

SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS POLICY

(Senior School)

(This document is available on the school website or on request)

Reviewed November 2018

This policy has been produced in conjunction with the latest DfE guidance document.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

To provide information and encourage discussion on sexual matters, in a responsible manner, appropriate to the age of the student in preparation for adult life, giving due regard to moral considerations and the value of stable and respectful relationships.

- To generate an atmosphere where questions and discussion on sexual matters can take place without embarrassment.
- To give students a clear understanding of biological aspects of sexual development and human reproduction.
- To encourage sensitivity towards and respect for the needs and views of others in their relationships and in sexual matters.
- To develop decision making and assertiveness skills to enable students to carry out informal personal choices about their future lives.
- To engender positive self-esteem.
- To enable students to accept variation in rates of growth and development particularly during puberty.
- To develop an appreciation of the value of stable relationships, marriage or civil partnerships, and the implications of parenthood.
- To give students information regarding where to go to access advice about sexual matters.

QEH VALUES

The programme of sex education will contribute to core values promoted at QEH:

- A sense of responsibility for one's actions and the development of personal integrity
- A respect for the diversity of beliefs and customs, and a rejection of all forms of prejudice based upon race, gender, class, sexual orientation, religion or disability.
- An appreciation that life is not just about oneself
- A rejection of unkindness, cruelty and bullying
- A recognition that spiritual beliefs and moral values can give direction and meaning to an individual's life
- The development of a growing resilience in response to setbacks and disappointments
- An understanding of what supports happiness and wellbeing

THE ROLE OF PARENTS

QEH recognises that parents are the key figures in helping their children to cope with the emotional and physical aspects of growing up and in preparing them for the challenges and responsibilities which sexual maturity brings. The sex and relationship education provided by QEH aims to be complementary to and supportive of the role of parents.

PROCEDURES FOR WITHDRAWAL OF A CHILD FROM SEX EDUCATION

Section 241 of the Education Act 1993 gives parents the right to withdraw their children from any or all parts of a school's programme of sex education, other than those elements which are required by the National Curriculum Science Order. Any request to withdraw a child from SPD/sex education must be made in writing to the Headmaster. Parents do not have to give reasons for their decision, nor do they have to indicate what other arrangements they intend to make for providing sex education for their children. Once a request that a child be excused has been made, that request must be complied with until the parent changes it or revokes it.

SEXUAL MATTERS

Any disclosures of a sexual nature made by a student should be treated as highly confidential and should not under any circumstances become the matter of general discussion amongst staff. If a student *under the age of 14* discloses that he/she is engaged in a sexual relationship, there are immediate concerns about the possibility of child abuse.

The School's Designated Safeguarding Lead must be informed as soon as is possible.

A student *aged 14 and over* who is considered intellectually competent is entitled to confidential contraceptive treatment from a health professional and to have confidentiality about disclosures of sexual activities respected by the School, provided there are no concerns about potential child abuse.

Note: although the age of consent is 16 the law is ambiguous on this issue but suggests that no action would be taken unless the partner is considerably older than, or in a position of undue influence over the student, in which case child protection issues would be raised. If a teacher is told that a student over the age of 14 but under the age of 16 is having or intends to have a sexual relationship, he/she should encourage the student to talk with parents, check that child protection issues are addressed, and ensure that the student has the necessary information about contraception (including emergency contraception and its effectiveness) and where to access relevant services, counselling or further such guidance. The student could be encouraged to talk to the School Nurse.

If a student *over the age of 16* confides that he/she is engaged in a sexual relationship, the teacher should ensure that the student has the necessary information about contraception (including emergency contraception and its effectiveness) and safe sexual practices, and where to access contraception services, relevant services, counselling or further such guidance.

Remember that if the child is below 14, disclosures of sexual activity may, in fact, be disclosures of sexual abuse – refer to the Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy. Students aged 14 and over are entitled to confidentiality about their sexual activities unless you fear there is an abusive element. You may give *information* but not *advice* on contraception and safe sexual practices to a student if you are asked directly, regardless of the age of the student.

PREGNANCY

The Deputy Head (Pastoral) should always be informed if a student becomes pregnant.

Assuming that the girl is 16 or over, the student is entitled to have her confidences respected but the Deputy Head Pastoral or other designated pastoral leader will take all reasonable steps to encourage the girl to involve her parents in seeking appropriate medical support and advice.

Should the girl be under 16, the Deputy Head (Pastoral) or designated pastoral leader will urge the child to talk to her parents, or offer to do so for her. If the girl refuses this offer and refuses to tell her parents, the Deputy Head (Pastoral) or designated pastoral leader will alert the parents that there are serious concerns, while protecting the child's confidentiality, and continue efforts to persuade the student to talk to her parents.

SEX EDUCATION – THE CURRICULUM CONTENT

Sex and Relationships Education takes place throughout a student's career at QEH. Details are in the Schemes of Work of relevant departments. In summary:

BIOLOGY

Reproduction is studied in year 7 with anatomy and terminology clearly explained. The development of an embryo into a baby is covered as are the main stages in birth. Humans are used as an example of an animal throughout the topic of sexual intercourse and its biological result. Physical changes from birth to puberty to adulthood are also taught with some aspects of contraception.

Textbook used: Oxford Activate Biology

Course followed: Oxford KS3 Science Course

In Year 10 students study Sexual Reproduction in Humans and cover the following:

- Structure and function of the human reproductive system
- Development of an embryo
- Hormones and secondary sexual characteristics
- The roles of hormones in the menstrual cycle
- Contraception and STIs

Textbook used: Edexcel IGCSE Biology textbook and/or OCR Gateway Biology

RELIGION AND PHILOSOPHY

We study the AQA GCSE Religious Studies which includes a topic on family life, marriage, sexuality and sexual relationships. We consider these issues from a Christian, Muslim and secular perspective. The Eduqas (WJEC) A level in Religious Studies includes consideration of sexuality, sexual practices and abortion and fertility treatment in the context of religious ethics and ethical theories.

PSHE / ENRICHMENT

In Years 7 to 10, Sex and Relationships Education is delivered via Enrichment lessons on a rota basis. Over the four years students will cover age-appropriate material on themes of

- Family Life and Relationships.
- How to enjoy friendships and what healthy sexual relationships are
- The physical, emotional and social changes at puberty
- Sex and the law, consent, and relationships between couples
- Contraception and Sexually Transmitted Infections
- Homophobia and LGBT issues
- Pornography awareness and e-safety
- Gender and identity
- The influence of media upon young people, including sexualisation in advertising
- Pornography and addiction.
- Child sexual exploitation
- Services available for young people can access for help, advice and guidance is provided

During Year 11 SRE is delivered via a weekly PSHE lesson, where topics include

- Awareness of STIs, their prevention and methods of treatment.
- A review of methods of contraception and the importance of safe sex and planned parenting
- Parenting Skills
- Changing gender roles
- Body language
- The law relating to sex, relationships and rape.
- LGBT issues

SIXTH FORM: Tutor periods, debates and assemblies will address various sexual and health matters, including legal aspects of consent and sexually transmitted infections. A presentation from the School Nurse based around health issues associated with a university life style also covers sexual health, and outside speakers are invited to deliver presentations in assemblies or General Studies.