



THE CAVENDISH SCHOOL SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION POLICY

Date approved: May 2014
Date review: May 2015

Principles

Sex and relationship education is the lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality and sexual health. It is not about the promotion of sexual orientation or sexual activity.

Rationale

We believe at Cavendish School that all students are entitled to sex and relationship education as part of a meaningful L4L program and the wider curriculum. We endeavour to provide support and information for students. The aim of this policy is to clearly communicate to staff, parent/carers, visiting speakers on the subject and students the manner in which sex and relationship education will be delivered in this school.

Aims of sex and relationship education

Cavendish School believes that sex and relationship education is an educational entitlement of all students and an integral part of each student's emergence into adulthood.

We aim to:

- Help and support students through their physical, emotional and moral development.
- Prepare students for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.
- Develop personal attributes such as decision-making and self-awareness in relation to sex and relationship education.
- Encourage discussion with peers, teachers and parent/carers.
- Encourage self-esteem, respect and consideration for others.
- Learn and understand human sexuality and learn about obtaining the appropriate advice on sexual health.

Monitoring

Sex and relationships education will be monitored by the L4L Co-ordinator. Students and staff will be involved in evaluating each unit of work against the intended aims and the outcomes of it. Where improvements are identified these will be made so that the aims of this policy are implemented as well as possible. A brief report will be attached to the L4L report to the link governor.

Governors will review the policy and any emerging matters of practice according to their terms of reference. The full policy will be made available to all parent/carers and staff.

Any parent/carer wishing to withdraw their child from part or all of this programme should refer to the procedures attached to this policy.

Procedures

Provision of sex and relationship education

Organisation: Sex education is jointly co-ordinated by the L4L Co-ordinator and Key Stage Managers

who are responsible for the overall planning, implementation and review of the programme. The PHSE Coordinator is responsible for initiating the overall review of the programme.

Delivery is through:

- Planned aspects within L4L and Humanities curricula.
- Addressing moral and ethical issues which may arise from apparent/clearly unrelated topics in all National Curriculum subjects. Within this category, as long as any discussion takes place within the context of the subject, and the policy, it will not be deemed to be part of the sex and relationship programme and therefore not subject to the parent/carer right of withdrawal.

Content

- Humanities:
Years 10/11: as part of the nature/nurture debate and debates/discussion on abortion.
- Science:
Year 7: Physical and emotional changes that takes place in adolescence, the human reproductive system including the menstrual cycle and fertilisation, how the foetus develops in the uterus.
Years 10/11: 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. These aspects of the curriculum are compulsory element of the National Curriculum and parents may not withdraw their child from these lessons.
- Personal and Social Education:
Year 7: Understanding menstruation and changes to your body.
Year 9: Encouraging informed individual decisions, being aware of sexual feelings and attitudes, being clear about sexual behaviour and consequences, understanding HIV and other STIs, understanding conception and contraception.
Year 10: Relationships within the family, responsibilities of parent/carer, understanding the implications of childcare and rearing, being sexually responsible, discussing sensitive moral issues such as abortion, adoptions, etc.
Year 11: Examining relationships with others, thinking about potential/real obstacles to healthy relationships, being responsible to others.

Skills and Abilities

Students will be helped to develop the following skills:

- Communication including the developing and sustaining of relationships.
- Assertiveness.
- Decision-making.
- Recognising and using opportunities to develop a healthy lifestyle.

Teaching approaches

A variety of approaches are used to give students relevant information; to enable moral issues to be explored through discussion; and to acquire appropriate skills. Details can be seen in the L4L staff handbook.

Resources

Materials – a wide range of teaching resources are available to teachers and for inspection by parent/carers through the L4L Co-ordinator. We aim to ensure that students are protected from teaching and materials that are inappropriate, having regard to the age and cultural background of the students concerned. We also aim to ensure that students are protected from accessing unsuitable materials on the Internet

Staff— with regard to sex and relationship education it is important that staff feel comfortable with the subject matter. In all years, the L4L programme is delivered in a safe, supportive environment by a willing and informed team. Where appropriate we use the support of carefully selected outside agencies to broaden the knowledge of students and staff.

Specific issues

Students will be aware that some information cannot be held confidential, and made to understand that if certain disclosures are made then certain actions will ensue. At the same time students will be offered sensitive and appropriate support. Where these issues are covered in lessons, teachers will provide sources of information and help as to where these are provided locally and what teachers could or would do to help. Teachers would also inform students of access to leaflets on these issues, which will be held in the medical area.

- Sexual orientation – staff should be able to deal honestly and sensitively with sexual orientation, answer appropriate questions and offer support. There should be no direct promotion of sexual orientation.
- Contraception – staff should be able to provide knowledge of different types of contraception, including emergency contraception and their effectiveness. Also information should be provided on the access to and availability of contraception. Professional information and guidance will always be sought from a health professional. The school will always encourage students to talk with their parent/carer(s) first.
- Pregnancy – students who disclose that they are, or have made someone else, pregnant should be asked whether they can tell their parent/carer(s) and whether they want help in doing so. Support may be given by helping to set up a meeting between student and parent/cater(s), with a teacher present. Further support may then be needed to arrange meetings with a health professional. Subsequent responsibility will then lie with the parent/cater(s). Where a student refuses to inform their parent/cater(s) the school will inform them. Support will be offered as outlined above. Any teacher to whom a student makes such a disclosure should report this to the Headteacher.
- Abortion - when abortion is covered students are offered the opportunity to explore the dilemmas, enabling them to know and understand about abortion, and develop the communication skills to discuss it with parent/carers (s) and health professionals.
- HIV/AIDS and STIs – teachers can provide education about STIs and HIV/AIDS. They can provide all students with information about where and from whom they can receive confidential advice and treatment.
- Abuse - where there is disclosure or suspicion of possible abuse the child protection procedures will be invoked.
- Parent/carer partnership – letters are sent home in Year 7 and 9 for PSE to inform parent/carers when the sex education units are being covered. Under the Education Act 1993 parent/caters have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the sex education programme. Parent/carers wishing to exercise that right are asked to make an appointment to meet the PSE Co-ordinator to discuss the issues, they are under no obligation to do so.