice and treatment.
- To give pupils a clear understanding of the arguments for delaying sexual activity and resisting peer pressure.
- To link sex education with issues of peer pressure, and other risk taking behaviour such as the misuse of illegal and legal drugs such as tobacco and alcohol.
- To equip students to access confidential sexual health advice, support and if necessary, treatment.
- To ensure that pupils understand how the law applies to sexual relationships.
- To ensure that pupils and staff are aware of the Child Protection designated member of staff.

## CONTENT AND ORGANISATION

During Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4, pupils receive the majority of their Sex Education and Relationship Guidance through their Citizenship lessons and Curriculum Enrichment Days.. However, other curriculum areas make significant contributions to sex and relationship work. Specifically, all pupils study the physical aspects of sex education in Science; issues relating to population and reproduction in Geography; and moral and ethical issues, such as abortion and fertility, in Religious Studies

There are also a series of special event days run by the Citizenship staff and outside agencies that supplement the curriculum.

### KEY STAGE 3

Pupils learn about:

- Developing a healthy, safer lifestyle.
- Developing good relationships and respecting the differences between people.
- Recognising physical and emotional changes that take place at puberty and how to manage them in a positive way.

#### Year 7

- Need for reproduction.
- Introduction to human reproduction.
- Introduction to the physical changes occurring in puberty.

This is delivered through Science lessons.

- Health and Safety Carousel including Sex and Relationship Education.

This is delivered in the summer term of Yr 7 as part of the Citizenship curriculum.

#### Year 8

- Puberty-physical and emotional changes.
- Forming good relationships.
- Contraception, sexually transmitted infections, risky behaviour
- Recognising and dealing with pressure, including when and where to get help, learning assertiveness.
- Taking responsibility.
- The role of the family

This is delivered through a Managing Relationships Day.

#### Year 9

- Adolescence-physical and emotional changes.
- Human reproduction.

This is delivered through Key Stage 3 Science

Contraception and STIs

Links between use of drugs and alcohol and risky behaviour

This is delivered in the summer term of year 9 through Citizenship lessons

### KEY STAGE 4

Pupils learn about:

- Developing a sense of their own identity and self-esteem.
- Recognising influences and pressures upon them and developing skills to resist these when appropriate.
- Developing the skills necessary for building positive relationships and responding to changing relationships.
- Recognising the different sources of help and advice available to them.
- Building the idea of a healthy lifestyle and healthy relationships.
- Taking responsibility for themselves and building on a mature approach to the choices they make.

### **Year 10**

- Raising awareness of themselves and others.
- Contraception.
- Teenage pregnancy.
- Childbirth.
- Sexually transmitted infections.
- Delaying sexual activity.
- Possible links between drugs, alcohol and risky behaviour

This is delivered through a Sex Education and Personal Relationships Day.

- Hormonal control and promotion of fertility.
- How sex is determined.

This is delivered through Key Stage 4 Science

### **Year 11**

- The importance of children and family life.
- Fertility issues.

This is delivered through Cultural Studies.

### **Year 12**

- Sexually transmitted infections and contraception

This is delivered on a Curriculum Enrichment Day

### **Year 13**

- Sexually transmitted infections
- Contraception
- Safe sex
- Sex, alcohol and risky behaviour

This is delivered on a Curriculum Enrichment Day called Moving On.

As part of the SRE programme there are now regular opportunities for pupils to be tested in school for Chlamydia in conjunction with the Berkshire East Primary Care Trust

## **TEACHING AND LEARNING STYLES**

The Citizenship days use a variety of teaching and learning methods appropriate to the Sex Education and Relationship topic. The general approach is open and informal, yet informative, giving opportunities for understanding and discussion to help formulate opinions. The outside agencies are carefully chosen and meetings are held prior to the days to discuss the topics that will be covered. The staff involved in the day are willing to take part, carefully briefed and understand the importance of their contribution to teaching Sex and Relationship Education INSET is attended to ensure the information delivered is as up to date and relevant as possible.

Ground rules are set at the beginning of each module or event to ensure pupils act respectfully

Pupils are encouraged to feel confident in their discussions with staff and staff, in turn, are open and honest in their approach to the topic.

### **Advice to Pupils**

It is inevitable that the teaching of sex education will cause pupils to approach an individual teacher for advice concerning sexual relationships. In such circumstances:

- The pupil will be advised to seek the advice from his/her parent(s) and/or a qualified professional such as a doctor or the local counselling advice
- Where a teacher is aware that there is a possibility that a pupil's conduct is likely to place him/her at moral or physical risk or in breach of the law, the teacher has a responsibility to ensure that the pupil is aware of this and to notify the head teacher.
- A teacher of sex and relationship education must be able to distance themselves from the class discussions to avoid embarrassment. If ground rules are established then these should provide a suitable framework for discussions. Trust and respect are important.
- The teachers follow the confidentiality guidelines set out by the National Healthy Schools Standard and make students aware of what they can keep confidential and what they cannot.

### **Child Welfare**

All staff are fully aware of their responsibilities in relation to Child Protection

### **Relationships with Parents**

A Parent has a right to withdraw their child from some non-statutory aspects of Sex and relationships education

### **Evaluation**

The content of the Sex Education and Relationship programme should be reviewed annually by the Head of Citizenship and the SLT as part of their routine monitoring and evaluation of this curriculum area.

The provision of Sex and Relationships Education should be reviewed in light of the schools Healthy Schools Status.

The Sex Education and Relationship Policy should be reviewed every year as part of the Governing Body's rolling programme of policy scrutiny.