

## Sex & Relationships Education Guidance Policy

### Introduction

At Brook Learning Trust we bring together our unique academies in our belief in the power of education to change lives and communities. It is our steadfast purpose to challenge and defy the barriers that constrain the educational progress of any child. We set high aims for aspiration and secure collective responsibility for all our children's achievements. Our work is underpinned by the values of Integrity, Respect, Courage, Optimism, Excellence and Accountability.

At the Ebbsfleet Academy we seek to develop students who will discover lifelong learning engaged in physical, moral and emotional development. Our Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) curriculum ensures that students have an opportunity to explore a range of modules regarding their personal, social, health and economic education. Specifically, our Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) curriculum is designed to teach students to understand the importance of healthy and safe relationships and of stable, loving relationships founded upon respect, love and mutual care. Within this context, we will deliver age-appropriate information addressing sex, sexuality and sexual health.

The Ebbsfleet Academy is dedicated to delivering outstanding SRE education. Local health care professionals will be invited to discuss these issues at length with students through a course of timetabled lessons for Key Stage 3 students and drop-down days for Key Stage 4 students.

This policy has been created in accordance with the Statutory Policies for Schools document (DfEE 2014) and the Sex and Relationship Education Guidance (DfEE 2000) and takes into account recent DfE guidance which is due to be in place from September 2020.

### Synopsis

SRE and SMSC education is an important part of the curriculum of all pupils. This policy is designed to ensure that all pupils are aware of the important health and moral aspects of this part of life.

#### Aims and Objectives

- to give an understanding of human reproduction
- to promote the understanding of the physical and emotional changes that take place during adolescence
- to assist the development of informed, reasoned and responsible decisions
- to help young people be positive and confident about the emotional and moral aspects of sexual maturity
- to ensure knowledge of the relevant law
- to develop knowledge and understanding about the physiology of sex, contraception, male and female puberty, menstruation and sexually transmitted infections.
- to explore moral values, family values, religious values, gender roles and stereotyping
- to provide opportunities for pupils to examine their own values regarding sexual activity and related issues
- to explore the nature of a variety of personal relationships from friendship to intimacy
- to recognise abusive behaviour and how to keep safe
- to explore and be able to recognise abusive behaviour such as grooming, controlling and coercive behaviour, domestic violence, FGM and honour based violence
- to explore issues of consent
- to develop an understanding of different types of relationships
- to develop empathy towards others and challenge prejudice
- to help students stay safe in the online world

## **Defining Sex Education**

The Ebbsfleet Academy believes SRE is the beginning of lifelong learning about physical, sexual, moral and emotional development. Fundamental to this is a firm understanding of the importance of stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care and for family life.

### **Attitudes and Values:**

Pupils examine their own beliefs, attitudes and values, and are encouraged to respect and reflect upon other opinions. The Ebbsfleet Academy recognises how a good SRE can help develop high self-esteem and self-image and improve confidence and responsibility for making informed decisions.

### **Personal and Social Skills:**

Our SRE curriculum is founded on the acquisition of social skills which are positive and respectful. We encourage students to develop a healthy, safe and secure relationship with themselves and others. Communication skills are essential and are promoted in class and around school.

### **Knowledge and Understanding:**

The SRE curriculum covers puberty (to include both physical and emotional changes and how to deal with them), changing relationships, different types of relationships, healthy relationships, respecting LGBT and challenging homophobia, personal safety, healthy lifestyles and achieving a personal wellbeing, contraception and conception, the birth process, sexually transmitted infections, sexual consent, 'sexting' and the dangers of social media and the online world, and sex and the law. We are committed to challenging any prejudice and discriminative behaviour or language at all times.

### **How Sex & Relationships Education (SRE) is provided**

Sex and Relationships Education is taught throughout the school. The Ebbsfleet Academy provides SRE through the curriculum, tutoring system, the pastoral team and through the ethos of our school. Many subjects including Science and PSHE encompass SRE, and there is capacity in our Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural Development (SMSC) plan to discuss SRE issues in tutor time sessions. Where appropriate we deliver dedicated SRE sessions to single year groups to ensure age appropriate SRE is delivered. We use Academy Days to provide specific SRE guidance to girls and boys separately where appropriate.

The lead teacher of PPE, **Bruce Horton**, co-ordinates the PSHE curriculum with assistance from the Humanities department and the Pastoral Team. This is line managed at leadership level by the Vice Principal with responsibility for safeguarding, Crystal Cardnell.

The Ebbsfleet Academy understands the need for age-appropriate and relevant SRE which builds on students' prior knowledge. We place a high importance on creating a supportive and secure atmosphere both in class and across the school, where students can be confident in talking, listening and thinking about sex and relationships. To do this, teachers:

- Establish firm ground rules with students
- Emphasise the importance of mutual respect
- Issue a non-personal open disclosure policy in class
- Use the 'ask-it-basket' to ensure anonymity
- Encourage reflection

This builds into the school ethos of equality and freedom from discrimination across the school. Students are offered a range of teaching methods covering a range of topics in SRE. The Ebbsfleet Academy is committed to an outstanding Sex and Relationships Education and understands that local health officials can further enhance students' education. Local doctors are invited to deliver specific sessions on STIs, pregnancy and contraception with our students. All PSHE staff deliver resources which represent diverse beliefs, and which are appropriate to students' age, maturity, religious and cultural backgrounds.

## **Inclusion**

We intend that our policy should enable all pupils to be included, irrespective of their cultural background, special educational needs or sexual orientation.

### *a) Ethnic and Cultural Groups*

We intend our policy to be sensitive to the needs of different ethnic groups. We will respond to parental requests and concerns.

### *b) Students with Special Needs*

We will ensure that all young people receive sex and relationship education, and we will offer provision appropriate to the particular needs of all our students, taking specialist advice where necessary.

### *c) Sexual Identity and Sexual Orientation*

We aim to deal sensitively and honestly with issues of sexual orientation, answer appropriate questions and offer support. Young people, whatever their developing sexuality need to feel that sex and relationship education is relevant to them.

## **How Sex & Relationships Education is monitored and evaluated**

The SRE policy is reviewed annually to ensure outstanding practice and the most up to date curriculum is being delivered to students. SRE is also monitored through the decrease in recorded instances of expressions of homophobia, bullying, sexist graffiti, casual use of derogatory language, particularly with sexual or gender meanings, monitored by pastoral leaders. SLT and the Curriculum Leader both review and respond to feedback from students, parents and staff regarding the SRE curriculum.

## **Right to Withdrawal**

Under the Education Act 1993, parents have the right to withdraw their child/children from SRE, except for where it falls under the National Science Curriculum. If parents would like their child/children to withdraw from the SRE curriculum, then they should contact The Principal. From 2020, this will no longer be the case as sex education from the age of 12 will be mandatory (Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education (England) Regulations 2019, made under sections 34 and 35 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017).

### **POLICY REVIEW AND RATIFICATION**

Policy reviewed every two years and ratified by the academy council in June

This review by SLT

June 2019 carried over to October 2019

Summary of amendments to this iteration:

Names of individuals amended, content of curriculum amended and updated to reflect current practice.

Ratified by the academy Council

October 2019

Next review by SLT

June 2021

Next ratification by the academy council

June 2021