

PEOPLE (CHILDREN'S SERVICES)

DEVON HOSPITALS SHORT STAY SCHOOL

Sex and Relationships Education Policy

It is important to remember that pupils come from a variety of backgrounds with a range of beliefs and understandings.

Sex and relationships education will provide information that is relevant and appropriate to the age, ability, maturity and developmental stage of the pupils.

Aims

- To promote a knowledge and understanding of physical and emotional development.
- To increase awareness of individual behaviours and respect for those within relationships.
- To encourage growth of personal development that increases self-esteem, confidence and positive self image. This is linked to our Thrive approach.
- To help pupils develop the skills needed to manage risk, avoiding high-risk behaviours.
- To promote responsible action within relationships accepting that actions have consequences for self and others.
- To develop assertiveness skills and understand how to negotiate their way through difficult situations.
- To develop understanding of the roles and responsibilities of parents, carers, children and other family members.
- To promote the importance of parenting skills and their central importance to family life.
- To safeguard and promote the welfare of all pupils.

Organisation

It is not intended that a specific, structured programme of sex and relationships education will be delivered. However, when supporting pupils with work from their own school, we may be required to deliver aspects of sex and relationships education. This could also link to Science, RE, PSHE and Health and Social Care. In doing so we may be required to:

- Inform pupils about the processes of puberty, sexual intercourse and human reproduction and to present them with factual information about sexual health.
- Present up-to-date and age appropriate factual information objectively and with sensitivity so that pupils from all backgrounds receive appropriate guidance.
- Enable pupils to be assertive, to make well informed , reasonable and responsible choices.
- Enable pupils to demonstrate positive approaches in their relationships to develop confidence in themselves and respect towards others.
- Provide knowledge about loving relationships and the importance of a stable family life.
- Discuss the nature and range of sexuality in society whilst respecting the diversity of others.
- Develop pupils' research skills to locate and interpret information from a range of sources.
- Ensure that pupils know how and where to access additional support if needed.
- To understand what is meant by sexual exploitation whether at home, in the community or on the internet.

Specific Issues

- Under the 1993 Education Act, pupils can be withdrawn by their parents, from part of the sex and relationships education programme that is outside the compulsory elements of sex and relationships education in the National Science Curriculum. We will make parents/carers aware beforehand of when sex and relationships education is to take place.
- Pupils will be made aware that some information cannot be held confidential and that their best interests will be maintained. The DHSSS has a Safeguarding Policy and procedure for dealing with abuse based on the LA guidelines and recommendations.

- An individual child may ask an explicit or difficult question in the schoolroom. Teachers do not have to answer questions of this nature directly but they can be addressed individually, later.
- Teachers will bring their own values and beliefs to any lesson; however it is important to maintain a non-judgemental approach and accept that pupils and their families may have different values and beliefs.