



Hackney New School

Sex and Relationship Policy

Philosophy

At Hackney New School we encourage students to respect and take responsibility for themselves and others. Not only at school but in the wider community and through their adolescence into adulthood. Our Core Outcomes support this: *to provide students with access to the widest range of opportunities in life by fostering academic excellence and instilling self-belief, intellectual curiosity and responsibility towards others in society.*

The objective of the Sex and Relationship Policy is to outline the requirements for the delivery of Sex and Relationship Education (SRE), to outline the rights of parents and carers and to give guidance to teachers on matters of delivery, sensitivity and confidentiality.

SRE includes learning about physical, sexual, moral and emotional development. It encompasses learning about, and understanding, the importance of stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care and family life. It helps students acquire information and develop skills to help them form positive beliefs, values and attitudes in a supportive and open environment within school.

Statutory Requirements

All maintained schools are required (revised National Curriculum Orders 1999) to make provision for SRE for all students registered at the school. The Sex and Relationship Policy will clarify the provision of SRE to all students and the teaching of human growth and reproduction as set out in the National Curriculum. This policy should be read alongside the Secretary of State's 2000 guidance on SRE.

Provision

Hackney New School believes young people need a clear understanding of the arguments for delaying sexual activity and resisting peer, media and social pressure, in addition to knowing how the law applies to sexual relationships.

Students will be taught to behave responsibly towards sex and relationship issues and encouraged to make informed decisions. Students will be taught about sex, sexuality and sexual health, the importance of marriage for family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care and the responsibilities of parenthood.

These areas will be taught through science lessons, PSHE and form sessions and assemblies. The Headteacher, along with the subject leader for the Core, will ensure sex education is delivered in a way that ensures students are taught about the importance of positive and safe relationships

for family life and bringing up children. Students will be protected from inappropriate teaching materials, having regard to the age of the students concerned.

Inclusion

Hackney New School is aware that students have varying needs regarding SRE depending on their background, age and level of understanding. We firmly believe all our students should have access to SRE and will take account of :

- the needs of boys and girls, ensuring both are engaged appropriately and that sexism and sexist bullying is not tolerated;
- ethics and cultural diversity - we will promote respect for and an understanding of varied ethnic and cultural groups;
- varying home backgrounds - students will not be stigmatized by their home circumstances;
- sexuality and sexual orientation - our approach to SRE will ensure a sensitive and balanced approach to sexuality and sexual orientation. We shall actively tackle homophobic bullying;
- special educational needs - as with all lessons at Hackney New School we will make sure that all SRE sessions can be accessed by all students regardless of behavioural, emotional, physical or learning needs. The SENCo will be consulted during SRE curriculum development;
- age and physical development - SRE at Hackney New School will be appropriate to age and physical development of the students;
- contraceptive advice for older students - students will be taught that intercourse should always involve using a condom in the context of safer sex. Questions about forms of contraception will be answered accurately and honestly. Students requiring further personal advice about contraceptive use will be guided towards the appropriate agencies and personnel.

Parents and Carers

In common with all we do at Hackney New School we wish parents to be informed about the SRE curriculum and for them to support their children and the school in the delivery of this curriculum.

Attitudes of teachers will not influence the teaching of SRE, both within the science curriculum and PSHE. Teachers will not engage in the promotion of any sexual orientation or sexual activity. Teaching of some aspects of SRE might be of concern to teachers and parents/carers. Materials used will be in accordance with the statutory PSHE framework. Hackney New School recognises the right of parents/carers to withdraw their children from all or part of any sex education provided, but not from the lessons on the biological aspects of human growth and reproduction covered by the National Curriculum Science course.

If parents/carers wish to withdraw their child from any aspect of the sex education provided, they are required to contact the school office to arrange a meeting to discuss this and for alternate provision to be made.

Confidentiality

All staff are required to adhere to the School's policy on Child Protection. Teachers may not offer or guarantee confidentiality between themselves and their students, especially when they believe

that a student is at moral or physical risk or in breach of the law.

It is only in exceptional circumstances that schools should be in the position of having to handle information without parental knowledge. This is likely to be in cases where there are grounds for serious concern and child protection procedures started. In cases where the child protection procedures are started the student will be advised of sources of confidential help, which may include their GP, school nurse, counsellor or local Young Person's Advice Centre.

Monitoring and Review

The Headteacher, in consultation with the SENCo, subject leader for Core and teachers delivering the SRE curriculum, will monitor and evaluate this policy annually. This consultation will assess its implementation and effectiveness. The Governing Body will review the policy every year.

Lesley Falconer

Executive Headteacher

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