



## The Lyceum School - Sex and Relationship Education Policy

### Rationale

Sex and relationship education provides an understanding that positive, caring environments are essential for the development of a good self-image and that individuals are in charge of and responsible for their own bodies. It ought to provide knowledge about the processes of reproduction and the nature of sexuality and relationships. It should encourage the acquisition of skills and attitudes which allow pupils to manage their relationships in a responsible and healthy manner as is outlined in the DfE guidance of 2000.

According to the 2000 DfE guidance, Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) is: *'...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.'*

### The Aims of SRE

The aim of the sex education policy is to clarify the content and manner in which sex education is delivered at The Lyceum and:

- To establish what pupils know, understand, think and feel.
- To provide information about the emotional, moral, intellectual, physical and social aspects of human and sexual development.
- To educate against ignorance, sexism and prejudice and to promote equal opportunity.
- To develop in pupils an understanding of and pride in their own bodies, accepting variations in rates of growth, assisting in adjustment to changes and reassurance that this is part of the cycle of life.
- To explore family life, including different family structures.

The programme will reflect the school ethos and demonstrate and encourage the following values:

- Respect for self
- Respect for others
- Responsibility for their own actions
- Responsibility to their family, friends, school and wider community

Sex Education will be taught with a close partnership between home and school (whether in school or on educational visits).

The Lyceum School believes that Sex and Relationship Education will be a foundation to build on further in secondary school. It therefore provides support for the **personal, moral and social development** of all pupils, ensuring that they have access to clear information about puberty and personal hygiene.

It develops the individual's awareness and understanding of their own sexuality and that of others in a positive way, and should encourage them, when older, to enjoy relationships based on mutual respect, dignity and responsibility, free from any abuse.

It will be taught in the context of relationships. Topics and themes will take account of pupils' development as they prepare for secondary school.

### **Delivery**

Sex Education at The Lyceum is taught in a cross curricular way through Science, Religious Studies and PHSE. In Year 6, this is taught in single sex groups. We aim to generate an atmosphere where questions and discussion on sexual matters can take place without any stigma or embarrassment. Teachers will establish ground rules during SRE lessons and these are essential to provide an agreed structure to answering sensitive or difficult questions. This framework facilitates the use of an anonymous question box as a distancing technique. Teachers will endeavour to answer questions as honestly as possible but if faced with a question they do not feel comfortable answering within the classroom, provision would be made to meet the individual child's needs.

It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality and sexual health. It is not about the promotion of sexual orientation or sexual activity. It has three main elements:

- Attitudes and values
- Personal and social skills and emotional literacy
- Knowledge and understanding

SRE will be taught in a moral and values framework, which focuses on the following aspects:

- Self-respect
- Respect and tolerance towards others who may have different backgrounds, cultures, feelings, views and sexuality
- Taking account of other people's feelings
- Mutual support and co-operation
- Truthfulness and honesty
- Accepting responsibility for the consequence of our own actions
- The right of people to hold their own views
- Not imposing our own views on other people
- Not infringing the rights of other people
- The right not to be abused by other people or be taken advantage of
- The right to accurate information about sex-related issues
- An entitlement to an appropriate and balanced SRE
- The right to access services which offer support to children

### **The Parental Right to Withdraw their Son or Daughter from Sex Education Lessons**

Following government guidelines, parents have the right to withdraw their children from any or all parts of the school's programme of sex education, other than those elements which are required by the National Curriculum Science Order. It is realised that, under exceptional circumstances, a very small number of parents may wish to exclude their children from this programme. Letters/emails are issued to parents prior to SRE lessons. Parents are encouraged to speak with the PSHE Coordinator if they have any questions or concerns.

Those wishing to withdraw their child from SRE are requested to write to the Head Teacher.

### **Confidentiality**

As a general rule, a teacher will maintain a pupil's confidentiality. If, however, the person concerned believes that a pupil is at risk or in danger, he/she will follow the school's Safe Guarding policy and seek advice from the Head Teacher, Assistant Head or DSL, the pupil concerned will be informed that the confidentiality is to be breached and the reasons why. The teacher or member of staff will support the pupil through the process.

### **Child Protection**

Teachers need to be aware that effective sex and relationship education, which brings an understanding of what is and is not acceptable in a relationship, may lead to disclosure of a child protection issue. The staff member will inform the designated Child Protection officer, in line with the school procedures for child protection, should a disclosure be made. A member of staff cannot promise confidentiality if concerns exist.

Reviewed by SLT April 2017

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