

Great Baddow High School

Relationships and Sex Education Policy

1. Statement of Intent

1.1 The School recognises that parents and carers are the key figures in helping their children to cope with growing up, including helping them to manage the problems and responsibilities which sexual development and maturity bring. However, appropriate and responsible Relationships and Sex Education is also an important element in the work of Schools, necessary to complement and support the role of the parent / carer in preparing students for adult life. The School also recognises that some students may receive little in the way of Relationships and Sex Education at home and needs to be responsive to this.

1.2 Effective Relationship and Sex Education can make a significant contribution to the development of the personal skills needed by students if they are to establish and maintain relationships. It also enables young people to make responsible and informed decisions about their health and well-being.

1.3 Great Baddow High School believes that Relationship and Sex Education should meet the needs of all students, regardless of their developing sexuality, and be able to deal honestly and sensitively with sexual orientation, answer appropriate questions and offer support. Relationship and Sex Education contributes to students' understanding and acceptance of others.

1.4 Great Baddow High School believes that students should be offered a balanced programme which is sensitive to a range of views whilst ensuring that students learn how to stay safe, healthy and understand their rights. Accordingly, we provide a culture, opportunities and forums for students to be able to discuss LGBT (lesbian, gay bisexual or transgender), or other sexual or gender identity matters as appropriate to their needs.

2. Statutory Basis

2.1 The Education Act of 1996 (Part 5) states that schools have the following legal powers and duties:

- a. Governing bodies must make a written statement of their policy on Relationship and Sex Education available to parent / carers.
- b. Relationship and Sex Education (including education about sexually transmitted infections) must be provided for all registered students.
- c. Relationship and Sex Education must be provided in such a manner as to encourage young people to have regard to moral considerations and the value of family life.

2.2 Great Baddow High School accepts its legal responsibilities and considers that appropriate sex education must be an important element in the curriculum of the School in preparing students for adult life. The Learning Skills Act (2000) and the DfES Guidance on Relationship and Sex Education (0116/2000) have been taken into account in formulating this policy.

2.3 The DfE, in Relationship and Sex Education Guidance 2000, defines Relationship and Sex Education as:

"Lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of marriage for family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care.

It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality and sexual health. It is not about the promotion of sexual orientation or sexual activity – this would be inappropriate teaching.”

Relationships and Sex Education Guidance, July 2000 DfEE 0116/2000 P5

3. Aims of Relationships and Sex Education at Great Baddow

3.1 The School aims:

- To provide objective information about the physical, moral and social aspects of human sexual development.
- To prepare students to deal effectively with changes they experience during puberty and adolescence and to cope with the challenges they will face as adults and thereby reduce anxiety and combat possible exploitation.
- To prepare students for the roles they will assume in adult relationships and parenthood by helping them to acquire the knowledge, skills and understanding relevant to these areas and to recognise the value of family life.
- To prepare students to view their relationships in a responsible and healthy manner and to enable them to recognise the risks of certain types of behaviour.
- To assist students to develop and clarify a personal set of values and attitudes which will support them in their decision making in the present and in the future.
- To encourage students to consider both the value of delaying sexual activity and resisting pressure and the importance of dignity and respect for themselves and others, acceptance of responsibility, sensitivity towards the needs and views of others, loyalty and fidelity.
- To develop students' self-esteem, encouraging students to view themselves in positive terms and developing skills of informed decision making.
- To make students aware of current safeguarding issues connected to Relationship and Sex Education, such as Female Genital Mutilation and Child Sexual Exploitation. Students are taught about how to recognise warning signs, and where to seek help and advice. These issues are covered in our Safeguarding Policy.

3.2 In realising these aims the School will take account of the age and stage of development of each student.

4. Organisation of Relationships and Sex Education

4.1 When Relationship and Sex Education is taught as part of the KS3 and KS4 Science course, it is treated mainly in a factual way and deals with the biological details of the reproductive system, sexually transmitted infections and contraception. It will, however, encourage a regard for moral and ethical considerations and the value of family life.

4.2 In Religious Education, Relationship and Sex Education is set in a moral and spiritual framework and also considers emotional and psychological aspects. Topics covered include relationships, families and abortion and stress the importance of behaving in a socially responsible way.

4.3 Throughout the Personal Development curriculum, the focus of sex education is relationships, responsibilities and the consequences of behaviour. It also encourages regard to moral considerations

and the value of contemporary family life. Personal Development lessons are taught by specialist staff.

4.4 Relationship and Sex Education is taught by suitably qualified specialist staff. A variety of teaching and learning strategies is used to enable student access to the curriculum content. These include teacher led activities, theatre group presentations, group work, discussion, role play, video, presentations by visiting experts and activity sheets.

4.5 Specialist staff also plan and liaise and deliver content with outside specialists/professionals, including the School Nurse, to ensure our students receive an up to date and balanced programme.

4.6 Information is presented in a factual, unbiased way and controversial issues are handled with sensitivity so that students are given information enabling them to make healthy decisions.

4.7 Students are taught in co-educational groups unless the topic requires single sex groupings.

5. Continuing Professional Development

5.1 Teachers involved in teaching Relationships and Sex Education will receive regular training to update their knowledge skills and understanding. All staff will receive training in related issues such as child protection.

6. Monitoring and Evaluation

6.1 The programme will be monitored and evaluated annually and the information used to amend the programme accordingly. The policy is presented to the Governing Body for review bi-annually.

7. Information for Parents / Carers and Consultation Procedure

7.1 The School Prospectus informs parents / carers that Relationship and Sex Education is provided and offers them the opportunity to come into School to see the policy statement and the resources used.

7.2 The School believes that Relationship and Sex Education is an important part of the curriculum and that all students should, therefore, have access to it. However, it is recognised that parents / carers should be involved in educating their children in sexual matters and that sometimes they wish to approach this in a way different from that provided by the School. Therefore, parents / carers are informed in the School Prospectus that they have the right to withdraw their children from Relationship and Sex Education and that alternative arrangements will be made to supervise the children.

8. Issues of Confidentiality

8.1 It is important to distinguish between the School's function of providing education generally about sexual matters and counselling and advice to individual students. Our teachers take a pastoral interest in the welfare and well-being of students but this function would never impinge on the parents' / carers' rights and responsibilities. Whilst staff are expected to be honest in their responses and sensitive to students' needs, individual counselling on personal sexual matters should never take place without prior discussion with the headteacher or the designated person.

8.2 In practice, if students ask for individual advice, staff:

- will not promise students confidentiality;

- will encourage students to discuss their concerns with their parents / carers;
- will tell students where to seek confidential advice and information as appropriate, namely, from the school nurse and/or from contact numbers of organisations listed in student organisers.

9. Local Delivery Group

The School is committed to working with its partners in the community and will make effective use of outside agencies with particular knowledge or expertise in enhancing the curriculum.