

NOWER HILL HIGH SCHOOL **SEX AND RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION POLICY** **TO BE UPDATED 2010**

Legal Obligations/Guidance

The Education Act [1961] and the Language and Skills Act [2000] require that:-

- All maintained secondary schools in England and Wales must provide a sex education programme.
- This Policy incorporates the DfES Sex and Relationship Education Guidance 2000 which provides the latest guidance on all aspects of SRE.

1 Definition:

“Sex and Relationship Education is part of lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of marriage for family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality and sexual health.” This definition comes from the DfEE Guidance on Sex and relationship Education July 2000.

2 Values and Ethos:

At Nower Hill we believe that Sex and Relationship Education covers more than the biological facts and information delivered through science and tries to help young people develop self-esteem, responsibility and the acquisition of understanding and attitudes which prepare students for developing caring, stable relationships. Appreciation of the value of self-respect, dignity, parental duty and marriage should be encouraged in all students, together with sensitivity of the needs of others.

At Nower Hill we believe that SRE taught through PSHE and Citizenship should go beyond National Curriculum science and seek to promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils, as well as preparing pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

Effective SRE is essential if children and young people are to make responsible and informed decisions about their lives. Children and young people need help and support through their physical, emotional and moral development. SRE does not encourage early sexual experimentation. It teaches children and young people to understand human sexuality and to respect themselves and others and move with confidence from childhood through adolescence into adulthood. SRE builds on knowledge and skills that are particularly important today because of the many different and conflicting pressures on children and young people.

3 Aims and Objectives

In sex and relationship education at Nower Hill we aim to:-

- Provide accurate information about, and increase the understanding of sex-related issues.
- Explore a range of attitudes and values towards sex-related issues and help children and young people to reach their own, informed opinions.
- Develop a sense of mutual respect and care for others.
- Foster self-esteem, self-awareness and confidence.
- Develop skills in communication, risk assessment, decision-making, assertiveness and conflict management.

4 Delivery of Sex and Relationships Education at Nower Hill

Sex and Relationship Education at Nower Hill is primarily delivered through Science, Personal, Social and Health Education [PSHE], Citizenship and Religious Studies.

A summary of the main SRE topics covered for each year group can be found in Appendix 1.

5 Methods of teaching and resourcing

In the delivery of SRE, teachers will use a variety of teaching methods and resources. The following are recognised methods for the effective delivery of SRE:-

- Didactic presentation
- Discussion
- Drama and role play
- Research and presentation
- Videos.

Nower Hill SRE Scheme of Learning:

There are three main strands around which the Nower Hill Scheme of Learning is based.

Knowledge and Understanding

- About physical development at appropriate stages
- About human sexuality, reproduction, sexual health, emotions and relationships
- About contraception and the range of local and national sexual health advice and support services
- About the reasons and benefits for delaying sexual activity
- The avoidance of unplanned pregnancy

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 understanding of difference and with an absence of prejudice
- Developing an appreciation of the consequences of choices made
- Managing conflict
- Learning how to recognise and avoid exploitation

Attitudes and Values

- The importance of values and individual conscience and moral considerations
- The value of family life, marriage and stable and loving relationships for the nurture of children
- The value of respect, love and care
- Exploring, considering and understanding moral dilemmas
- Developing critical thinking as part of decision making

5 Visitors contributing to SRE

From time to time as part of a planned module of work or a Citizenship Day, we invite in experts on issues relating to SRE as well as using health and other professionals associated with the school. All school associated health and other professional and visitors will be asked to conform to the following:-

- Visitors contributing to SRE will do so at the invitation of Nower Hill and will be qualified to make an appropriate contribution.
- Visitors must agree with the aims of the school in delivering its policy on SRE.
- Visitors must have discussed the content of their contribution with the appropriate member of staff prior to their delivery.
- When in class visitors are invited, they will be supervised by a teacher, who will be present at all times.
- Visitors will follow the school's Child Protection procedures if a disclosure occurs within the classroom setting.
- Visitors will know and understand where their contribution fits into the school's programme for SRE and PSHE.

6 **Dealing with sensitive issues**

SRE brings pupils and teachers into contact with contentious issues including contraception, HIV/AIDS, abortion and homosexuality. The facts behind contraception and HIV/AIDS are taught as part of the non statutory PSHE guidelines. Issues surrounding abortion and homosexuality are not taught as part of any framework but student's questions will be answered truthfully in a caring, non biased and sensitive manner so that pupils are able to make informed choices for themselves. The aim with these issues is to promote tolerance and resist discrimination, not to promote one particular standpoint or promote one particular sexual orientation.

The following are protocols for discussion based lessons with pupils:-

- No one [teacher or pupil] will have to answer a personal question
- Teachers and other adults should never divulge information of a deeply –personal nature
- Discussion should be steered away from references to known individuals
- No one will be forced to take part in a discussion
- The correct names for body parts and sexual behaviour will be highlighted
- Meanings of words will be explained in a sensible and factual way.

7 **Monitoring and Evaluating SRE:**

- a) Ensuring that SRE occurs in the school's curriculum according to the schemes of work for PSHE
- b) Monitor the use of teaching and learning styles
- c) Monitor the use of teaching materials
- d) Evaluate the effectiveness of the school's programme

8 **Parent's Rights to Withdraw their Children**

Under the 1993 Education Act, parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the school's SRE programme, but not the biological aspects of human reproduction that forms part of the statutory National Curriculum for science. At Nower Hill we emphasise sex education within a social and moral context and we hope that parents will realise the value of such an approach and not request withdrawal of their child. Should they wish to do so, this should be indicated by returning the slip attached to the letter sent out at the beginning of Year 8 [see appendix 2]. A separate letter requesting consent is also sent out before each Citizenship Day [see appendix 3].

9 **Confidentiality and Disclosures**

Nower Hill has a Child Protection Policy which covers issues relating to child abuse. Procedures for teachers' concerns regarding disclosure of possible sexual abuse can be found in appendix 1 on the Child Protection Policy. However, the key issues we wish to stress on confidentiality in sex and relationship education are:-

1. Ensuring that children and young people know that teachers cannot guarantee complete confidentiality but that they will know first if it must be broken.
2. Encourage children and young people to talk to parents/carers.
3. Reassuring children and young people that their interests will be maintained.

10 **Involving Pupils and Parents at Nower Hill**

In order to monitor and assess the views of our whole community in relation to SRE, we:-

1. Have consulted widely on the construction of this policy, including staff, governors and parents.
2. Have discussed this policy and SRE Scheme of Learning with both the full School Council and the School Council Executive Committee.

11 **Dealing with the Media**

- The Headteacher takes responsibility for liaison with the media.
- The school takes appropriate advice and guidance from LEA officers and its Press Office and Legal Department to ensure that the interests of the young person, their families or careers and the school are protected.

12 **Links to other Nower Hill Policies**

This Policy is closely linked to our PSHE and Citizenship Policy, Anti-Bullying Policy and Child Protection Policy.

Review Date:

This Policy will be reviewed every two years.
(next review will be 2010)