

CANONS HIGH SCHOOL

SEX & RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION POLICY (SRE)

Background

At Canons High School, sex education will be presented in a balanced, objective and sensitive manner. This policy should be read in conjunction with other school policies on inclusion, child protection, PSHE and Citizenship, anti-bullying and guidelines on confidentiality. Sex and relationships education is an integral part of the PSHE/Citizenship programme under the umbrella of the Healthy Schools Scheme.

We acknowledge that our pupils come from a rich diversity of backgrounds expressing a wide spectrum of beliefs and values. Our programme will be delivered within a framework that is:

- Inclusive and considers the needs of all students
- Based on self esteem and responsibility for the consequences of one's actions
- Based on values which are founded on the school value system

Aims

Sex and relationships education is set in the context of the school's values and ethos. Therefore we aim to support students through their physical, emotional and moral development by providing them with the opportunity to acquire the knowledge, skills and understanding to make informed decisions.

The aims of this policy are;

- To engender in students an understanding that SRE is part of life long learning about sex, sexuality, emotions, relationships and sexual health.
- To give students information in an objective and balanced manner and to inform them of the laws concerning sexual behaviour, as well as where they can go for further information and advice.
- To empower students to be assertive and to make informed and responsible choices in terms of their sexual behaviour and to recognise peer and social pressures and to resist such pressures where appropriate.
- To inform students about the responsibilities and pleasures of loving relationships, parenthood and family life.
- To encourage students to develop relationships based on mutual respect and to recognise the diversity of the term 'family' in a multi-racial and multi-faith society.
- To emphasise the benefits of stable adult relationships and family life
- To promote the concept of equality between the sexes
- To encourage respect and consideration for others

Objectives

We will generate an atmosphere where students can be open with their questions and feelings.

Negotiate ground rules with students to ensure that teachers and pupils respect each others' privacy.

Be sensitive to the needs of all students regardless of gender, cultural background or religious community.

Identify and include the needs of the students in the Sex and Relationships Education programme.

Moral and Values framework

By exploring and challenging attitudes and values, our students can be helped to develop a positive attitude to sexual health and well-being through;

- developing a positive values and moral framework that will support their decisions, judgements and behaviour
- developing a critical awareness of value systems represented in the media and amongst peers
- recognising and challenging prejudice, discrimination and bullying as harmful and unacceptable
- understanding that sexual intimacy involves strong emotions, and should involve a sense of respect for one's own and other's feelings, decisions and bodies
- understanding that all rights have responsibilities and all actions have consequences
- valuing truth, freedom, justice, human rights, the rule of law and collective effort for the common good. In particular valuing stable families as a source of love and support for all their members, and as the basis of a society in which people care for others.

The school programme for sex and relationships education

Sex and Relationships is co-ordinated by the Head of PSHCE. The Head of PSHCE is responsible for the overall planning, implementation and review of the programme. The following programme is based on the identified needs of our pupils in conjunction with parental consultation and the National Curriculum requirements.

Year 8 - Understanding the changes in me: the physical & emotional changes associated with puberty, building on the work done in the Middle School, Menstruation, Keeping Safe and Risk Assessment,

Year 9 – Relationships, Contraception, Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI), Assertiveness, Sexuality

Year 10 – HIV/AIDS, STIs and Relationships

Year 11 – Healthy relationships, taking responsibility, abortion & making choices to stay safe.

Organisation of Sex & Relationship Education

Sex and relationships education is taught within the Science curriculum and as a discreet unit of the PSHCE programme. The programme is taught at present by form tutors using a variety of teaching methods and taking into account the varied learning styles of the students. There is flexibility to allow opportunities for single sex groups as necessary. Outside speakers are invited to assist the delivery of SRE where appropriate and will work within the principles of the school policy. A member of school staff will be present during such visits.

We update staff development and training. This includes guidance on changes in the law which may affect the teaching of SRE and the handling of sensitive issues. Resources are carefully selected to meet the needs of our students and reflect our equal opportunities policy. The content of the programme will change periodically according to identified need. Teachers will answer questions asked in other subject areas using their professional judgement and with regard to age and maturity of the individual student.

How we inform people about this policy

The policy is included on the staff Y Drive. A summary for parents is included in the annual Prospectus. Parents will be consulted about changes. A full updated policy is available on the school website.

Right of withdrawal and Complaints

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from SRE except those aspects that are part of the National Curriculum. Parents wishing to do so should contact the Headteacher. Any complaint about the sex education curriculum should be made to the Headteacher who will investigate the matter.

Confidentiality

Students will be made aware that not all information can be held confidential and that if certain disclosures are made then action must follow. Nevertheless, students will be offered sensitive and appropriate support. This Policy should be read in conjunction with our Confidentiality Policy.

Special educational needs

SRE is an entitlement of all our students regardless of ability. Tutors will be supported to ensure that topics are accessible to all students identified as having a particular learning need.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Sex education will be monitored and evaluated by the Deputy Head in consultation with the Head of PSHCE, Head of Science, Child Protection SDT and Heads of Year, The policy will be reviewed annually through the work of the Whole School and Governors' Staff and Pupils' Committee.

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